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Nearby
 Six LeT militants killed in J&K gunfire

Six LeT militants were killed in an encounter in Bandipora Saturday. One IAF commando was killed and another soldier was injured in the operation. "One terrorist named Owaid is the son of Zaki Rehman Maki and nephew of Mumbai terror attacks mastermind Zakiur Rehman Lakhvi," J&K DGP said.

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Jadhav letter was sent to Pakistan, says India

Contents not disclosed; move comes ahead of the next ICJ hearing

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE

NEW DELHI

India has responded to Pakistan's proposal allowing former Indian naval official Kulbhushan Jadhav to meet his wife on humanitarian grounds, a senior ICA official confirmed on Saturday. The confirmation of Indian response came hours after Pakistan announced the receipt of the Indian letter, even as both sides prepared for the next date of the case in December at the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

"We can confirm that the letter carrying our response to the Pakistani offer on the

Humanitarian gesture

Pakistan's move on allowing Kulbhushan Jadhav's wife to meet him has come nearly 10 months after his execution was stayed

March 3, 2017: Pakistan arrests former Navy official Kulbhushan Jadhav on charges of terrorism and sabotage

March 29: Pakistan releases a video that shows him 'confessing'

April 10, 2017: Islamabad says that a military court has sentenced Jadhav to death

May 10: Shortly after India approached the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the Court asks Pakistan not to act on the execution

May 18: The ICJ, in interim verdict, stays Jadhav's execution by Pakistan pending further proceedings. It also asks Islamabad to submit its response by December 13



humanitarian gesture to Kulbhushan Jadhav has been sent. It is a sensitive matter

for the family and the two countries," said the official, explaining that India has

taken note of the fact that Pakistan has kept the content of the letter confidential and so far has not revealed it to the media on the Pakistani side.

Spokesperson for Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mohammad Faisal said at his weekly news briefing that India had responded to the Pakistani humanitarian proposal on allowing Mr Jadhav's wife to meet him. He added Islamabad was "considering" India's request to let Jadhav's mother also meet him.

(With inputs from PTI)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

India wears the crown



Top of the world: Manushi Chhillar, a 21-year-old from Haryana, won the coveted Miss World 2017 title, 17 years after Priyanka Chopra in 2000. She was crowned in Sanya on the Chinese island of Hainan on Saturday. ■ AFP (REPORT ON SECTION 2 PAGE 14)

'We're not out of the woods'

G. KRISHNAKUMAR
 KOCHI

Reacting to credit rating agency Moody's raising India's sovereign rating, former PM Manmohan Singh said the government must not get lulled into the belief that we are out of the woods. The economy needs strong, purposeful guidance to move forward at the rate which the government itself says they want the country to move at, 8 to 10%," he said.

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ALL EYES ON S&P, FITCH
 SECTION 2 PAGE 10

Imagine, there's no country

Rasidul Islam's story highlights the plight of citizens in border enclaves who have been sent back to Bangladesh



Nowhere man: Enclave dwellers assembling on either side of the India-Bangladesh border in 2015, to mark the passage of the Land Boundary Agreement in Cooch Behar district; Rasidul Islam (right) is now officially stateless again. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

SUVOJIT BAGCHI
 KOLKATA

Rasidul Islam is used to a state of statelessness. After living in such a state for 20 years of his life, he became a citizen of India when Bangladesh and India ratified the Land Boundary Agreement on July 6, 2015, exchanging citizens in the land parcels or enclaves. There were 111 Indian enclaves on the Bangladesh side, which Bangladesh gave and more than 900 enclaves on the Indian side opted for Indian citizenship - Rasidul being one of them. This state of belonging did not last long, however.

Now Rasidul, 22, has turned stateless again - Indian security forces have pushed him back to Bangladesh as an "illegal immigrant" - disregarding the documents issued by the

Government of India and the Government of West Bengal.

When the enclave dwellers came to India following the ratification of the 1974 Land Boundary Agreement signed in Dhaka, the Minister Narendrabhai Modi described the settlement as

SUNDAY SPECIAL

that would make "our borders more secure and people's life there more stable."

While Rasidul, along with his brother and his brother's family, opted for Indian citizenship, his parents decided to stay back in Bangladesh in their ancestral village in Bhurungamari, Kurigram district.

Rasidul and the others were issued "temporary

travel document-identity pass" by the Indian High Commission in Dhaka, which says that the document is issued "in pursuance of exchange of enclaves as provided in the India-Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement, 1974 and its 2011 Protocol."

Plethora of papers

On the basis of the temporary travel document, Rasidul got other identity papers as a new citizen of India.

The other papers include an Aadhaar and ration card, inclusion of his name in the electoral rolls, which entitled him to vote in 2016 Bengal Assembly elections, and significantly, a certificate from the Dinhatia Sub-Division Office in Cooch Behar.

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Remembering

Indira Gandhi

on her Birth Centenary

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IN BRIEF



Two held for supplying ammunition to criminals
NEW DELHI
The Delhi Police's special cells have arrested two persons, Sandeep Bhatnagar (71) and Mahipal (42), for their alleged involvement in supplying ammunition to criminals in several cases. The police recovered 1,310 live cartridges from their possession. The accused told the police they procured the ammunition from Aligarh, UP. STAFF REPORTER

Man arrested for raping woman in Noida

NEW DELHI
A 27-year-old man was arrested on Friday for allegedly raping a woman in Noida. The victim said that Tanuj Chaudhary had taken her to a place in Noida where he allegedly provided her drink and raped her. The police said that the victim and the accused used to work in the same building in central Delhi till a few months ago. STAFF REPORTER

Police foil double murder attempt of two

NEW DELHI
The Crime Branch arrested 13 alleged members of the Dujana gang in a bid to foil a double murder attempt. The gang, led by Manu alias Monu alias Manu Das (30), Karan alias Ravi Das (21), and Raju alias Kunal (22) on Friday. The police said the men were apprehended from Yamuna Vihar where they allegedly planned to kill two people who were witnesses in a murder case. STAFF REPORTER

Three held for betting in BPL cricket matches

NEW DELHI
Three people have been arrested from Rohini for their alleged involvement in betting in Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) matches, police said on Saturday. Vijay Garg, Jai Prakash and Shekhar Aggarwal were held from Rohini North, a senior police officer said. Four laptops and more than 24 cellphones were also recovered. PTI

Parenting workshops launched

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI
The Delhi government on Saturday launched parenting workshops as part of its initiative to get guardians more involved in the schooling of their children. Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia inaugurated the workshops at 10 government schools. The programme will be expanded to 50 schools in the next few weeks. The workshops are being held for parents of Class X and Class XII students. It will be later expanded to cover all government school students and their parents. Addressing parents at a school in Sector 6, Rohini, Mr. Sisodia said: "Our children don't need malls, they need the right mahaul (environment), one which doesn't just make them feel loved but also treats them with respect."

Up in smoke



Ball of fire: A car on fire at Noida Sector 15 on Saturday evening. The police suspect a short-circuit may have led to the blaze. SHANKER CHAKRAVARTY

Noida man kills daughter on suspicion of affair, surrenders

Accused calls police, confesses to strangling 18-year-old girl with a dupatta

STAFF REPORTER
NOIDA

In an alleged case of honour killing, a father murdered his 18-year-old girl, who he suspected of having an affair with a lower-caste boy, in Challera village in Noida's Sector 44 on Friday night. Later, the father made a call to the police and confessed to the crime, said the police. The accused has been identified as Bijendra Chauhan (47), who allegedly strangled his daughter to death with a dupatta.

Killed with dupatta
"We got a call around 10:30 p.m. Bijendra Chauhan informed us that he had killed his daughter at their house in Noida Sector 44. A police team reached the spot and arrested Chauhan. The victim's body bore strangulation marks and we recovered a dupatta from the spot," said Avnish Dixit, Sta-



Crime scene: Outside the victim's house at Challera village in Noida Sector 44. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

tion House Officer, Sector 39 police station, Gautam Budh Nagar. The victim was taken to a nearby hospital where the doctors declared her dead on arrival. According to a senior police officer, the accused revealed that he suspected his daughter of having an affair with a boy and had warned

her not to talk to him and focus on her studies.

Fit of rage
"The man said he would often find his daughter talking on the cell phone. She had stopped listening to him after her mother passed away in 2016. Chauhan suspected the girl of having a relationship with someone

from a lower caste and had warned her about the harm he would cause to her. On Friday night, he again caught her talking on the phone and questioned her. She answered back and an argument ensued between them. Chauhan lost his cool and strangled her to death," said the police officer.

Brother at home
The girl was studying in Class XII at Moolchand Chauhan Public School in Sector 44. She lived with her father, brother Himanshu, who is pursuing masters in business administration, and his wife. The couple was in the other room when the incident happened, the police said.

The police have sent the body for post-mortem and reports are awaited. Chauhan has been booked under Section 302 (murder) of the Indian Penal Code.

Gym owner injured in attack at CP club, no arrests yet

Victim has identified 3 of the accused as former associates

HEMANI BHANDARI
NEW DELHI

A 25-year-old gym owner, who is a resident of Mayapuri Vihar, was severely injured when his former associates allegedly attacked him at Connaught Place's RSVP club on Monday. The police registered a case on Thursday but are yet to make any arrests.

Vikas Chauhan, who runs a gym in Khoda Colony, was allegedly punched and hit with glass bottles in the VIP area of the club around 3:30 a.m. on Monday allegedly by 8-10 people, of whom he has identified three.

'Hit with hookah'
Mr Chauhan, who is still recuperating, told the police that he was partying with his friends when an unknown person approached him and told him that one Rahul Surma alias Bhola Pahlwan was calling him. "I walked up to him on the right side of the VIP area. He shook hands with me and then

hugged me. However, his brother Prince Surma alias Paltu suddenly pushed me," the victim told the police.

Mr. Chauhan alleged that Prince and over eight of his friends then abused him and beat him up. "I hit me on the head with a hookah apparatus that was on the table. As I fell to the ground, my friends beat me up and broke glass bottles on my head."

Staff intervenes
Meanwhile, he claimed, the club staff and his friends intervened and attempted to break up the scuffle after which Mr. Chauhan was escorted out of the club by the staff.

"Once I reached outside, I dialed 100 but my phone had died and my friend then took me to the hospital," he said.

The victim was then taken to Dr. Hedgewar Aarogya Sansthan in Karkardooma, from where he was allegedly discharged late on Monday morning. He then ap-

proached the police who visited his house to record his statement on Monday evening.

Injuries to head, face
The police said that Mr. Chauhan has injuries on his head, face, neck, and back. Deputy Commissioner of Police (New Delhi) B.K. Singh said that a case has been registered under Section 308 (Attempt to commit culpable homicide) and 34 (Common intention) of the IPC against three persons — Rahul Surma, Prince Surma and Vikas — based on the victim's complaint.

"The victim is not in a condition to talk at length, therefore, the reason behind the attack is yet to be ascertained. Three names have been given by the victim but we are yet to arrest them. The club's management was also approached for their version of the story," he said. The spokesperson of RSVP club refused to comment on the issue.

Homebuyers protest outside BJP office

Want action against Amrapali builders



Falling flat: Amrapali projects' homebuyers protest near Patel Chowk metro station on Saturday. SANDEEP SAXENA

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Homebuyers from Noida and Greater Noida were detained at Parliament Street police station on Saturday morning when they gathered to protest in front of the BJP headquarters. The protesters were seeking immediate government action against Amrapali builders who are yet to give them possession of their homes.

Pre-poll promise
Over 50 protesters had gathered outside the BJP office seeking to put pressure on the Yogi Adityanath-led State government to make good its pre-poll promise of taking immediate action against the builders who were holding up construction.

"BJP leaders had promised us that if they come to power in the State then they will act against the errant builders and resume construction in housing projects that are stuck. However, even after eight months of forming the government, buyers are yet to get any relief. We at least want an assurance that we will get our houses. We aren't rich enough like the politicians and builders to have multiple houses. All our savings and funds have been pushed into this one dream," said Vijay Malik, one of the many

home buyers. **Ministers' panel**
The protesters are complaining that though on August 22 the UP government had formed a three-member Ministers' panel to solve homebuyers' issues, nothing has moved on the ground.

"What use are assurances and committees when there are delayed and stuck projects and nobody is held accountable. Neither the Central nor the State Government seems to have made any serious effort as of now to give relief to homebuyers, most of whom also have other financial obligations..." said Shweta Bharti, who has been waiting for a house she booked in 2011.

According to reporters there are 203 stuck housing projects in Greater Noida and 94 in Noida. Around two lakh home buyers are yet to receive their flats because the builders have been unable to finish the projects.

"The government must intervene and ensure the common man isn't suffering. Now at age 65, and my husband retired, all I hope for is to be able to live at least for a day in the house that we paid for. Is the government so blind that it can't see this massive fraud?," said Kavita who also booked a flat with the Amrapali group.

Plan to create electric bus fleet for city

Govt considers procuring 500 standard-floor and smaller-size buses to strengthen public transport

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government is giving final touches to its plan to create a fleet of electric buses to augment public transportation in the Capital.

According to sources, two separate clusters are being considered — one directly under the Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) and the other under the Cluster Scheme model — after Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal recently directed the Transport Department to go ahead with the proposal.

500 bus target
"The objective is to get standard-floor buses to augment the public transportation system and smaller buses to improve last-mile connectivity in areas which are not adequately connected to either State-run buses or the Delhi Metro," said a source.



Bigger fleet: The move aims to improve last-mile connectivity in areas not connected by State-run buses. FILE PHOTO

The source added that 500 electric buses are proposed for procurement and the details of the project would be finalised in the coming week.

Given the high price tag on electric vehicles, however, the government is studying the findings of a cost-benefit analysis to ascertain future course of action in relation to the procurement of such vehicles.

"The post-procurement

most of such vehicles, including the mandatory requirement of changing the electric battery which they run on after a certain duration (usually around a year), is rather expensive that is why opinion is currently divided on the number of the fleet which is proposed," the source said.

Cost consideration
Discussions were also held on the initial cost of such

buses which, according to the source, are working out to be around three to four times more than standard-floor bus which are currently operational in the Capital.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday had demanded urgent steps by various government departments to strengthen its existing public transport infrastructure.

According to sources, Mr. Kejriwal issued directions to urgently fill up 2,000 vacancies in the DTC, expedite the procurement of buses scheduled to be rolled out by the transporter next year, route rationalisation by DIMTS and creation of a fleet of electric buses at the earliest.

Parallel routes' merger
Meanwhile, to boost public transportation, the Delhi government said it was making attempts to increase bus frequency by merging paral-

lel routes. The last time such an exercise was undertaken was in 2009.

Beginning the process, the Transport Department put forth a proposal in a meeting of the State Transport Authority, which suggested involving merging 73 routes to increase frequency of mini-stage carriage buses.

The Transport Department will also take the help of the School of Planning and Architecture for the route-rationalisation exercise, the official said. There are 73 routes for mini-stage carriage buses which provide last-mile connectivity by ferrying passengers from residential areas to Metro stations. "Route rationalisation will involve shifting buses on routes having less buses and poor frequency. On an average, one route is 17-km-long and 14 buses are required with a frequency of 10-15 minutes," the official added.

Art celebrated by world destroyed here, say Kathputli Colony residents

Residents come together at Press Club of India to protest DDA's demolition drive

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

"We have travelled the world to make the country proud but what did we get in return? We have been insulted by our own country," said an emotional Bhagwan Das, an artist from Kathputli colony.

Mr. Das was one among many who lost their homes after the Delhi Development Authority carried out an eviction drive on October 31.

Demand for restoration
Protesting against the demolition drive carried out by the DDA, residents of Kathputli colony along with organisations like Anhad, Delhi Solidarity Group and others, came together at the Press Club of India on Saturday. Demanding restoration of the colony, which primarily housed puppeteers and other artists from all across the country, Communist Party of India (CPI) leader Annie Raja



Hitting home: Evicted residents of Kathputli Colony at a press conference on Saturday. SANDEEP SAXENA

said, "The DDA, along with Raheja builders, have destroyed the area and the residents were never consulted. In the process, part of the country's heritage is being destroyed using bulldozers and artificial sites like the Dilli Haat are being constructed."

"The Kathputli colony should be declared as a herit-

age artiste colony and development should be carried out accordingly," added Ms. Raja.

'Hollow promises'
Talking about their present condition, Dilip Bhatt, another resident of the colony said, "We have no formal education. Our art is all we have to sustain ourselves and

our families. We have been running from pillar to post, but all that we have received are hollow promises. We were not even given enough time to go through the list that had been prepared by the DDA. We are losing our livelihood and our children are missing out on their education."

'Pushed to suicide'
"The art that the world celebrates is being destroyed by the authorities and the politicians of our country. We are being pushed to commit suicide," added Mr. Bhatt. Artists from the colony also complained of poor amenities at the transit camps, where they have been moved by the authorities. "We are being pushed towards an uninhabitable place. It looks like no one is bothered about us," said Laxshmi, who had been residing in the colony for 40 years.

One dead, injured in hit-and-run

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 25-year-old man was killed and two of his friends injured when a motor cycle was hit by an unidentified vehicle in Kotla Mubarakpur on Saturday. The police have registered a case and begun a probe.

Police said Parveen, a resident of Badarpur, was riding with his friends from Pitampura towards Badarpur when their bike was hit from behind at South Extension flyover.

Rushed to AIIMS
"A PCR call was received at 12.30 a.m. The officers reached the spot and found Praveen dead and the two others injured. They were rushed to AIIMS Trauma Centre," said Deputy Commissioner of Police (South) Chinmoy Biswal.

The police said the driver of the offending vehicle fled after committing the crime and efforts are on to identify him.

Uproar over Dyal Singh college name change

Students term its renaming as Vande Mataram Mahavidyalaya a 'ridiculous move'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A resolution passed by the governing body of the Dyal Singh College on Friday, regarding renaming the college to Vande Mataram Mahavidyalaya, has led to uproar among the student community.

Calling it a "ridiculous" move, Ruchi Gupta, AICC in-

charge for the National Students' Union of India said, "This is just a way of distracting everyone from the issues of governance which are more pertinent. I don't think that changing names can improve the quality of education."

"At a time when the infrastructure of the college is not in the best shape, what is the

point of changing the name of the college and not the issues at hand?"

Kawalpreet Kaur, president of the All India Students Association's Delhi University unit, said, "The very term 'Vande Mataram' has several connotations. In a sense, it sends out a message that you cannot question anything. Universities are a place

where student question varying things. The primary concerns of the authorities should be to improve the college infrastructure."

'Why religious context'
However, BJP leader and chairman of the governing body, Amitabh Sinha, said, "It is being opposed simply for the sake of opposing it.

We are committed to improving the infrastructure. The change in name was a procedural requirement as the morning and the evening shifts have been merged. Why is 'Vande Mataram' being seen in a religious context? Don't we all have mothers? It is just a method of paying tribute to our mothers."

Robbery bid on Dec 16 gang-rape accused's counsel; teen held

**STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI**
A 17-year-old boy has been apprehended for allegedly assaulting and attempting to rob a 62-year-old lawyer, one of the defence counsels for the December 16 gang-rape accused, on Saturday in central Delhi's Ranjit Nagar.

Advocate V. K. Anand, who was standing outside his office around 1 a.m. and waiting for his assistant Pawan when the accused came up from behind and put him in a choke-hold. Mr. Anand said he tried to free himself but the accused didn't let him go and tried to

choke him. By this time, Pawan came to the office and helped Mr. Anand. He also tried for help and as the accused tried to flee a local case was filed. A CR call was made after the incident. "By the time we

reached, the boy was already caught," said a senior police officer, adding that prima facie it appears to be an attempt of robbery. The police said that in such cases an FIR is not registered but a diary entry is made to record the incident and action is taken.

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BRIDES WANTED

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POLY SCIENCE FROM K. Ujjwal 26 Nov. 2017 (11 years teaching experience) HISTROY @ R.S. SHARMA Two Free Classes BATCH STARTS ON 20th Nov. 10:00 am - 12:00 pm (Mukherjee Nagar) 09668088370

COMPUTER / INFO. TECH. WE ARE looking for an alliance for our daughter age 28 years, residing in Coimbatore, B.E., graduate working in private. Christian. The groom should hail from a decent, educated family. Same religion. Age should be around 29 to 32 years. Contact with details / duration: 9043019165 / durai_58@yahoo.com

ELITE GROOMS Vannia Kula Kshatriyar, 28, Business man. Completed BE and lives in Dubai. Mother is a home maker. Looking for a likeminded and well educated match from other communities. Contact: 9380054589

ELITE BRIDES Mudaliyar, 26, Software Professional. Completed MS and lives in USA. Father is the Chartered Accountant and Mother is a working professional. Looking for a well educated match. Contact: 9380017828

REDDY (ONLY CHILDRN) 24/160 BE/CS(C) Tech/Leader/CTS/Chennai 53Kpm seek any professional 938599077 9848197222

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Winners of WADE Asia Awards 2017 for Women in Art, Architecture and Design

WADE Asia is the 1st platform for recognizing & celebrating women-led development in Architecture, Art and Design in Asia. It is the federation of World Women Artists, Architects and Designers. WADE Asia was started with the following objectives:

- ◆ Ensuring visibility of Women-led projects
- ◆ Bridging Mentorship between Leading & Aspiring Designers
- ◆ Standing by those who want to come back to the profession
- ◆ Celebrating the Life, Work and Achievements of Women in Design
- ◆ Rewards & Recognition

The recently concluded annual celebration of WADE Asia 2017 received great response from the design fraternity. "Attended by more than 700 Architects, Designers & Artists over 2 days, the coming together of 6 countries, India, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Thailand, WADE Asia was magnanimous beyond our imagination," smiled **Madhurima Chowdhury**, Associate Director, WADE Asia.

With a host of Panel

Discussions, Keynotes, Master Class, Book launches, Students Workshop in association with IIA, WADE Asia had apt dose of entertainment as well. Stand-up comedy by **Rajneesh Kapoor** was thoroughly enjoyed. Also present were Bollywood Actress **Bhagyashree** and the soulful Singer **Hema Sardesai**.

Receiving of WADE Asia Life Time Achievement Award by **Didi Contractor** received standing ovation from audience. The 88 year old is known for designing sustainable building in the foothills of Himalaya with local materials like clay, bamboo, slate, river stone etc. When her name was announced on stage, Actress **Bhagyashree** decided to step down the stage to give Didi the award. That was the most memorable moment at WADE Asia, recalls a delegate. The audience appreciated this lovely gesture from the actress turned nutritionist **Bhagyashree**.

Neera Adarkar of Adarkar Associates, Mumbai, was awarded the WADE India Special Contribution Award 2017 for Academics, Research and Social Cause. She is an architect, academician, author, and urban researcher. For years, she has integrated the



L-R: Vertica Dvivedi, Founder, WADE Asia; Bollywood Actress Bhagyashree; Didi Contractor with the WADE Award

concerns of the dispossessed and vulnerable in her work as an architect and as a writer. **Pratima Joshi** received the WADE India Special Contribution Award for Social Cause. She is passionately steering Shelter Associates that works to improve the quality of life of India's urban poor, by delivering low-cost housing and sanitation solutions in urban slums. Their data driven model is interesting and appreciable. **Neelam Manjunath** is an architect, planner, activist and theoretician. She is the founder of Manasarm Architects. Since decades, she is doing remarkable work in promoting one of the most versatile naturally available materials, Bamboo. She has been awarded WADE India Sustainability Champion 2017.

Neha Barua, Associate Director, WADE Asia is pleased to receive numerous messages from delegates sharing what they have taken back from WADE Asia.

A young architect, **Tanvi Jain** from CEPT, wrote, "For a young architect such as me, hearing architects of the like of **Didi Contractor** was truly inspirational. It's absolutely commendable to have seen the architects WADE brought together from such diverse backgrounds, and with such a rich body of work."

"I was interacting with so many women peers for the first time in the last 25 years. It was such an enriching experience for me as I have been mostly working in my own silo for years," said **Pratima Joshi**. **Ar. Nela de Zoysa** from Sri Lanka felt

quite the same. "The WADE Asia Conference gave me the opportunity to reconnect with many long lost Indian friends through my journey in life," she said.

Nikita Mathur, a delegate was enthralled by the optimism prevailing in WADE Asia. She said, "The optimism in WADE Asia was worth watching. I was amazed to see men participating enthusiastically, celebrating the recognition of women in design."

Neelish Kenkare, co-founder of Arch Aid from Mumbai who accompanied his wife & partner **Bhavya Kenkare** commented, "WADE was one of the most memorable event I have attended. Felt more like a close family function where you literally feel sad while leaving. Didn't feel like Architectural event for even a minute. Best part was seeing all Asian women Architects on same stage with superb array of works."

WADE Asia is glad that female designers have started to get value out of the conclave. WADE Asia is proud to have

had speakers like **Shimul Javeri Kadri**, **Anupama Kundoo**, **Sonali Bhagwati**, **Parul Zaveri** and **Canna Patel** in "WADE Masterclass with Mentors" which was one of the highlighting sessions. The Keynotes by **Didi Contractor**, **Padma Bhushan awardee Rajeev Sethi**, **Christopher Charles Benninger** and **Nela de Zoysa** were most enthusiastically attended. The panel moderated by **Anuradha Chatterjee** from Australia with international guests was liked and appreciated. Panelist were **Dorji Yangki**, Bhutan; **Anupama Kundoo**, Spain; **Anju Malla Pradhan**, Nepal; **Kazi Shamima Sharmim & Nadia Farah**, Bangladesh, and **Patama Roonrakwit**, Thailand.

Other interesting talks were on Luxury moderated by **Mahul Brahma**, Business of Architecture by **Ramprasad Akkiseti** with **Lalita Tharani** & others, Slum & Shelters by **Gita Balakrishnan**, Building with love by **Payal Kapoor**, and more.



FEW WORDS WITH VERTICA DVIVEDI, FOUNDER, WADE ASIA

Q. Who would you like to thank for WADE Asia?

I would like to thank the Jury, Speakers and Delegates of WADE Asia! Special thanks to **Shri Rajeev Sethi**, **Nela de Zoysa**, **Brinda Miller**, **Dean D'Cruz**, **Pratap Jadhav**, **Divya Kush**, **Babu Cheria**, **Vivek Gupta** and **Sangeet Sharma** for their strong support. **Christopher Charles Benninger** has gone out of the way to support WADE and I cannot thank him enough. My heartfelt thanks to IIA, IIAID, Bhutan Institute of Architects, Society of Nepalese Architects and COWE. Sincere thanks to partners of WADE Asia 2017, **Ajay Khurana**, **Sumit Bidani**, **Himanshu Shah** and **Rohan Agarwal** for trusting the initiative by WADE; **Prakash Jain** for getting associated even without a single meeting about WADE, **Ravi Nindwani** for continued support, and **Rakesh Agarwal** who is associated with us since years. **Madhur Daga's** commitment & discipline in life is inspiring. An ardent vipassana practitioner, he ran for 360 kms during month long fasting this year. He is equally committed at work. His belief in the spirit & objectives of WADE Asia makes us extremely proud of his association with this mission.

Thank you **Pragath Dvivedi** for standing beside me like a rock! During my initial years of struggle, people & circumstances were often discouraging but **Pragathi** always believed in me. My appreciations for **Ashish Arora**, **Aamisha Naik** and **Kapil Saini** for their insight in understanding the strength of this concept called WADE Asia.

Q. What is your vision for WADE?

My vision for WADE is to see it move & grow beyond me. We have created the medium and will act as enabler and facilitator. It is time for other women in design to step in, take ownership and give more meaningful direction to this movement.



Winners of WADE Asia 2017

SPECIAL WADE AWARDS 2017

WADE Asia Lifetime Achievement Award: Didi Contractor, Dharamshala
WADE India Special Contribution Award for Academics & Social Cause: Neera Adarkar, Adarkar Associates, Mumbai
WADE India Sustainability Champion: Neelam Manjunath, Manasaram Architects, Bangalore
WADE India Special Contribution Award in Social Cause: Pratima Joshi, Shelter Associates, Pune

WADE INDIA EXCELLENCE AWARD

COMMERCIAL
Winner: Divya Ethirajan, Founding Partner, BetweenSpaces, Bangalore
Runner-up: Britta Knobel Gupta, Co-Founder, Studio Symbiosis Architects, Noida

HOSPITALITY

Winner: Divya Ethirajan, Founding Partner, BetweenSpaces, Bangalore
First Runner-up: Siji Rehana, DAC, Partner & Principal

Architect, Bangalore
Second Runner-up: Shilpa Jain Balvally, Principal Architect, Studio Osmosis, Mumbai

PUBLIC BUILDING

Winner: Amritha Ballal, Architect-Urban Planner & Founding Partner, SpaceMatters, Delhi

RESIDENTIAL (>3000 SQ. FT)

Winner: Sonal Sancheti, Partner, Opolis, Mumbai
First Runner-up: Kinny Soni, Head Architect, Dilip Soni Architects & KSUP Studio, Ahmedabad

Second Runner-up: Shilpa Gore-Shah, Founding Partner, S-PS Architects, Mumbai

RESIDENTIAL (UPTO 3000 SQ. FT)

Runner-up: Anjali Lovekar, Principal Architect, Lovekar Design Associates, Pune

RETAIL

Winner: Maitri Buch, Principal Architect, Sturna Designs, Bharuch, Gujarat
Runner-up: Leena Kumar, Principal Architect, Kumar Consultants, Bangalore

YOUNGWADE INDIA AWARD

YoungWADE India Architect of the year 2017: Aditi Pai, The Purple Ink Studio, Bangalore
YoungWADE India Interior Designer of the year 2017: Amruta Daulatabadkar, Amruta Daulatabadkar Architects, Aurangabad

YoungWADE India N'Architect of the year 2017: Chiranjivi Lunkad, Studio Infinity, Pune

YoungWADE India Delta Most Innovative Interior Designer 2017: Kanika Suri, Chromed Design Studio, New Delhi

WADE INDIA ARTIST AWARD

Winner: Vandana Kothari, Artist & Art Professor, School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi
First Runner-up: Jasmine Kaur, SCET, Surat
Second Runner-up: Pallavi Singh, Delhi

WADE INDIA STUDENT PROJECT AWARD

Rutusha Nagaraj Kapini, The Oxford School of Architecture, Bangalore
Yashashree Ramachandra Purohit, D.Y. Patil College of Engineering & Technology, Kolhapur



"I spent time amongst old and new friends at the WADE conference. Everything was so nice, beginning with the hotel and the logistics. Everything was really nice and be proud of yourself and your team for such a wonderful job."
- CHRISTOPHER CHARLES BENNINGER, Founder, CCBA, Pune

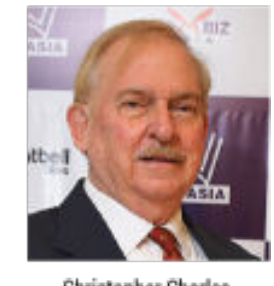
"Thanks for adding precious and unforgettable memories to my life...it was a superb event and I feel so privileged to have been a part of it."
- ANJU MALLA PRADHAN, Vice President, Society Of Nepalese Architects, Nepal

"For a movement that is just 2 years old, you and your team did a wonderful job!"
- AR. DEAN D'CRUZ, Mozaic, Goa

"WADE Asia was an interesting experience with some great speakers. You indeed put in a huge effort!"
- BRINDA MILLER, ARTIST, Member, Kala Ghoda Foundation

"Dear Vertica and Madhu, it was one of the best conferences I have attended. Love from Bhutan."
- AR. DORJI YANGKI, President, Bhutan Institute of Architects, Bhutan

"Thank you WADE Asia! You made all of us feel proud."
- SHITAL KAPADE, HON. Secretary, IIA, Indore





Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation
Government of India






This World Toilet Day

Let us
Resolve to Work towards
An Open Defecation Free India



Swachh Bharat Mission Journey so far

-  Over **25 crore** people provided access to toilets
-  **5.3 crore** toilets built
-  **2.7 lakh** Villages made ODF
-  **230** Districts made ODF
-  **7** States/UTs made ODF



A Twin Pit Toilet Model



Build low-cost and environment-friendly
TWIN PIT TOILET
Build another for someone in need

Connect with us on  @swachhbharat  www.facebook.com/SBMGramin



Tune into AIR FM today to catch the antics of Salesman Shaucha Singh

IN BRIEF



Woodcutters nabbed after hot chase

TIRUPATI A knife-wielding person, involved in the transportation of loggers, tried to attack the sleuths of the Red Sanders Anti-Smuggling Task Force on Saturday. After a chase for over an hour, the RSASTF personnel arrested him and one more person, and recovered 82 logs from them.

Tabloid in Gauri's name: sister supports move

BENGALURU When Gauri's sister, Indira Lankesh, issued an injunction on the tabloid, anybody from using Gauri's name for a paper, Gauri's sister Kavita opposed the injunction and supported the proposed tabloid. "The family should not intervene and try to appropriate the legacy of Gauri," she said.

Amaravati will get 9,000 acres of green cover: Naidu

NGT verdict on the capital city a moral victory, says A.P. Chief Minister

STAFF REPORTER
VENKATAPALEM

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has said the National Green Tribunal verdict on Amaravati is a moral victory for his government. He assured people that the future riverfront capital city would have 9,000 acres of green cover.

"Technologies are fast changing. Countries such as Singapore and Dubai are being built after reclamation of sea. But we respect the NGT verdict. We are planning the river-front city accordingly," Mr. Naidu said addressing a meeting after inauguration of a plantation programme at Mandadam village.

Walk to work Stressing the importance being given to afforestation in the new capital, Mr. Naidu



Welcome initiative: Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu watering a plant in Guntur district on Saturday. ■ T. VIJAYA KUMAR

said 5.50 lakh trees were being planted across the 1,696-km road network in the capital. Cycle pathways would be laid across the road network extending up to 3,000 km. "Walk to work will be given priority in the city. And, with the development of inland waterways on the Krishna, the new city will have lesser

number of vehicles," Mr. Naidu said.

Solar-powered vehicles

Solar-powered vehicles would be introduced in the capital. A distinct cooling system, which would provide solar-powered air conditioning, would also be introduced.

"We will introduce the world's leading technologies in Amaravati," Mr. Naidu said.

Reiterating that he had turned a crisis into an opportunity, Mr. Naidu cited the plan being developed to modernise the Kondaveedu drain and meet the drinking water requirements of the region.

Earlier, Mr. Naidu performed puja and unveiled a bronze stone marking the event.

Kerala couldn't find enough qualified Dalits for priests' job

Though TDB could appoint eight more, only six qualified

K.S. SUDHI
KOCHI

After successfully entering the sanctum sanctorum of Kerala temples, the Dalit communities of Kerala are facing a unique situation as there is a dearth of qualified priests from the communities to be appointed in temples run by the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB).

Though the TDB could appoint eight more priests from the SC/ST community, there were only six qualified candidates when the TDB prepared the second list of priests and issued orders on November 9. The two vacancies will remain unfilled and may be considered during the next round of recruitment.

Through its November 9 order, the board has recruited 80 persons, 54 of them on merit and 26 per-

sons under various reservation quotas.

Among those who have been issued appointment orders, nine belong to the Ezhava community, six to Scheduled Castes, five to various other backward communities and two each to Vokkalika and Dheevan communities.

Social revolution

A few months ago, six young Dalit priests were appointed in the temples managed by the board as part-time priests, which was termed as a social revolution of sorts.

With the latest addition, the total number of Dalit priests in the TDB, which manages 1,252 temples, would reach 12.

Candidates are tested for their knowledge of temple rituals and exposure to Sanskrit. An appearance in

Class 9 examination is fixed as the minimum educational qualification for candidates.

Reservation pattern

According to sources, the latest decision of the State government to provide 10% reservation for economically backward members of forward castes in the recruitment to five Devaswom boards in the State has not reflected in the list as it will require the framing of special rules to the Devaswom Recruitment Act.

The appointment of priests from the SC/ST and other socially backward communities was possible as the State government decided to introduce the caste-based reservation in appointments. The board followed the caste reservation pattern followed by the Kerala Public Services Commission for the recruitment.

For the Mohajirin, the struggle for freedom has not ended

Camp for migrants in Hyderabad is a permanent dwelling 70 years after they fled communal violence in Karnataka and Marathwada

SYED MOHAMMED
HYDERABAD

Mohajirin camp is bounded by the historic Mecca Masjid on the north and Lad Bazaar on the south. A settlement of *Mohajirin*, or migrants, it has about 150 small houses of those who fled their home in Karnataka and Marathwada to escape the communal conflagration in the late 1940s.

It stands in contrast to its surroundings - the masjid sprawls on one side and the bangle market glitters on the other. Sandwiched between these are the barely habitable accommodations at the camp. Some have wafer-thin tin sheet roofs and crumbling walls.

Shaik Qayyum, born at the camp, has lived here for all

the 51 years of his life. His father was a teenager when he fled his home in Deoni, in Maharashtra's Latur district, in 1948. It was the year that marked the beginning of Operation Polo, the annexation of the princely state of Hyderabad.

He says the 'police action' a widely used description for Operation Polo, forced them to flee. "My father and his four brothers were separated when they fled Deoni. He used to tell me that it took him several days to reach Hyderabad and that he hid in bushes, fields and even in a *bowli* to save his life," Qayyum says. A *langar* at the Mecca Masjid fed them and the locals offered clothes before they could find work.

The camp's narrow lanes are barely enough for two people to walk abreast. While some men are seen sitting on their haunches, old women sit cross-legged on the cemented floor outside their homes.

One of them, Ameer Begum, arrived in the city in Basavakalyan in Karnataka. She was barely five years old. "I am told that we walked in dirt and *kichhad* (mud). We travelled on foot and in buses. But we reached here alive and well," she recollects.

While some of the residents eke out a living by making lacquered bangles which they sell to shops at Lad Bazaar, others are hawkers. There are around 10 laddaf

families engaged in mattress-making.

But their migration was not just on account of Operation Polo. Researchers believe the communal violence after the aftermath of the partition too led to this. The Centre for Deccan Studies secretary, Sajjad Shahid, says, "The wave of migration began before Operation Polo. The post-partition riots of 1947 were also a cause. Communal tensions back then had greatly escalated. Hyderabad was largely safe, which was why they came here."

Endowed land

The one acre land parcel on which the Mohajirin camp sits, is Muslim endowed. Ac-

cording to former Survey Commissioner Waqf Mohammed Asadullah, a gazette notification was issued in 1984 declaring it waqf and a part of the Mecca Masjid endowment.

But in recent times, it is a tug of war between the residents and the Masjid authorities. While the mosque management wants the 'tenant' residents to pay rent, they want the arrears waived.

Mecca Masjid superintendent Qadeer Siddiqui says in the 1920s, the land belonged to Barj Jung Bahadur, a nobleman. It was acquired by the Nizam Mir Osman Ali Khan in the 1930s. "It was then used for the Mecca Masjid and endowed to the mosque," he says.



Nowhere to go: A lane at Mohajirin camp gives a glimpse of living conditions in the locality. ■ G. RAMAKRISHNA

Qimpro Platinum Awards given

STAFF REPORTER
BANGALURU

Qimpro Platinum Awards for 2017 were presented to Samuel Mathew Kalarickal, executive chairman of Nandan Nilekani, former Vice-Chancellor Anna University, Anandakrishnan, who was awarded the Qimpro Platinum Award, for his note. The Qimpro awards are citations to recognise individual excellence in quality management.

Dr. Kalarickal was credited with performing over 15,000 endoprostheses. Mr. Nilekani was recognised for his contribution towards the Aadhaar initiative. Prof. Anandakrishnan was feted for his contribution in the field of education.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
(through e-tendering)
Name of work with its location: Up gradation of Version of existing Coral-Tadain Exchange at DRM office, New Delhi. App. Cost of the work (₹): ₹ 26,90,400 only. Tender Document Fee (₹): ₹ 3,000/- only. Earnest Money Deposit (₹): ₹ 53,810 only. Address of the office: Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer/C/DLI, Northern Railway, 3rd Floor, Annex-1, DRM office, New Delhi-110055. Date & Time for upload the tender/closing of tender: Tender uploading/closing date & time-20.12.2017 up to 15.00 hrs. Website particular & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc.: See the Northern Railway website www.ireps.gov.in & Notice board at S&T branch, 3rd Floor, DRM office, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055. Tender No. 558-Sig-16-Tele-OT-825. Dated: 16.11.2017 3497/17

SIDDHA CENTRAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE
(Central Council for Research in Siddha, Chennai, Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India)
Walk-in-Interview
Walk in interview for various posts such as Research Associate(Siddha), SRF(Pharmacy), Tamil Scholar, Siddha Pharmacist, DEO and Field Assistant required in multiple IMR research projects will be held in the above address on 7th December 2017(Thursday). For details please visit our website www.crisiddha.in.nic.in

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY MANDI
MANDI-175001 (HIMACHAL PRADESH), INDIA
Tender No.: IITMANDI/S&P/PUR-200/2017-18/7743-44 Dated: 15.11.2017
Notice: Inviting Tender's for supply and installation of "Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (FESEM)" in School of Computing & Electrical Engineering, IIT Mandi
Online tenders are invited from the eligible & interested bidders for the supply & installation of above mentioned equipment. For detailed terms & conditions, bidder can download the tender document from Central Public Procurement Portal website www.eprocure.gov.in & IIT Mandi website http://www.iitmandi.ac.in/administration/tenderseoi.php. Bidders need to submit the bids online by uploading all the required documents through www.eprocure.gov.in.
The last date for submission of bids through above mentioned portal is 05.12.2017 till 03:00 P.M. Technical Bids will be opened on 06.12.2017 at 04:00 P.M. For all further corrigendum's/addendums in this regard, please regularly visit www.iitmandi.ac.in & www.eprocure.gov.in.
Asstt. Registrar (S & P)

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY MANDI
MANDI-175001 (HIMACHAL PRADESH), INDIA
Tender No.: IITMANDI/S&P/PUR-194/2017-18/7684-85 Dated: 14.11.2017
Notice: Inviting Tender's for supply and installation of "HE-NE FIB System for Nano Scale Milling and Imaging" in School of Computing & Electrical Engineering, IIT Mandi
Online tenders are invited from the eligible & interested bidders for the supply & installation of above mentioned equipment. For detailed terms & conditions, bidder can download the tender document from Central Public Procurement Portal website www.eprocure.gov.in & IIT Mandi website http://www.iitmandi.ac.in/administration/tenderseoi.php. Bidders need to submit the bids online by uploading all the required documents through www.eprocure.gov.in.
The last date for submission of bids through above mentioned portal is 04.12.2017 till 03:00 P.M. Technical Bids will be opened on 05.12.2017 at 04:00 P.M. For all further corrigendum's/addendums in this regard, please regularly visit www.iitmandi.ac.in & www.eprocure.gov.in.
Asstt. Registrar (S & P)

Amba....
Rainbow memories
21 beautiful years from 19.05.1980
We've been blessed to have your Laughter
And your wonderful, loving presence
Every precious moment
You are Always in our hearts
Gun Nidhi & Manju Kapur Dalmia
Agastya, Katyayani & Maya
Amba's many friends and family

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice through e-tendering
Name of work with its location: Provision of Rainnet facility at class A-1, A and B category stations for monitoring the passenger amenity system App. Cost of the Work: Rs. 62,30,614.58 only. Tender Document Fee: Rs. 5,000 only. Earnest Money Deposit: Rs. 1,24,520 only. Address of the office: Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer-I, Northern Railway, 3rd Floor, Annex-1, DRM Office, New Delhi-110055. Date & Time for upload the tender/closing of tender: Tender uploading/closing date & time-20.12.2017 up to 15.00 hrs. Website particular & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc.: See the Northern Railway website www.ireps.gov.in & Notice board at S&T branch, 3rd Floor, DRM Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055. No. 558-Sig-16-Tele-OT-824 Dated 16.11.2017 3497/2017
Serving Customers with a Smile

RAILWAY RECRUITMENT CELL
North Eastern Railway, Gorakhpur
Recruitment against Cultural Quota for the Year 2017-18
Employment Notice No. NER/RRC/CQ/2017-18 dated 16.10.2017
Last Date of application: 17.12.2017
Online applications are invited from the eligible candidates for recruitment against Cultural Quota for the year 2017-18 for recruitment on 01 post for Classical Music and 01 post for Classical Dance in PB-1 Rs. 5200-20200 with Grade Pay Rs. 1900 (6th CPC) on N E Railway. For detailed information, please see Employment News dated 18.11.2017 and N E Railway's website www.ner.indianrailways.gov.in.
CPRO/RRC-04
Chairman/RRC/NER
About any Passenger Amenity complaint SMS on Mob No. 09794845955
"DO NOT CROSS UNMANNED LEVEL CROSSING USING MOBILE PHONE"

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No. 13133 TENDER NOTICE Date-16/11/2017
e-Tenders are invited for purchase of below mentioned items in two bid system i.e. Technical Bid and Financial Bid:-

Sr. No.	Name of Group/Item	Approx. value (In Rs. lacs)	EMD Amount	Tender Document & eService Fees	Start Date & Time of Bid Preparation & Submission	Expiry Date & Time of Bid Preparation & Submission
1	(Recall) DNIT for the work of A/Mtc. W/S & Sewerage system PHA in Haryana State Guest House ChanakyaPuri New Delhi (Rs 23.61 lacs) Operation and Mtc. of existing fire fighting system by skilled staff round the clock complete in all respects.	6.25 lacs	12500/-	Rs. 1000/- +1000/-	16/11/2017 at 18:01 PM	28/11/2017 at 17:00 PM

The Bidders can download the tender documents from the Portal: https://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in
The Bidders shall have to pay for the Tender documents, EMD Fees & eService Fee of Rs. 1000/- online by using the service of secure electronic payment gateway. The secure electronic payments gateway is an online interface between contractors and online payment authorization networks.
The Payment for Tender Document Fee and eService Fee can be made by eligible bidders/contractors online directly through Debit Cards & Internet Banking Accounts. The Payment for EMD can be made online directly through RTGS/NEFT and the bidder would remit the funds at least T+1 day (Transaction+One working day) in advance to the last day and make the payment via RTGS/NEFT to the beneficiary account number as mentioned in the challan.
The Bidders can submit their tender documents (Online) as per the dates mentioned in the key dates:

Sr. No.	Departmental Stage	Bidder's Stage	Start date and time	Expiry date and time
1	-	Tender Document Download and Bid Preparation & Submission	16/11/2017 at 18:01 PM	28/11/2017 at 17:00 PM
2	Technical Opening	-	29/11/2017 9:01 AM to 17:00 PM	-
3	Shortlisting of Technical bids & Opening of Financial Bid	-	29/11/2017 10:01 AM to 17:00 PM	-

Important Note:-
1. The bidders have to complete 'Bid Preparation & Submission' stage on scheduled time as mentioned above. If any bidder failed to complete his/her aforesaid stage in the stipulated online time schedule for this stage, his/her bid status will be considered as 'bid not submitted'.
2. Bidder must confirm & check his/her bid status after completion of his/her all activities for e-bidding.
3. Bidder can rework on his/her bids even after completion of 'Bid Preparation & submission stage' (Bidder Stage), subject to the condition that the rework must take place during the stipulated time frame of the Bidder Stage.
Executive Engineer
Public Health Engg. Division
Gurgaon
PRDH 57823

COA COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE
(An Statutory Authority of Govt. of India)
India Habitat Centre, Core-6A, 1st Floor, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003
Ph: 011-79412100, Fax: 011-24647746,
E-mail: info-coa@gov.in, Website: www.coa.gov.in
ADVERTISEMENT FOR RECRUITMENT
Ref: CoA/Est./Recruitment/002
Council of Architecture invites applications from eligible citizens of India for recruitment to various posts. For eligibility and other details please visit our website www.coa.gov.in.
Application in the prescribed format, available at CoA website, alongwith copies of the relevant testimonials should reach office of the Council at New Delhi by Regd. Post/Speed Post only latest by 15.12.2017.
November 17, 2017 Registrar

IN BRIEF



GoAir flight suffers bird hit; returns to Delhi

MUMBAI/NEW DELHI A Patna-bound GoAir flight with 174 passengers on-board returned to New Delhi on Saturday following a bird strike shortly after take-off from the Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport, the airline said. The 30-year-old neo plane suffered the bird hit when it was on the climb, forcing the pilot to discontinue the journey and return to New Delhi for an inspection of the plane, GoAir said in a statement. PTI

Teacher rapes minor in madrasa, arrested

THANE A five-year-old girl was allegedly raped and sexually abused by a teacher inside a madrasa in the Mumbai suburb here. The accused teacher was arrested, the police said on Saturday. "The 35-year-old accused raped the girl a number of times last week. He was arrested last night," C.M. Mujwar, Inspector, Mumbai police station, told PTI. He added that the teacher had joined the madrasa 15 days ago. PTI

Indefinite strike affects normal life in Manipur

IMPHAL Normal life was disrupted in Manipur on Saturday at the beginning of an indefinite strike called by the underground organisation Maoist Communist Centre demanding the implementation of the Inner Line Permit in Manipur to regulate the entry and stay of non-Manipuris. The MCP said the strike would continue "as long as the people support it." Attendance in the government offices was very thin. Shops and commercial establishments were shut.

Lalu's U-turn on Padmavati

RJD chief, who had invited Bhansali to shoot in Bihar, turns his guns against film

AMARNATH TEWARY
PATNA

Rashtriya Janata Dal chief Lalu Prasad on Saturday took a U-turn on film *Padmavati* and said "distortion" of history would not be tolerated. In January, Mr. Prasad and his younger son Tejashwi Yadav had invited director Sanjay Leela Bhansali to shoot his film in Bihar as "Biharis are the most warm, fun loving, caring and of welcoming nature."

"One should not distort history... those who are protesting against the release of the film are right... Queen Padmavati led a proud and respected life and she was an important part of Rajasthan history... people's feelings should not be hurt," Mr. Prasad told reporters in Patna.

Meanwhile, under a newly formed organisation "Rajput Caste Coordination Committee," women members took out a protest march in Patna from the historical Gandhi Maidan and burnt effigies of Mr. Bhansali and actor Deepika Padukone at the Kargil Chowk. On Friday, the founder president of the Rajput Karni Sena, Lokendra Singh Kalvi, had met these women and declared that the outfit would oppose the release of *Padmavati* across the country.

Kumbhalgarh blocked Hundreds of residents led by the Rajput community on Saturday blocked entry to the Kumbhalgarh Fort in Rajsamand district of Rajasthan for some time, demanding a ban on *Padmavati*.

The protests against the film also spread to Kota, where nearly 200 Congress party workers demonstrated



Stiff resistance: Members of the Rajput Caste Coordination Committee raise slogans demanding a ban on *Padmavati* in Patna on Saturday. •RANJEET KUMAR

Ensure necessary changes before release: Raje to Irani

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JAIPUR Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje has written to Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Smriti Irani, urging her to ensure that *Padmavati* is not released without necessary changes.

Ms. Raje also said that the Censor Board should consider all possible results against the film.

Appeal to Modi Mr. Kalvi on Saturday reiterated his call for "Bharat Bandh" on December 1, day of the film's release. He appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to intervene in the matter.

Addressing a press conference in Gurugram, Mr. Kalvi said eight Cabinet Ministers and seven Chief Ministers have given their statements. Mr. Modi should intervene and stop the release of the film, he said.

after certifying the film, a day after the Board sent the film back to its makers because the application for the certification was "incomplete".

Letter to Minister In the letter to Ms. Irani, she suggested that a committee of historians, film experts and members from the Rajput community be

formed to look into the film's subject and necessary changes be made to it so that it does not hurt the sentiments of any community.

The letter is the first official communication from the Rajasthan Chief Minister on the controversy surrounding the epic drama directed by Sanjay Leela Bhansali.

screening the movie for various TV channels without getting a censor certificate.

Mr. Joshi's statement comes after reports that the producers of *Padmavati* - mired in controversy over allegations that it distorts history - held a special screening for a few journalists.

(With inputs from Ashok Kumar, PTI)

'Reduced GST should be indicated in MRP'

Sushil Modi issues warning to traders

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The maximum retail price (MRP) of goods for which taxation structure has been changed after the GST Council meeting on November 10 will have to be clearly indicated to the consumer, said Sushil Kumar Modi, Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar and head of the panel constituted to resolve the technology glitches faced by traders on the network.

Price stickers Mr. Modi, who is in the city for a meeting, said that the Ministry of Consumer Affairs had already stated that the old goods should have two stickers of the pricing - pre-GST price and revised MRP - for old stocks. He also said that people have the right to know what the rates of these commodities were prior to November

15 and after November 15. The GST council on November 10 had decided to reduce GST for 17 items from 28% to 18%. The changes came into effect from November 15.

"I would like to appeal to all manufacturers, dealers and wholesalers to ensure that the decisions taken in the GST council are passed on to the consumers. If not, the States are competent enough to take measures against them," he said.

Referring to the reduction in the GST rate for hotels, Mr. Modi said that consumers could approach the screening committee of the States with a petition in cases of violation.

He also said that 621 verified and competent engineers from Infosys were deployed to look into issues pertaining to the GST network.

Decomposed body of sailor found

T.K. ROHINI
CHENNAI

A month after cargo ship *m.v. Emerald Star* sank off the coast of the Philippines, an unidentified decomposed body with a life jacket linked 'Emerald Star' was found at the island of Banua on October 28 by the Philippines Coast Guard. External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj tweeted.

In a series of tweets on Saturday evening, Ms. Swaraj explained that the body had been buried in Banua as it was decomposed. "I have asked the Indian Ambassador in Manila that the body be exhumed and brought to Manila for identification by DNA," the Minister said.

This is the first official announcement by the Indian government on the fate of the 10 missing sailors on the ship.

Kovind clears four nominees to JNU's executive council

VIKAS PATHAK
NEW DELHI

In his capacity as Visitor to Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), President Ramnath Kovind has approved the appointment of four persons as the Visitor's nominees to the university's Executive Council.

Following the President's acceptance of the four names, the list was forwarded by the Ministry of Human Resource Development to the JNU Registrar on November 15.

The two-year term of the four Visitor's nominees be-



Ramnath Kovind

Padma Professor at the Department of Physics and Electronics at the University of Jammu. Azhar Asif, who has been teaching at the Department of Persian, Gauhati University, Assam; and Anjeev Kumar Sharma of Meerut University, who is the general secretary and treasurer of the Indian Political Science Association.

Among the appointees, one is a Muslim and one from a Scheduled Tribe. Professor Sharma is the brother of the Hindi poet associated with the Aam Aadmi Party Kumar Vishwas.

Bangladeshi infant gets a new lease of life in Kerala

Hospital performs surgery on baby with congenital heart disease

C. MAYA
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A month ago, on a Saturday evening, when Awan and his wife Sumi rushed into the Casualty wing of Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST) clutching their four-month-old son who was in a moribund state, little did they believe that they would be able to hold his warm body in their arms again.

Awan's story is one of enduring hope and courage of conviction, which made him travel all the way from Chittagong in Bangladesh's Habiganj district to Kerala's capital Thiruvananthapuram with his wife and very sick baby, Awan Mohammed Ayan.

Baby Ayan had a congenital heart defect that results in the transposition of the great arteries, a common but dangerous condition in which the large vessels that carry blood from the heart to the lungs, and to the body, are 'switched'.

"Ayan would cry incessantly and turn blue and breathless. Doctors in Dhaka told us that he had a critical problem and little chance [of survival], unless we wanted to try our luck in India," says Awan.

Awan had left his small-time job in Maldives to take care of his baby, who had arrived after seven years of marriage.

"I frantically enquired in many private hospitals in New Delhi and they all



Awan and Sumi with baby Ayan. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

quoted ₹8-12 lakh for the surgery," says Awan.

It was at this time that one of his co-workers in Maldives, a Keralite, told him about SCTIMST. He made enquires to find out if surgery could be done for less than ₹3 lakh.

"I managed to collect ₹3.5 lakh with the help of my friends. I could not get a doctor's referral letter to SCTIMST, so we somehow managed to reach Kerala and lodged into SCTIMST. Awan's condition was poor and my wife was crying," Awan recalls.

"It had been a hard weekend and I was about to leave the hospital when I was called to the Casualty Ward," says Baiju S. Dharan, Professor, Congenital Heart Surgery division, SCTIMST.

"There was no time to ask about referral letters or find out whether they had the capacity to pay for surgery be-

cause the baby was dying. The infant was admitted straightaway, put on the ventilator, and we performed a single stage emergency arterial switch within three hours of admission. Ayan will be alright; they will need to bring him for yearly reviews."

The hospital bill came to ₹2.52 lakh. Awan had only ₹2 lakh to pay.

SCTIMST waived the rest of the bill amount so that he would have enough money to fly back home.

Awan says that he cannot express his gratitude in words.

"We are overwhelmed by the kindness and regard that the SCTIMST has shown to us, despite knowing that we do not have much money. I owe them my life because they gave me back my Ayan," he says.

The family goes back to Bangladesh next week.

NHRC admits service's case

DAMINI NARAYAN
NEW DELHI

A complaint against the possible human rights violation of journalist V. Verma, who was arrested by Chhattisgarh Police last month on charges of extortion, was on Saturday admitted by the National Human Rights Commission. The complaint could be taken up within a week.

IIT Dharwad PhD Admission Notice
Online Applications are invited for admission to Ph.D. Program in various Departments for Spring (January Session), 2017-18. Interested candidates may visit the link <http://www.iitdh.ac.in/academics/phd.php>. The last date for receiving the online applications is 03 December 2017.
IIT Dharwad

Ph.D Programme
Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay Memorial Health Science & Ayush University of Chhattisgarh
G.E. Road Raipur (C.G.)
Website: www.cghealthuniv.com Fax No.: 0771-2263234
E-mail: healthuniversitycg@yahoo.com
Online Applications are invited from eligible candidates for admission in Ph.D Programme for Academic Year 2017-18 in Paediatric surgery and Nephrology subject. Last date of submission of form is 07-12-2017. For details please visit Website: www.cghealthuniv.com
Date: 16-11-2017
S-83779/3
Registrar

Government of India : Ministry of Railways
RESEARCH DESIGN AND STANDARDS ORGANISATION
Manak Nagar, Lucknow - 226011.

ATTENTION RDSO PENSIONERS

It has come to notice that a number of Pension Payment Orders (PPOs) with revised pension as per the 7th Pay Commission sent by Speed Post to the pensioners on the registered address as available in our office records are being returned due to "ADDRESSEE NOT RESIDING / NOT KNOWN".

Pensioners / Family Pensioners of RDSO are requested to send their New/Changed Residential Address alongwith the following details to the Accounts Officer, RDSO, Manak Nagar, Lucknow-226011 so that the Pensioners detail can be updated and important communication can be sent through email/sms alert:

(A) New Residential Address
(B) Aadhar Card Number
(C) Mobile Number
(D) e-mail ID
(E) PPO Number

Above information can also be sent by e-mail to ssopensionrds@gmail.com
This matter may also be given wide publicity to fellow pensioners of RDSO known to you.

Executive Director Finance
RDSO, Lucknow

MAHATMA GANDHI UNIVERSITY
Annaparthi, Yellareddigudem
NALGONDA - 508254

Ten. No.07/MGU/NLG/2017-18 Date:19.11.2017
e-Tender Notice
Online tenders are invited under Two-Bid system through e-Procurement Process from the reputed registered manufacturers or their authorized dealers/agencies or reputed suppliers for supply of Lab Equipment, Furniture/Equipment, LED Street Lights, Sports field courts, Computers & Air Conditioners etc.
AND
Ten. NO.08/MGU/NLG/2017-18 Date:19.11.2017
Online tenders are invited from reputed manufacturers/authorized distributors for entering into Annual Rate Contract for the financial year 2017-18 for the supply of Laboratory Chemicals Glassware, Plastic wares and Kits.
For Tender notice and other details visit web site: tender.telangan.gov.in and also visit our web site: www.mguniversity.ac.in
Sd/- REGISTRAR

CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH IN UNANI MEDICINE
Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India

AYUSH Awards for Unani Medicine - 2017
Applications in the prescribed format are invited for **AYUSH Awards for Unani Medicine - 2017** in the following categories latest by **15th December 2017**:

- **Best Research Paper Award** for Literary / Clinical / Drug Research (3 Awards)
- **Young Scientist Award** for Literary / Clinical / Drug Research (3 Awards)
- **Lifetime Achievement Award** for Best Researcher / Academician / Practitioner (3 Awards)
- **Best Teacher Award** for Literary / Clinical / Drug Research (3 Awards)

For details, please visit <http://ccrum.res.in/ViewData/Multiple?mid=1437> and <http://ayush.gov.in>
Sd/-
Assistant Director (Admin.)

Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited
(A group company of Indian Oil)

[CIN - L40101TN1965GOI005389]
Regd. Office: No.536, Anna Salai, Teynampet, Chennai - 600 018
Website: www.cpcl.co.in Email ID: sld@cpcl.co.in Phone No.: (044)24346807 Fax No.: (044)24341753

Transfer of Equity Shares of Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL) to Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF)

Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), Government of India, had notified the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (Accounting, Audit, Transfer and Refund) Rules, 2016 ("the Rules") in September, 2016 providing for the transfer of the Equity Shares to IEPF in respect of which dividend has remained unpaid / unclaimed for seven consecutive years or more. Since CPCL has not declared dividend for the year 2008 - 2009, those shareholders whose dividend / shares remain unclaimed for seven consecutive years starting from Financial Year 2009-2010 will be liable to be transferred to IEPF. The unclaimed dividend for the year 2009-10 has already been transferred by the company to IEPF on 04.10.2017.

The said Rules were amended by MCA vide their Notification dated 28.2.2017, 13.10.2017 and 26.10.2017 wherein, amongst other things, the revised procedure for transfer of shares has been specified.

The MCA has further notified that wherein the seven years period has been completed for unpaid / unclaimed dividends during September, 2016 to October 31, 2017, the due date for transfer of Equity Shares would be 30 days from 31st October, 2017 i.e. 30th November, 2017.

In line with the IEPF Rules, the Company has sent individual communication dated 23rd March, 2017 to those shareholders whose dividends, declared for the financial year ended 31.03.2010 (2009-2010) remained unpaid / unclaimed with a request to claim the dividend, informing that the unpaid / unclaimed dividend will be transferred to the Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF), in accordance with the rules framed in this regard by the Central Government.

Further, it was also highlighted in the Annual Report 2016-2017 that as per Section 124 (6) of Companies Act, 2013 read with the Rules made there under, all shares in respect of which dividend has not been claimed / paid for 7 consecutive years or more shall be transferred by the company in the name of IEPF. The details of shareholders whose shares are liable to be transferred to IEPF account in accordance with the said Rules are published in the website of the company, www.cpcl.co.in.

In compliance with the Amended Rules, Notice is hereby given to the Shareholders whose Dividend has remained unclaimed / unpaid for seven consecutive years from the financial year 2009-10, that the Company shall initiate action for transfer of Shares within 30 days from the due date of 31st October 2017 i.e., 30th November 2017, without any further Notice.

Further, Shareholders holding shares in physical form and whose shares are liable to be transferred to IEPF, may please note that the Company would be issuing new Share Certificates in lieu of the Original Share Certificates held by them for the purpose of conversion into Demat form and subsequent transfer to Demat accounts opened by IEPF Authority. Upon such issue, the Original Share Certificates which are registered in their name shall stand automatically cancelled and be deemed non-negotiable. In case of Shareholders holding shares in Demat form, the transfer of Shares to the Demat accounts of the IEPF Authority shall be effected by the Company through the Depositories by way of Corporate Action. Subsequent Dividends on such Shares shall also be credited to the IEPF.

No claim shall lie against the Company in respect of such shares / unclaimed dividends transferred to IEPF. It may be noted that the shares transferred to IEPF, including all benefits accruing on such shares, if any, can be claimed back from the IEPF Authority after following the procedure prescribed under the Rules.

In case of any queries on the subject matter, please write to our Registrar and Transfer Agent M/s Karvy Computershare Pvt. Ltd, Karvy Selenium Tower B, Plot 31-32, Gachibowli Financial District, Nanakramguda, Hyderabad - 500 032. Tel.: 040-67161562, e-mail: mohsin.mohd@karvy.com website: www.karvycomputershare.com.

For Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd.
(P. SHANKAR)
Company Secretary
Place: Chennai
Date: 17th November, 2017

Government of India
Public Enterprises Selection Board
Invites applications for the post of
Director (Human Resource)
in
MOIL Limited
Last Date of receipt of applications in
PESB is by **15.00 hours on**
21st DECEMBER, 2017.
For details login to website
<http://www.pesb.gov.in>

FROM PAGE ONE

Imagine, there's no country

The certificate says that "Rashidu" is allotted "House Number 4 in Dinhat 1 Development Block" in Cooch Behar in north Bengal.

The Sub-divisional Officer [SDO] of Dinhat, Krishanavo Ghosh told *The Hindu* that "Rashidu" and "Rasidul Islam" are the same person.

"There was a joint Indo-Bangladesh census in 2015 and the name on the certificate was printed as they were written during the census," said Mr Ghosh. The certificate was issued on the very day the enclave dwellers entered India, which in Rasidul's case was November 22, 2015. To clarify further, Mr. Ghosh issued a fresh certificate this August underscoring Rasidul alias Rashidu's identity.

But all these documents - from the Indian High Commission's travel document to the SDO's letter - did not prevent the Delhi Police from arresting Rasidul.

As he was going to work on August 18, around 5:30 a.m., in West Delhi's Dwarka area, he was picked up and taken to the Rajouri Garden police station.

All the papers

"I showed them all the papers but they sent me for a medical test and eventually to the court," Rasidul told *The Hindu* on the phone from Kurigram district of Bangladesh. After a month in prison, Rasidul and 35 others, suspected of being Bangladeshis, were put on a train from Anand Vihar station in east Delhi en route to Kolkata. There they were handed over to the Border Security Force (BSF).

"In Kolkata we were divided into three groups of 12 each in Sealdah Station by the Railway Police and on September 12 we were taken to a place called Brahma Nagar police station around 9 in the evening," said Rasidul.

Brahma Nagar is in Nadia district of south Bengal adjacent to Meherpur district of Bangladesh. "We were taken to a BSF camp around 10 at night at Brahma Nagar [from the police station] and then around 12 at night taken to the border," he said. Rasidul has "a feeling" that he and 11 others were pushed to Bangladesh through the border "not too far from Brahma Nagar BSF camp."

Pushed in

"At one point a gate along the barbed wire fencing along the border was opened and we were pushed in. BSF men showed us the way to reach the

nearest town and told us not to stay there as Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) would be there," said Rasidul. Around 3 a.m. on September 13, Rasidul found out that he was in a town called Mujibnagar, in Bangladesh.

From Mujibnagar - ironically the historic town where the Provisional Government of Bangladesh in exile was formed with its capital in Kolkata to declare independence during the Bangladesh Liberation War of 1971 - Rasidul called his parents to tell them how and why he had disappeared for a month. He then took a bus to Kurigram.

Stateless man

"I was a stateless man before November 2015, living in Kurigram, for 20 years of my life," Rasidul said. After "enjoying" Indian citizenship for two years he has ended up again in Bangladesh, without a country to call his own.

What has disappointed the young man more is that he was "not doing too badly" for himself and the family as he quickly moved out of Cooch Behar unlike others, to settle in Delhi where he had a job in a gymnasium in Dwarka. It paid him about ₹8,000 per month to supplement his income. He began washing cars in the colonies, something that earned him a few more thousands.

"It was when I was going to wash cars, I was picked up. And now I do not know if I can go back to India and get my job back," laments Rasidul.

Ministry informed

A senior official in the West Bengal government told *The Hindu* that the Ministries of Central Government have been informed about the case of Rasidul Islam. "We have informed the Home Ministry in September and Ministry of External Affairs in October and are awaiting their response," said the official. He agreed that "Rasidul is an Indian and cannot be pushed back as a Bangladeshi" and thus the State Government "expects a speedy resolution of the case." Rasidul, however, sounds a very worried man on phone when asked if he has proper papers to live in Bangladesh.

"Now I am not a citizen of Bangladesh - in fact being an enclave dweller [I] never was one - but when the issue is resolved I am conclusively a legal citizen of India and an illegal one here. But if India does not accept me, I may land up in a Bangladesh jail," he said.

Jadhav letter was sent to Pakistan, says India

The proposal came in the backdrop of humanitarian moves regarding prisoners in each other's custody, which were undertaken recently.

The Pakistani officials came months ago. India had asked for a meeting between Mr. Jadhav and his mother in Pakistan. Though diplomats on both sides are tight-lipped about the way ahead, unconfirmed reports have indicated that both sides have begun to discuss the modalities and venue of the meeting. Reports also suggest that India might want Mr. Jadhav's mother also to travel along with his wife.

Counter-Memorial

The timing of the humanitarian gesture is significant as it comes weeks before the International Court of Justice takes up the case once again. As per the decision of the court, the case will come up on December 13, which was the deadline set for Pakistan to file the counter-Memorial.

We're not out of the woods: Manmohan

Asked about how he would have implemented the GST, Mr. Singh said, "I cannot in a short discourse give you all what I can do." "But ... both in administration and implementation of this ... And the very fact that the GST council has met so many times, they have now reduced rates for 211 items, that shows that there was an undue haste in implementation and bureaucracy has not done its homework," he said.

The people's anger against GST and demonetisation will reflect in the outcome of the Assembly polls in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh, Mr. Singh said that "well I can only hope. I am not a prophet".

Hard work

"I think our vice-president Rahul Gandhi is doing very hard work. And I hope his efforts will be crowned with success. But politics is an unpredictable profession. One doesn't know. One keeps on trying," he said.

CWC set to meet tomorrow

Final step in the process of electing Rahul Gandhi as Congress president

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Congress president Sonia Gandhi has called a Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting on Monday morning, to notify the schedule for the election of her successor.

The move comes after the Election Commission set a December 31 deadline for the party to complete the process of organisational elections.

PCCs' concurrence

This notification will clear the decks for the elevation of party vice-president Rahul Gandhi as its next president. The Congress has already completed the task of constituting Pradesh Congress Committees.

Top sources in the party confirmed to *The Hindu* that the CWC meeting is the next



Sonia Gandhi

step in electing Mr. Gandhi as the president of the Congress.

"Through the year, organisational polls and constitution of PCCs had been completed, and the CWC meeting has been called for discussing and finalising a

schedule for the election to the post of president," said a senior general secretary of the party.

Dates for filing of nomination, their scrutiny and withdrawal will be notified, and ballots to be issued (if required) and date of polling will be decided.

Mr. Gandhi is the only candidate who is likely to be elected unopposed - a situation conveyed by nearly all the sources, which he has passed resolutions asking that he take over as president.

Before Gujarat results

The entire process may take 10 to 14 days, according to sources, which means that Mr. Gandhi may get elevated to the post before the results for the Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh Assembly elections are announced.

The Election Commission had given two extensions to the Congress to complete organisational polls. Various dates, including the birth centenary of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi (November 19), were suggested as possible dates when this might happen. When it did not, a new date was finalised.

Once elected, Mr. Gandhi will succeed his mother, who has held the post uninterrupted for 19 years - the longest serving party president.

Mr. Gandhi faces not just the challenge of pulling the party out of a long-running electoral slump but also effecting a generational shift within the party organisation.

With his election, party leaders are hoping, both ends would be achieved.

Manmohan wins Indira Gandhi Prize

Jury led by Pranab makes the choice

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh will be the recipient of this year's Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development.

A jury headed by former President Pranab Mukherjee made the decision on the award given out annually to individuals and organisations in recognition of their efforts toward promoting international peace, development and a new international economic order, ensuring that scientific discoveries are used for the larger good of humanity, and enlarging the scope of freedom.

The award, comprising a cash prize of ₹25 lakh and a citation, was instituted by



Manmohan Singh

the Indira Gandhi Memorial trust in 1986 and previous recipients include the former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, former President of the Czech Republic Vaclav Havel, and organisations such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and ISRO.

Six LeT militants killed in J&K gunfight

Those killed include the nephew of the group's operational commander Zakiur Rehman Lakhvi

PEERZADA ASHIQ SRINAGAR

Six Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) militants were killed in an encounter in Bandipora on Saturday. One Indian Air Force (IAF) commando was killed and another soldier injured in the operation.

"It's a great success for the security forces. A total of six terrorists were eliminated in the operation. One of the terrorists named Owaid is the son of Zakir Rehman Maki and nephew of Zakiur Rehman Lakhvi, the mastermind of Mumbai terror attacks," said Director-General of Police (DGP), J&K, S.P. Vaid.

Lakhvi is a Pakistan-based operational commander of the LeT. He said all the militants were from Pakistan. "LeT's commanders Zar-



Standing guard: A file photo of security personnel at their base in the Sumbal area of Bandipora, about 30 km from Srinagar. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

gam Bhai and Mehmood Bhai were among those eliminated."

In January this year, Abu

Musaib, another nephew of Mehmood, according to

the police, was behind the killing of a BSF jawan in September. Sources said the group "dominated" the Sum-

bal-Sonamarg axis for several months and "escaped many encounters". "It was a difficult area. We have lost jawans earlier this year too. We faced stone-pelting even today [Saturday]. However, we were not distracted," said DGP Vaid.

Trapped in a house

One IAF Garud personnel was killed and a soldier of 13 Rashtriya Rifles (RR) injured in the gunfight. These militants were trapped inside a house after a joint team of the army's 13 RR, CRPF and the police's special operation group (SOG) personnel cordoned off Hajin's Chandargar Jamia Mohalla.

There were attempts by locals to disrupt the operation. One civilian was injured in the clashes.

Restrictions imposed in Srinagar

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT SRINAGAR

Authorities imposed curfew-like restrictions in parts of Srinagar and closed all educational institutes as "a precautionary measure" on Saturday, in the wake of the killing of a local militant in an exchange of fire on Friday evening.

All areas coming under the jurisdiction of six police stations - Parimpora, Khanyar, Nowhatta, Pakadal, M.R. Gunj and Kharwari - were sealed with uncertainty wires and barricaded to stop movement of vehicles.

"Section 144 prohibiting assembly of more than four persons) was strictly implemented in these areas as a precautionary measure," said an official statement.

All educational institutes, including Kashmir University, were closed. Train services were also suspended.

All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq was also placed under house arrest. JKLF chief Yasin Malik was shifted to the Central Jail as part of the crackdown on separatists. "It's because of the lingering Kashmir issue and due to the stubborn and intransigent approach of New Delhi that people of this region continue to suffer," said the Hurriyat spokesperson.

Hundreds of people, especially youth and women, converged on the house of slain militant, Mugees Mir, in Srinagar's Parimpora amid security restrictions.

India rebuts Pak. charge on firing along LoC

Says retaliatory firing was carried out in response to unprovoked and repeated ceasefire violations

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Director General of Military Operations spoke to his Pakistani counterpart on Saturday during an unscheduled phone call at 5 p.m. The call was initiated at the request of his Pakistan counterpart, the Army said in a statement.

Heavy firing

"Pakistan Army DGMO alleged that Indian security forces had resorted to unprovoked firing and targeted civilians along the Line of Control opposite Poonch



Army soldiers patrolling on the Line of Control in Poonch. ■ PTI

sector," the Army added.

"Indian Army DGMO emphatically stated that retaliatory firing by Indian troops

has only been carried out in response to unprovoked and repeated ceasefire violations initiated by Pakistan troops

along the Line of Control," it

DGM Lt. Gen. A.K. Bhat told his Pakistani counterpart that there appeared to be a disconnect between the intent at the Pak GHQ which reiterates its desire for peace and the actions of Pak troops along the Line of Control, who resort to heavy firing without provocation."

Gen. Bhat "exhorted Pak DGMO to resolve this existing credibility gap to ensure that peace and tranquility is maintained along the Line of Control," the Army statement said.

The Army claimed that the DGMO had "further clarified that Indian Army always maintains impeccable standards of professionalism and does not target civilians in any manner".

Punitive measures

The DGMO said while the Army would continue efforts to maintain peace and tranquility along the border, "Indian Army troops will continue to take all retaliatory measures and retain the right to punitively respond to any provocative acts of aggression from Pakistan side".

Accused in Sterling case go 'missing'

Several accused in the Sterling Biotech case, in which the company and its directors face allegations of having inflated public sector banks (PSBs) of ₹83 crore, have gone underground, a court is investigating.

Suspecting that accused may attempt to flee the country, the Enforcement Directorate has initiated measures to get arrest warrants against them. The agency may also get look-out circulars issued against them. "We had summoned some of the accused, who did not turn up. Therefore, we have decided to approach the competent court for getting arrest warrants against them," said an ED official.

The CBI had earlier registered a cheating case against Sterling Biotech, its directors Chetan Jayantilal Sandesara, Dipti Chetan Sandesara, Rajbhushan Omprakash Dixit, Nitin Jayantilal Sandesara and Vilas Dattatray Joshi, chartered accountant Hemant Hathi and the then Andhra Bank Director Anup Garg. The ED also initiated a money laundering probe.

Rajnath asks J&K to review cases of child protesters

As part of Centre's bid to reach out to people of the State

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

Home Minister Rajnath Singh has asked the Jammu and Kashmir government to move all juveniles, arrested for throwing stones and other unlawful activities, from jails to remand homes and review their cases sympathetically, officials said.

The decision is considered to be an attempt to reach out to the people of the State by the Centre after the appointment of Maheshwar Sharma as Special Representative to initiate talks with all stakeholders.

An olive branch

The key issue was discussed in detail at Wednesday's meeting of the core group on Kashmir, chaired by the Union Home Minister and attended by Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, where it was decided to ask the Jammu and Kashmir government to work on the cases of juveniles.

After the core group meeting, the Jammu and Kashmir government had been asked to shift all juveniles, arrested for pelting



Rajnath Singh

there last week. He will again visit the State soon.

Counter-terrorism

Though the Centre has initiated dialogue with all stakeholders as part of its effort to bring lasting peace in Jammu and Kashmir, the anti-militancy operations in the State against violence by Pakistan-based groups is likely to go on.

Director-General of Police of Jammu and Kashmir S.P. Vaid recently said that around 170 militants were gunned down by the security forces in Jammu and Kashmir this year.

Two Army soldiers were killed and a CRPF jawan suffered injuries in an encounter in Pulwama district of the state on November 2.

Three militants were gunned down in Pulwama in an encounter in which an Army jawan was also killed on November 6.

Three militants, including the nephew of Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Maulana Masood Azhar's, were gunned down by security forces in Pulwama district on November 7.

Will continue fight for 'arrow' symbol: Sharad

To contest Gujarat under 'autorickshaw'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

After losing the battle to claim the "arrow" symbol from the Nitish Kumar faction of the Janata Dal (U), senior Rajya Sabha member Sharad Yadav said on Saturday that his faction would fight the Gujarat polls under the symbol 'autorickshaw' currently assigned to Maheshbhai Vasava's Bharatiya Tribal Party (BTP).

Maheshbhai Vasava is the son of Gujarat MLA Chhotubhai Vasava, who is also the acting president of the breakaway faction of the JD (U).

Terms it injustice

Mr. Yadav expressed his disappointment with the Election Commission's decision to hand over the 'arrow' symbol to the Nitish Kumar faction, terming it an injustice. "The decision is not meted out justice. It is just asking the person who constructed the building to vacate it. My lawyers are looking into the matter and will soon take a call. Our fight will continue," he said.

Mr. Yadav said that seat-sharing talks with the Congress were still going on and



Sharad Yadav

that a seat-sharing arrangement could be announced. The JD(U) has become pocket party in the tribal regions of Gujarat, and while Mr. Vasava says that this support was tied to him and not any party symbol, Mr. Yadav vowed to fight on to retrieve the 'arrow'. "We are not dismayed by this decision. Our fight for the party symbol is a legal battle, but the real issue for which we are fighting is to save democracy. They (Nitish led JD-U) have insulted the mandate of the 11 crore people of Bihar by joining hands with the BJP," Mr. Yadav said.

Javed Raza, senior leader in this faction of the JD(U), said the party was considering all options before it.

BJP plays it tough in new list

Several Ministers and MLAs dropped, sparking protests and resignations

MAHESH LANGA
AHMEDABAD
The BJP on Saturday released its second list of 36 candidates for the Gujarat Assembly polls, taking the number of candidates announced so far to 106. As many as 76 candidates are yet to be named.

In the second list released by the party, a dozen sitting legislators have been dropped, including sitting Minister Nirmala Wadhvani from the Naroda Assembly segment in Ahmedabad city. Besides that, former Minister Mangubhai has also been dropped from his tribal reserved Gandevi seat.

In Gondal, the party has dropped sitting legislator Jajrajsinh Jadeja after he was convicted in a murder case and is now in jail. The party has instead fielded his wife, Geetaba Jadeja, from Gondal, a Patidar-dominated seat in Rajkot district.

"We have today released the second list while Congress leaders are fighting



On new turf: PAAS leaders Arvind Patel and Shweta Patel after joining the BJP in Ahmedabad on Saturday. ■VIJAY SONEJI

among themselves and not able to decide their candidates," said Gujarat BJP President Jitu Vaghani after the list was released from the party headquarters in New Delhi.

Finding a place

Prominent among those in the second list are junior Home Minister Pradipsinh Jadeja from Vatva in Ahmedabad, Water Resources Minister Babubhai Bokharia from Porbandar

and former Porbandar parliamentarian Haribhai Patel from Dhoraji constituency. The second list includes candidates for 12 Scheduled Tribe (ST) reserved constituencies and two Scheduled Castes (SC) reserved seats.

The first list announced on Friday included 11 ST reserved and 3 SC reserved seats. There are 27 ST reserved and 13 SC reserved seats in the State.

Meanwhile, after the first list released, the ruling party

Will contest in 12 seats: Tyagi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PATNA

With the Nitish Kumar-led JD (U) faction retaining the party's "arrow" symbol, senior party leader K. C. Tyagi on Saturday declared that it would contest about a dozen seats in Gujarat as "arrow" has been popular among tribes there.

He has faced protests in around 10 constituencies where party workers were not satisfied with the party's choice of candidate.

Kodinar MLA and parliamentary secretary Jethabhai Solanki has resigned from the party after his name did not figure in the list while in Padra, more than 200 party workers including Vadodara district panchayat BJP leader have resigned after sitting legislator Dinu Patel was reported by the party.

Patidars give Cong. 24-hour ultimatum

'Declare stand on reservation status or face opposition'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
GANDHINAGAR/ KATHIHAR

Patidar Anamat Andolan Samiti (PAAS) leaders have given the Congress a 24-hour deadline to declare its stand on granting reservation to the community.

PAAS leaders had flown to New Delhi on Friday to hold talks with Congress leaders on the issue, but they are reportedly unhappy.

PAAS convener Dinesh Bamanian claimed that Gujarat Congress president Bharatsinh Solanki initially had a brief meeting with them and told them that there would be a detailed meeting again after the Congress Central Election Committee's meeting got over.

After the waiting, and after speaking to PAAS leader Hardik Patel, Mr. Bamanian has reportedly



Strong support: Patidars at a rally in Ahmedabad to demand OBC quota for them. ■FILE PHOTO

given an ultimatum to the Congress to declare its stand on the reservation status within 24 hours or else face the PAAS' opposition.

"However, even after the CEC meeting got over, they have not met us and Solanki is not picking up our calls. This is an insult to us," he said. The PAAS group has earlier made known its op-

position to the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Gujarat in the coming elections.

Meanwhile, the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) on Saturday said it would contest the Assembly elections in Gujarat next month in an alliance with the Congress to oust the 22-year-old BJP regime in the State.

U.P. CM faces black flags on poll trail

STAFF REPORTER
MEERUT

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on Saturday that his government had maintained law and order in the State during the past six months.

He was speaking at a municipal council meeting, which was disrupted by some protesters who raised slogans against him and waved black flags.

Local BJP workers caused a hold of them and threatened them. Later, the protesters were dragged out of the venue and handed over to the police.

In his speech, Mr. Adityanath said: "It is the same State and the set of officers. But there is rule of law today in Uttar Pradesh. Earlier, people were leaving the State due to fear of criminals and the deteriorating law and order situation, but today criminals are leaving the State due to fear of law."

Fight before the fight



Raging voices: Congress supporters stage a protest against the plan to renominate Gyasuddin Shaikh, MLA, at the Congress headquarters in Ahmedabad on Saturday. ■VIJAY SONEJI

AAP leader to contest as Independent

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
AHMEDABAD
Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader from Gujarat, Anand Kalsaria, on Saturday announced that he will fight the State Assembly polls as an independent candidate from Mahuva constituency in Bhavnagar district against the "anti-farmer and anti-poor" BJP.

Mr. Kalsaria, who joined the AAP in 2014, said that though he has not formally resigned from the party, he will not work for it during the polls.

"I have told the party leadership that I am contesting independently from Mahuva. They told me to do whatever I feel right," Mr. Kalsaria said.

Expelled CPI(M) leader to form party

STAFF REPORTER
KOLKATA
Young Bengal, a breakaway faction of the CPI(M), is planning to launch a political party. The group's founder-member and convener of the organisation, who was expelled from the CPI(M) in 2012, told presspersons about the possibility on Saturday on the sidelines of the second annual convention of Young Bengal here. The organisation, a platform for the youth, was founded in November last year.

Former convener
Mr. Bose, a former convener of the research unit of the CPI(M), was expelled when he questioned the party decision to support the UPA candidate Pranab Mukherjee in the presidential election.

Smart cities project unsustainable: expert

Ravikanth Joshi says some of the proposals are extravagant

VIDYA VENKAT
MYSURU

"A rupee saved is a rupee generated." That is how Ravikanth Joshi, a public finance expert with two decades of experience managing budgets for the Baroda Municipal Corporation, previously, sums up the lessons he learnt on the job.

Referring to some of the development proposals submitted by cities as part of the Centre's flagship Smart Cities project, Mr. Joshi told *The Hindu* that the extravagant costs of the proposals, quoting expenditure of ₹9 lakh to ₹12 lakh per capita in cities such as Chandigarh, were financially unsustainable. He was speaking on the sidelines of the international conference on the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at St. Philomena's College here.

Goal 11 of the SDGs per-



Ravikanth Joshi

haps. That way, retrofitting the infrastructure for entire cities would remain a dream for over 20 years," he said.

Under the project, Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) are registered under the Companies Act with the State and the Centre investing equally. Private capital could be injected into the project comprising up to 48% as equity, he explained.

However, in the process urban local bodies got sidelined. The constitution of board members to the SPVs fell short of local representatives; only the city commissioner was represented, he said.

"Neither the local communities nor the local officials are involved in framing project proposals, and the decision-making is dominated by top bureaucrats," he said, adding that this could be corrected.

DSC prize for Arudpragasam

VAISHNA ROY
DHAKA

Sri Lankan writer Anuk Arudpragasam on Saturday took away the 2017 DSC Prize for South Asian Literature for his powerful novel *The Story of a Brief Marriage*.

The award was announced at the closing ceremony of the three-day Dhaka Lit Fest in the Bangladesh capital and was a fitting end to a festival that saw a record turnout in the historic Bangla Academy campus.

The book was given the award for its "intensity and rich detail," said Ritu Menon, jury chair, who highlighted that it had been a

tight contest. The other short-listed works were equally acclaimed books - Anjali Joseph's *Living*, Aravind Adiga's *Selection Day*, Karan Mahajan's *Association of Small Boys*, and Stephen Lee's *In the Jungles of the Night*.

The winning book is a tender exploration of unexpected love set in the middle of the terrible violence of the Sri Lankan civil war.

Haunting stories
Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Arudpragasam spoke of how living in south Sri Lanka had relatively insulated him from the worst of the violence but how the stories and images

pouring out had haunted him and prodded him into writing the book.

"The images somehow distanced me from the war, and I wanted to get close to it, to understand it," he said.

The writer announced that he intended to give away a third of the award money of \$25,000 to organisations working in northern Sri Lanka and Kashmir and for the Rohingya.

Suriname Narula, who is the co-founder of the DSC Prize, said the award "remains focussed on recognising and showcasing the immense talent that is writing about the South Asian region today."

Where only men pull the poll strings

The campaign of women candidates in U.P. can't escape the imprint of male kin

OMAR RASHID
LUCKNOW

Amit Pandey promises to make Lucknow "the first mosquito-free city in India".

While three-fourths of the election pamphlet introduces us to Mr. Pandey's ideology, his 10-point manifesto and slogan, relegated to the lower end of it is the image of a sari-clad woman with folded hands.

That's Jyotsana Pandey, who is introduced as his wife. It may appear that Mr. Pandey is contesting an election. It is not so. The Lucknow Mayor's seat is reserved for women.

Ms. Pandey, 41, a homemaker, thinks it is fine to project her husband more prominently.

"The motto is his. The demands are his. He has been the face of the mission though I have been part of it. Women empowerment



Amina Begum, BSP candidate, is accompanied by her husband for campaigning in Lucknow on Saturday. ■RAJESH BHATT

starts from home," she says.

The reasons may vary but the campaign of women candidates battling it out in the Uttar Pradesh urban body polls invariably cannot escape the imprint of their male family members. Unless the women are popular or politicians in their own right, it is common for their campaign to be run on the face, profile and reputation

of the husband, brother, father or son, especially in reserved seats.

Rule of the pradhan-pati
Even mainstream parties, while releasing their lists, identify a woman candidate by a man - father or husband. The "pradhan-pati" or husband of the pradhan (woman) often enjoys more social recognition and public

recognition than her elected wife. The campaign stickers of Amina Begum, who is the BSP candidate from the Sajoini Nagar North Palika Parishad ward in Lucknow, introduce her as the wife of Mr. Ismael. The phone numbers listed are also under his name, not hers.

In 2012, four out of the 12 Mayor seats in U.P., including one each for the OBC and the SC, were reserved for women. This time, as the posts have been increased to 16, six women will be elected as Mayors, including in Varanasi, Lucknow and Allahabad. Sixty-seven out of the 199 Nagar Palika Parishad seats are also reserved for women.

Voting for the municipal polls in Uttar Pradesh is scheduled from November 22 in three phases. The counting is on December 1.

HLL Lifecare Limited
(A Government of India Enterprise)
CIN: U25193 KL 1966 GOI 002621
HLL Bhavan, S.No.26/4, Velachery Tambaram Main Road, Behind Kamakshi Hospital, Pallikaranai, Chennai - 600100

NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR LEASING OUT OF COMMERCIAL PREMISES AT PALLIKARANAI, CHENNAI

HLL Lifecare Ltd., a Govt. of India Enterprises invites tenders from the interested parties who are willing to take on lease office premises 1st floor measuring around plinth 484.25 Sqm/5212 Sq.Feet., carpet area 428 Sqm/4607.54 Sq.Feet having Power and water connection, Lift, Power Back up and Covered Car Park at S.No.26/4, Pallikaranai-Velachery Main Road, Next to Assam Bhavan, Chennai. The tender forms with details can be downloaded from the website www.lifecare.com Last date of submission of bids is by 3.00 p.m on 14th December, 2017. Brokers to be excluded. (DGM/HR)

सबसे बेहतर के लिए नवाचार | Innovating for Healthy Generations

KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LTD TENDER NOTICE
D/o Chief Engineer (Renewable Energy and Energy Savings), Vydyuthi Bhavanam, Pattom, Thiruvananthapuram.695 004.Phone-0471-2514551.

Tender No. : KSEBL/REES/SGD-District Panchayath Kozhikkode/09/2017-18.
Name of work : Design, erection, testing & commissioning of Grid Tied Rooftop Solar PV power plants on the roofs of 44 Government buildings of Kozhikkode District Panchayath with a total installed capacity of 480 kWp with 75-80% performance ratio including operation & maintenance of the plant for 5 years. (From EPC contractors who are valid MNRE channel partners). PAC : Rs. 3.3018 Crore EMD :Rs. 2 lakh.

Tender No. KSEBL/REES/SGD-District Panchayath Kannur/10/2017-18. Name of work : Design, erection, testing & commissioning of Grid Tied Rooftop Solar PV power plants on the roofs of 29 Government buildings of Kannur District Panchayath with a total installed capacity of 570 kWp with 75-80% performance ratio including operation & maintenance of the plant for 5 years. (From EPC contractors who are valid MNRE channel partners). PAC : Rs. 5.125 Crore EMD :Rs. 2 lakh. Last date for the submission of tender documents: 28.11.2017. 5 p.m. For details visit www.ksebl.in and download tenders documents from www.etenders.kerala.gov.in

PR/ MC/1 /1137/Window / 2039 /2017. (Sd/-) CHIEF ENGINEER(REES)

MILITARY ENGINEER SERVICES
GARRISON ENGINEER (Maint), Naval Air Station, Arakkonam - 631 006 invites application for the following works:

Sl No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost in Lakhs
1.	REPAIR / MAINTENANCE OF FIRE FIGHTING AND FIRE ALARM SYSTEM AT INS RAJALI ARAKKONAM.	Rs. 7.50

Tender Id No.: 2017_MES_158713_1

For details of cost of tender, EMD and period of completion refer www.eprocuremes.gov.in

Note: Subletting of contract works is not permitted.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RWS&S DIVISION, JHARSUGUDA
At-Collectorate Campus, Po-OIMP Line, Dist :- Jharsuguda
Ph./Fax : (06645)270219 (Off.), E-Mail - ee.rws@nic.in

205-D: (2nd Corrigendum)

INVITATION OF BID THROUGH e-Tendering - Bid Identification No.17/ 2017-18.

In unavoidable circumstances the following changes has been made in the Tender for Bid Identification No.17 of 2017-18.

Package No.	Name of the Work	Estimate amount read as (Rs.in Lakh) instead of (Rs.in Lakh)
1.	Execution of RPWS to Village - Hirna of G.P.Hirna under Jharsuguda Block	₹ 113.43 instead of ₹ 115.90
2.	Execution of RPWS to Village - Barjari of G.P. Darli under Jharsuguda Block	₹ 67.11 instead of ₹ 67.83
3.	Execution of RPWS to Village- Bartap & Jaijudia of G.P. Barjari under Lakhapur Block	₹ 54.93 instead of ₹ 55.85
4.	Execution of RPWS to Village- Chhapali of G.P. Chhapali under Lakhapur Block	₹ 70.87 instead of ₹ 72.01
5.	Execution of RPWS to Village - Amzapali of G.P. Soderal under Kolabira Block	₹ 69.56 instead of ₹ 70.43
6.	Execution of RPWS to Village - Lariapali & Baragithi of G.P.Podrasale under Kolabira Block	₹ 59.02 instead of ₹ 59.50

All other terms & condition mentioned in the original bid remain unchanged.
Further details can be seen from the Govt. website <http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in>
23/08/11/0225/1718 Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Jharsuguda.

Government of India
Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, New Delhi

Office of the Superintending Engineer
28th (NH) Circle, P.W.D., Bareilly (U.P.)

NIT No. 53181-Tender Cashier(Bly)-28/17 Dated: 16.11.2017

NOTICE INVITING TENDER FROM ELIGIBLE CONSULTANT
(National Competitive Bidding through e-Tender Mode Only)

On behalf of Ministry of Road Transport and Highway, Superintending Engineer 28th (NH) Circle, P.W.D., Bareilly invites applications from the DPR Consultants through e-tendering process for appointment of DPR Consultant for Improvement and upgradation of in-principle declared National Highways in the State of Uttar Pradesh. For details kindly visit website www.eprocure.gov.in & www.infracon.nic.in.

Superintending Engineer
28th Circle N.H.P.W.D., Bareilly (U.P.)

PARADIP PORT TRUST

e-TENDER NOTICE

Name of the work : "Allotment of 07 Nos. of Mechanical Iron Ore / Iron Ore Pellet Plot". License Fees : ₹ 22,28,300/-, Wharfage Fees : ₹ 50,63,793/-. Late date & time of submission of bid : 06.12.2017 up to 16:00 hrs., Refer our website for details : <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> Traffic Manager (I/C) PPT/PT/553/17-18 Dt 18.11.2017

KERALA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD
(DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE, GOVT. OF KERALA)
Head Office : Thiruvananthapuram-14 (Telephone No. 0471-2337353, FAX No. 0471-3045647).
E-mail : edrugs@kmscl.kerala.gov.in, website : www.kmscl.kerala.gov.in
CIN No. U24233KL2007SGC021616

No.KMSCL/DRG/ED/75/2017 Date : 18.11.2017

E-TENDER NOTICE

Online bids are invited from manufacturers/direct importers/ loan licensees on behalf of Department of Health, Govt. of Kerala for the procurement of following categories of drugs /supplies for the year 2018-19.

Sl. No.	Tender No. and Date	Category	No. of items
1.	KMSCL/DRG/ED/ I & II/RC/2017/021 dt. 18.11.2017	Drugs	402
2.	KMSCL/DRG/ED/ III - VIII/RC/2017/022 dt. 18.11.2017	Consumables & Surgical items	158
3.	KMSCL/DRG/ED/ ACD/RC/2017/023 dt. 18.11.2017	Anti Cancer Drugs	72
4.	KMSCL/DRG/ED/ SPL/RC/2017/024 dt. 18.11.2017	Specialty Drugs	192

Pre-tender meeting will be conducted at 10:30 am at Mascot Hotel on 27.11.2017. The last date and time of online uploading of tenders will be 12.12.2017, 5.00 pm. The date and time of opening of Technical bid will be 16.12.2017, 11.00 am. Tenders shall be downloaded and submitted online through the e-tender portal www.etenders.kerala.gov.in.

(Sd/-) MANAGING DIRECTOR (Tender Inviting Authority)

WHO

Priti Patel conservative rebel

In 2011, Priti Patel, then a backbench Conservative MP, surprised viewers of BBC's Question Time show by expressing support for the death penalty – and its reintroduction to Britain. “We do not have enough deterrents in this country for criminals,” she said to a cautious applause from some. While changing her position years later, the incident established Ms. Patel as a vocal figure on the right of the party, at a time when it had attempted to emphasise its “moderate” credentials.

Where does she stand?

Londoner Patel, whose parents, like many Gujarati families from Uganda, fled to Britain in the 1960s, has long held strong views on a range of issues. She left a job at the Conservative Party in the 1990s to work for the Referendum Party, a now defunct political organisation pushing for a vote on Britain's relationship with Europe.

Since returning to the party, she has remained a strong Eurosceptic voice while helping the party entice sections of the Indian community. Her keen sup-

port for Prime Minister Narendra Modi (in 2014 she made a formal complaint about the BBC coverage of him and regularly speaks out on issues such as demonetisation) has been one of the factors that has helped foster stronger ties between the Conservative Party and the BJP. In 2016, she became the first ever government honoree champion for the British Indian community.

Why are people talking about her first controversy?

She has long stood to the right of her party, opposing increased restrictions on smoking as well as voting against same sex marriage. On other issues, she has followed the party line such as voting against efforts to introduce caste into equality legislation. Remarkably, she has also attacked the U.K. aid policy in the past, telling *The Daily Telegraph* in

2013 that there was a need to replace the Department for International Development with one that also focused on trade and investment with developing countries.

Her most controversial moments came during the referendum last year when she urged the British Indian community to vote to leave, suggesting that by making it harder for EU citizens to enter, the government could potentially be more lenient to non-EU citizens.

What is her first controversy?

She was also pictured in front of the infamous Leave campaign bus that pledged to send the £350 million a week currently going into the EU to the National Health Service. Both moments have been highlighted by supporters of Stay in the EU camp as some of the unfulfilled claims made by the

Department for International Development with one that also focused on trade and investment with developing countries.

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Leave camp that were decisive for voters.

Ms. Patel's resignation threatened to disturb the precarious soft/hard Brexit balance in the Cabinet, with some calling for Prime Minister Theresa May to ensure that she was replaced by someone as hawkish on Brexit as she was. Their hopes were met as ardent Brexititeer Penny Mordaunt took her place.

Is this the end of her career?

Highly unlikely. She was allowed to resign rather than be sacked, leaving the Cabinet door very much open. She has many supporters within the party, including some who suggested to *The Daily Telegraph* that she had the ability to do “hard damage” to the government. Over the summer, there were rumours of her interest in the party leadership.

While she may lack the backing for the top post, her's is a name unlikely to remain out of the headlines for long.

VIDYA RAM



WHAT

The lowdown on the dengue epidemic



WHAT IS IT? The National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP) records show that 1,29,329 people fell sick with dengue this year, while 200 died. India's official numbers are well known to be gross underestimates, with private hospitals often not reporting the disease.

In fact, a 2014 study calculated that the actual number of cases between 2006 and 2012 was 282 times the NVB-DCP number.

But even if one were to factor in the undercounting, 2017 is an extraordinary year. This is due to three reasons. First, India is getting better each year at reporting dengue, leading to more cases being counted. Second, dengue itself is becoming more endemic due to urbanisation.

The dengue mosquito thrives in urban habitats, in water pooled under flower pots for example. As population explodes in rural areas, what was initially an urban disease has spread to these regions too, says Arunkumar Govindakar, a virologist at the Manipal Centre for Virus Research who runs a surveillance project for febrile illnesses in 10 States. Third, dengue epidemics follow a natural cycle as population immunity waxes and wanes. But given our patchy data collection, it has been hard to glean out such cycles.

HOW DID IT COME ABOUT? As dengue burden rises in the country, says Mr. Arunkumar, the likelihood of more people becoming

severely ill grows.

This is because more infections raise the chances of the virus mutating to a more virulent form. It also raises the risk of a phenomenon called antibody-dependent enhancement.

The dengue virus has four serotypes, which are classified by the type of antigen (a molecule on the viral surface which human antibodies recognise) they have.

These serotypes are DENV-1, DENV2, DENV-3 and DENV-4. When a person is affected by one dengue serotype, she develops antibodies against it, which protect her for the rest of her life. If the same person is then infected by a different serotype, she is likely to develop severe disease.

This is because, in some cases, antibodies against the first serotype worsen the second infection, instead of protecting against it.

This phenomenon is called antibody-dependent enhancement (ADE) and results in a more dangerous illness called dengue haemorrhagic fever (DHF).

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Severe dengue haemorrhagic fever causes blood vessels to leak, which leads to a loss of blood pressure. If this isn't treated quickly by replacing bodily fluids, the person can go into shock and can die. But treating a patient of DHF is a delicate balance, and hard to do in the high-pressure environment of an outbreak, says Mr Arunkumar. First, doctors must learn to spot severe cases and avoid indiscriminate admission of mild cases. For this, they need to look beyond easily-measured parameters like platelet counts, to symptoms that need careful observation. Haemorrhagic fever shows up as a puffy face, loss of blood pressure, low pulse rate and a range of other symptoms. Once it develops, fluids need to be given with care. It often happens, says Mr Arunkumar, that doctors give patients too much fluid, which too has dangerous consequences.

WHAT NEXT? Given the burden of dengue, the economic

cost for India is huge. One calculation based on data from Madurai estimated the 2012 medical cost of dengue for India to be \$548 million. According to the study, a hospitalised person spent an average of \$235.20, usually out of her own pocket. Costs like this are a blow to daily-wage earners, because hospitalisation also means a loss of income. The good news is that, across the world, early treatment keeps mortality levels as low as 2%. India is still pondering over introducing the world's first dengue vaccine, Dengvaxia, and for good reason. Studies show that people who have never been exposed to dengue can develop severe disease if they get dengue a few years after vaccination. This is thought to be due to ADE. So, for vaccination to be helpful, between 50 and 70% of the population needs to have been exposed to the virus. India is conducting seroprevalence studies to calculate exposure rates before it takes a call.

PRIYANKA PULLA

WHY

Why was J&K cold to interlocutor?

What happened?

■ Former Intelligence Bureau chief Dineshwar Sharma was appointed as a special representative by the Centre to restart talks with all stakeholders in Jammu and Kashmir. Mr. Sharma, a 1979-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the Kerala cadre, was hand-picked by the Narendra Modi government to begin the dialogue process in the State, which has seen a spiral of violence since July last year. When he was appointed, Mr. Sharma was already the Centre's interlocutor for talks with the Assam-based insurgent groups, a post he continues to hold. He also heads a committee to restructure the Home Ministry.

Why was he picked?

■ Mr. Sharma's appointment was a surprise as the NDA government had in the past ruled out the appointment of any point man to initiate the dialogue process. Though the Centre has refrained from calling him an “interlocutor,” on September 23, 2014, Home

Minister Rajnath Singh had ruled out the appointment of any interlocutor for Jammu and Kashmir, saying it was a “non-productive” practice. The fact that Mr. Sharma's appointment coincided with the maiden visit of U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson cannot be ignored. In an interview to *The Hindu*, Mr. Sharma had said he was apprised of the appointment barely two days before the formal announcement was made by Mr. Singh at a hurriedly called press conference on October 23.

What was the objection?

■ Mr. Sharma met over 60 delegations in Srinagar and Jammu during his five-day visit from November 6. Several prominent trade bodies such as the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industries and the Kashmir Hotel and Restaurant Owners' Federation refused to meet Mr. Sharma as they said that talks with previous interlocutors had failed. Invites were sent out to several delegations from the Divisional Commissioner's office to attend the talks at the Hari



Niwars Guesthouse in Srinagar. But several people stayed away. Following the cold response, the State government sent out a message that whoever wanted to meet Mr. Sharma could register themselves with the local administration office. The Centre said it was the State that had taken the responsibility of screening the people who would meet Mr. Sharma. In fact, most of the delegations were the ones that had met the Home Minister during his previous visits. He did not meet, for instance, the victims of pellet gun injuries or families

of those who were killed in firing by security forces during the 2016 unrest. Last year, 15 civilians were killed and 396 persons were injured, many blinded, in incidents in which pellet guns were used by security forces at protesters. The incidents occurred after July 8, 2016 when Hizbul Mujahideen commander Burhan Wani was killed in an encounter with security forces. Unlike other delegations, Mr. Sharma went to the homes of political leaders such as Omar Abdullah, Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami of the CPI(M) and G.A Mir of the Congress in Srinagar.

What went wrong?

■ When the Home Minister announced Mr. Sharma's appointment, he had said it was in line with Mr. Modi's Independence Day speech that problems in the State could be resolved “neither by bullet, nor by abuses but by embracing the people.” But a day before Mr. Sharma arrived in Srinagar, Mr. Modi, speaking at an election rally at Kullu in Himachal Pradesh on November 5, said: “Jawans

from Himachal are targeted by stone-pelters in Kashmir.” The statement didn't go down well, with former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah tweeting: “On the campaign trail PM Modi highlighting the failure of his ally Mehbooba Mufti and her administration.” The hard-line Hurriyat Conference, led by Syed Ali Shah Geelani, had rejected any dialogue with Mr. Sharma. It said a government representative had approached them for talks, but they would not participate in the process, calling it a “rhetoric” and “waste of time.” Mr. Sharma said he was hopeful of visiting the separatists during his next visit.

What lies ahead?

■ Mr. Sharma is expected to go back to the State in late November. He is likely to visit universities and educational institutions. He will also travel to districts in south Kashmir that saw an increase in protests and violence since Burhan Wani's killing last year.

VIJAITA SINGH

WHEN

13 November 2017

Agony and ecstasy: Italian football boss Carlo Tavecchio had recently said that failure to qualify for the football World Cup finals in Russia next year would be the apocalypse and his – and the world's – worst nightmare came true on Monday when the Azzurri missed out for the first time in 60 years. Experts lamented that their defensive style of play for decades had come back to haunt them. As Reuters said in its report, a desperate 0-0 draw at home in Milan to a technically inferior but belligerent Sweden not only sunk four-time champion Italy's hopes but also ended the international careers of some of their superstars, including goalkeeper and 39-year-old captain Gianluigi Buffon who was inconsolable after the loss. In all, 32 teams from around the world have qualified for the World Cup. One of the tiniest nations to make it is Iceland with its population of a little more than 300,000. In the picture Iceland's forward Johann Berg Gudmundsson celebrates his goal with teammates. • AP, AFP



WHERE

Electric fences killing tigers in Maharashtra



The electrocution of a tigress in the Chimur forest range in Chandrapur district of Maharashtra on November 17 brings the tiger death toll due to electrocution in the Vidarbha area alone to five this year.

Why are tigers dying?

In a desperate attempt to prevent herbivores like nilgai (blue bulls) and wild boar from destroying their crops, farmers often set up illegal high-voltage electrical fences around their fields drawing power from electrical lines meant for home or agricultural use. Tigers, which use human-dominated landscapes including agricultural fields to move

about, die when they come in contact with these fences. In some places, poachers erect live wiretraps using overhead 11 kv lines to kill animals, says Nitin Desai, director (central India) of the Wildlife Protection Society of India, an NGO that operates in the region. “This is fatal to any animal that comes in contact with it and is generally done at night,” he points out.

Why are there more incidents now?

This year, when tigers have been electrocuted in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh alone, says Bilal Habib, a scientist at the Wildlife Institute of India. Habib's team had radio-collared four tigers to study their movement outside protected areas in the landscape; three of them died due to electrocution this year. “The radio collars highlighted the threat and helped us understand what is happening,” he adds. “Electrocution could be a major problem in other landscapes too, but we are probably not aware of it.”

Though the last tiger death due to



electrocution in the adjoining Telangana-Andhra Pradesh belt (parts of which are contiguous to the central Indian landscape) was reported from Andhra's Chennur in December last year, electrocution of wildlife is a problem in these States too, says wildlife biologist Imran Siddiqui who studies tigers at the Kawal Wildlife Sanctuary in Telangana.

Why is this a problem?

These tiger deaths are just the tip of the

iceberg and point to a larger problem, says Milind Pariwakam, wildlife biologist with the Wildlife Conservation Trust's Central Indian Programme. “Many uncollared animals may be dying of electrocution. Rampant and illegal use of high-voltage electric fences and traps is making the agricultural matrix more hostile to tiger movement, raising the importance of unbroken forest corridors,” he says.

Experts admit that electrocution is one of the major threats to tiger conservation in central India. The resulting tiger mortality could be a problem for the 50,000-sq km central Indian area – consisting of protected areas, reserved forests, agricultural land and villages in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh – which supports one of India's largest tiger populations and has been identified as a global tiger conservation landscape.

What are authorities saying?

The threat of electrocution seems to be higher in villages near the core regions

of the protected areas where crop raids by wild animals are more frequent, prompting farmers to put up high-voltage fences. With Maharashtra's Electricity and Forest Departments, Habib's team has identified nearly 200 villages that are prone to such a conflict and where tiger electrocutions are also highly probable. In these areas, the government hopes to initiate awareness campaigns to prevent the use of electric fences. The campaigns will also highlight the illegal use of such fences for crop protection: stealing power from overhead lines amounts to theft, and animal deaths that result from the erection of these fences are offences under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. “Solar fencing has been going on in the buffer zone of parks nearby for the past three years and we find that it is successful,” says Bandu Dothre, Honorary Wildlife Warden of Chandrapur district. “We have requested for it in the non-buffer areas also.”

AATHIRA PERINCHERY

The king and queen of Indian eating

Our national dish should be daal-bhaat. The two are nodal to an Indian meal in a way that khichdi just is not



PASSING BITE

RUCHIR JOSHI
is a writer, filmmaker and columnist

The recent brouhaha about *khichari*/*khichdi*/*khichudi* being nominated as the national dish got me thinking about several things. First of all, what sort of a nation needs a national dish? Well, I suppose a small country with a population of homogeneous ethnicity could try to brand one of its few culinary specialties as the 'national dish'. For instance, Switzerland – not that it is that homogeneous ethnically – could make fondue its champion or Austrians could go with Wiener schnitzel. But what about a country that has a complex, wide-ranging cuisine? What would be the French national dish? Or the Italian one? You could try to pin it down: the ubiquitous baguette and/or croissant for the Gallic emblem and generic pasta for the Italians, but it doesn't really work as these are gross reductions of two great and

complex cuisines. Similarly, how do you find a national dish for a subcontinent? You can't, really, but that doesn't stop us from trying.

Why khichari?

The *khichari* proposal is, I fear, the result of lazy thinking. The 'logic' is that everyone in India eats *daal* and rice, and because *khichari* is a mixture of both these things, and also widely eaten all over the country, it becomes the leading candidate. There are several flaws in this thinking. *Khichari* (or *khichdi*, as one would say in some parts such as Gujarat, or *khichuri* in Bengal) is not a daily dish; it is eaten occasionally. Next, in a country that is now largely nonvegetarian, it is not a dish that is easily eaten alongside the various kinds of nonveg food that so many of us consume. Third, the definition of *khichari* is difficult to pin down: there are probably as many *khicharis* as there are districts in the country (ok, no, this is an exaggeration, but hopefully you know what I mean). The fact is, if we are going to mull over an idea as foolish as that of a national dish for India, we have to try harder.

So, first of all, let's rule out all nonvegetarian food because, even though



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

more and more people are eating meat, fish and chicken, not everyone in India is a nonvegetarian. Nonveg items have to be taken into account, but cannot be given primacy in our project. Also, there is the problem of our pesky neigh-

bours: we share a lot of our meat dishes with the Pakistanis and quite a lot of our eastern fish dishes with the Bangladeshis and this creates the problem of non-exclusivity. On the other hand, to do a complete 180 degree turn in the

space of two sentences, there are some basic foods we share with both Pakistan and Bangladesh (and also Sri Lanka and Nepal) which we can rightly claim as 'ours'. As someone who much prefers wheat products such as *roti*, *paratha* and *puri*, I'm loathe to have to concede this but our national dish has to be *daal bhaat*. Not *khichari*, but the actual daily *daal* and rice millions of us consume along with whatever vegetables or nonveg accompaniments.

Variety and contradiction

Of course, this immediately throws up a contradiction to one of the points I've made – there may not be that many types of *khichari* but there are at least as many *daal*-rice variations as there are districts in India. However, the *daal*-rice duo are nodal to an Indian meal in the way the *khichari* just isn't; the *daal*-rice combo can go with fish, meat, a number of vegetable dishes, or be eaten just by itself. The question then begs itself: is there one pair of *bhaat-daal* (Bangla) or *daal-bhaat* (north Indian) or the several words Tamilians have for rice and *sambhar* and/or *rasam* that we can nominate as the champion king and queen of Indian eating? Umm, no, and therein lies the correctness of this

choice: India is a mind-bogglingly diverse country and the 'dish' represents exactly that – variety and contradiction within a recognisable matrix. Just as you cannot tell someone which god they should worship, just as you cannot (and should not) tell others what they should eat and not eat, you cannot tell someone what *daal* to eat with what rice, whether they should put *hing* and *kari patta* in the *daal* or do a *baghar* of onions and garlic or, indeed, all of the above.

Next question: if there can be a De-nomination d'origine Controlee for *rossogolla*/*rasgulla* should there also be a DOC for different *daal*-rice pairings? Could the Bongs, for instance, once again lead the way with a twinning of *masur* (*moshur*) *daal* or *channa daal* and *Gobindobhog* rice? Can it be some Tamilian concoction? Or can the Gujjus patent the *khaatti-meethi daal*? Even if they can, should they? I think the answer is complex and beyond the scope of this column. My basic argument would be that there should be some control of name of origin for produce such as Basmati rice or Darjeeling tea, but that now it's as ridiculous to try and brand *daal*-rice as it is to regionalise the *rossogolla* or *idli-dosa*.

A victim of federalism

Delhi will continue to choke till it gets politically empowered



ON THE OTHER HAND

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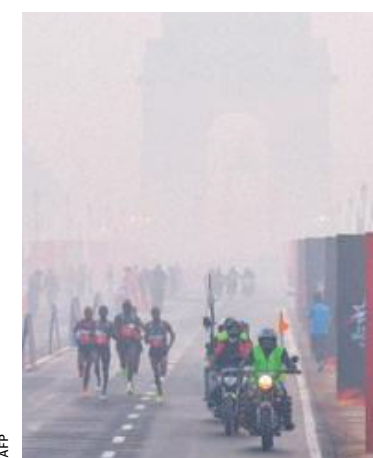
I grew up in Delhi. Back in the 1960s and '70s, I remember November as a wonderful month to be in the city. Those were brisk mornings, crisp nights, and bright and sunny days with strong, cool breezes – cool enough to make the winter school uniform actually tolerable. November was the season for cricket tournaments and school outings and family picnics in the many parks that dot Delhi.

That was a long time ago. Now, November in the national capital is a season of dread and sickness. The choking, acrid smog enveloping Delhi also sucks out the city's soul, much like the demontors in Harry Potter's world, feeding on human health and happiness. Every year for the past few years, it has returned – stronger, thicker and more dangerous to public health. And every year for the past few years, the policy responses to arguably one of the largest climate threats to any megacity in India have been increasingly more knee-jerk and far-fetched.

The polluters

There are three main human contributors to the smog. One is atmospheric pollution, primarily vehicular pollution, but also coal-fired thermal power plants and industry. The second is construction dust. And the third, which is by far the biggest, is the burning of paddy stubble by farmers – principally in Punjab, but also in Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. The uncontrolled burning of urban waste, the use of smoky wood and dung cakes for cooking fires, and rubbish burning for warmth in winter months by those forced by economic necessity or work compulsions to spend nights out in the streets are subsidiary factors.

One can't do much about climate change. Correction, we can do some-



thing about it, but that requires concerted action on a global scale. At the moment, we are finding it impossible to get some concerted action going on a limited, local scale. We are unable to enforce even the limited set of regulations currently in place to lessen Delhi's problems. We are unable to get Punjab to stop its farmers from burning stubble. We can't ensure that the millions of vehicles on the roads of the National Capital Region meet the government's emission standards. We are unable to come up with a sustainable waste management solution. We are unable even to prevent Delhiites, who are complaining about the pollution, from worsening it by burning crackers on festivals, or buying more cars and bikes, or even driving to the next door shop for eggs and bread.

Tackling bits and pieces

Instead, like the blind men and the elephant, policymakers are grasping at small pieces of the problem. More than a decade ago, the Supreme Court banned diesel-powered public vehicles – buses, taxis and autos – in Delhi and forced a shift to relatively cleaner compressed natural gas. That cleaned up things for a while, but nothing was done to alter mass transport facilities – the bus fleet has actually shrunk over the past couple of years and the metro only takes some pressure off arterial roads, since it cannot, and does not, offer door-to-door connectivity.

A couple of years ago, when things

got really bad, the National Green Tribunal banned construction activity and the burning of rubbish, and ordered Punjab farmers to stop burning stubble. It even imposed a 'green tax' on heavy trucks passing through Delhi. Everybody thumbed their noses at these orders and carried on, while the municipal authorities said they simply did not have the infrastructure to collect the green tax. Later, the court banned large diesel-run SUVs – demonising both diesel and engine cubic capacity at one stroke, without addressing the bigger polluters: heavy diesel vehicles and two-wheelers.

The Aam Aadmi Party-led Delhi government introduced the odd-even scheme. This helped ease traffic, but did not really impact particulate matter levels. The government wanted to introduce it again this year, with exceptions for two-wheelers, vehicles driven by women, and so on, which were all basically aimed at papering over the lack of alternative infrastructure to meet the transportation load.

Punjab has tried to do its bit, by offering a subsidy of ₹50,000 to farmers to fit a super straw management system to combine harvesters, which cuts the stubble and spreads it. But that is only half the cost. Farmers say they need additional equipment, including balers, rotary seeders, and heavier tractors, to actually tackle the problem at the root level. Punjab wants the Centre to cough up the money for this. This may not happen, seeing as Punjab voted Congress last time around.

Concerted effort needed

The trouble is that the entire issue is a political blame game. Here, Delhi loses out again, since it only has a government with nominal powers. Given our federal structure, a lasting solution – which will require sacrifices by everybody, including Delhi's citizens – can only be worked out, and more importantly, sold to the public, at the political level. For that to happen, Delhi needs to be politically represented by an entity which has equal bargaining powers with its neighbours as well as the Centre, as the other States. Otherwise, it will continue to pay the price for competitive federalism.

The writer and the city

Ruth Praver Jhabvala's stories are an invitation to explore her Delhi



WORD COUNTS

MINI KAPOOR
is Ideas Editor, *The Hindu*

When the writer Ruth Praver Jhabvala passed away in 2013, an obit writer in *The Guardian* recalled meeting her at "a literary party" in the 1950s. Detecting a faint Indian accent and seeing her turned out in a sari, he asked her, "What part of India do you come from?" She answered, "I don't come from any part of India. I merely live there. In Delhi."

A friendship and apprenticeship

Oddly, this conversation came back to me while reading a new collection of her previously published short stories published this month, *At the End of the Century: The Stories of Ruth Praver Jhabvala*. For someone who happened to be "merely living in Delhi", it is a reminder of her accomplishment in capturing the city as no other writer of fiction in Delhi has. In an introduction that makes you acutely aware of the need for a literary biography of Jhabvala, Anita Desai recalls her interaction with Jhabvala in the mid-1950s. In fact, Desai dates her introduction as 1955, the year Jhabvala published her first novel *To Whom She Will*. She also adds the location, Alipur Road, one of the main arteries of Delhi's Civil Lines that was subsequently renamed Sham Nath Marg.

Writes Desai: "Alipur Road was a wide avenue lined with enormous banyan trees, and my mother and I would go for walks along it – to Maiden's Hotel, which had a small library, or further to Quidisia Gardens. And, along the road, I'd see a young woman pushing along a perambulator with a baby seated inside it and a little girl dancing alongside." In time, a friendship, and something of an apprenticeship, was struck.

Jhabvala, then not yet 30, had come



SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

to the city having married an Indian architect. In fact, London had been something of a transit as her family had fled Nazi Germany, and eventually she'd leave Delhi for a more permanent life in New York, where she lived with Ismail Merchant and his wife. She was part of a trio responsible for films including *The Householder* based on her own 1960 Delhi novel. Her ambitions, big and small, same name), *A Room with a View* and *The Remains of the Day*. Desai, herself half-German, was a student at Delhi University, and drawn into Jhabvala's hospitable home of conversation and books, she found validation that their quiet lives could hold material for lasting fiction. "One day," writes Desai, "she placed in my hands a copy of *To Whom She Will*... Having it, I felt I had touched something rarely considered possible – that the scribbling one did in one's hidden corner of the world could be printed, published and read in the world beyond. Could our drab, dusty, everyday lives yield material that surely belonged only to the genius of a Chekhov, a Jane Austen, a Woolf or a Brontë?"

Among the stories is one of my favourites, *A Lovesong for India*, published in a collection of that name in 2011. In it, an Indian bureaucrat's British wife "for the rest of their days...

yearned for the districts of their early years". To her, it had been "a recognisable India." Uncannily, it's Jhabvala who managed to give readers a sense of a recognisable Delhi, with characters like Prem, the young teacher of *The Householder* who'd be played memorably in the film adaptation by Sushil Kapoor, always measuring himself against their unachievable ambitions. Ambitions, big and small, spiritual and material, drive her characters – but their inner life is placed amid very specific locations.

Looking into the mirror

In his big Delhi book *Delhi: Adventures in a Megacity*, published in 2010, journalist Sam Miller searches for the exact location of a stand out scene in *The Householder* in which Kapoor and Leela Naidu are quarrelling on the roof of their building with a gorgeous mosque in the background. He finds the building, which, along with its owner, has by now fallen on harsh times, and the shock of recognition that the mirror in a dusty room with his reflection is the same one which Naidu looked into in the film is perhaps the most startling passage in the book. Along with Desai's introduction, it is an invitation to set out into Delhi's streets for traces of Jhabvala, biographical and fictional.

The shapes of the worlds within

Away from the heat of reactionary furies and banal identity politics, seeing how Hindu beliefs are formed, sustained and changed



SERENDIPITIES

KEERTHIK SASIDHARAN
is a writer and lives in New York City

Last week, I visited my ancestral village and found myself listening to family stories told by my aunts who are well into their 70s. These were stories I had heard before. Nevertheless, like always, they were repeated at family gatherings, attesting to the axiomatic truth of all collective storytelling since Vyasa in the Mahabharata: repetition endows potency. In my head, I often divide these family stories into two categories: stories of the times and stories of people. The former are tales of perilous years when hunger was common and scarcity the rule. These aren't moral tales but merely their recounting – a survivor's sigh of relief – of how far we have all come from the India of the 1950s to this day. The latter stories about people are invariably morality plays – tales filled with ethical breaches, betrayals, and

comeuppance.

This time, I heard a real-life story about a man who was a shrewd and feared feudal presence in their village – the kind who had managed to be both a functionary of the young Communist party and also relentlessly acquire land and wealth. Now in his 80s, after being felled by a stroke, he lay in coma, while, as my aunts described not without some schadenfreude, his children squabbled over his ill-gotten properties even as they refused to shoulder any responsibility towards his care. It all seemed a bit squalid, but none too uncommon, familial tragedy in play. What struck me vividly, however, was a statement by one of my more religious aunts: "It is inevitable given the [bad] karma he accrued by unconscionably fleecing illiterate Mapillahs [Muslims of Malabar] off their lands."

Everyday secularism

Irrespective of the truth of her statement about his purported actions, what struck me was the ease with which a religious Hindu woman could imagine that a Hindu man could "pay" for his actions towards Muslims. The doctrine of karma, as she understood it, supplemented her intuitions about justice to-



S.K. MOHAN

wards a fellow citizen, irrespective of her fellow citizen's faith in the very same doctrine. It is this generosity of her theological interpretations, made on her own – without the sanction or permission of a clergy, without the approval from a book – that allowed her to be secular in practice without any supervised tutelage of the state regarding secularism. In many ways, she is not unique for a practising Hindu across India. But hers is the kind of everyday secularism borne from the generosity of

her religious piety that is often mistaken by Hindutva ideologues for weakness and is often ignored by Left liberals who have little use for religion, far less religiously inspired ethical commitments.

The inner lives of devout Hindus gains all the more salience this week as Kerala begins to celebrate the next three months as a period earmarked for expressions of bhakti. Public and private forms of religiosity will soon decorate the streets. Millions of men from all of south India, dressed in black, heady

with vows of brief asceticism, will trek to the temples at Sabarimala. Innumerable festivals at large and obscure temples, performances of various temple arts, concerts and processions, readings and discourses that run for days, if not weeks – it is all quite extraordinary. All of these are public reiterations of a way of living that has evolved over decades, if not centuries – a way of bookmarking human existence as seasons change and time flows.

Being a Hindu

Given all this, it is tempting to think of these external displays as the sole marker of being a Hindu. But unlike Islam or even doctrinaire forms of Christianity, what is less explicitly understood are the set of beliefs that constitutes one's self-identification as a Hindu. What does 'being Hindu' mean? This is a question whose answer goes well beyond any worship of a god or belonging to a specific constellation of traditions (*sampradaya*). The answer – not in an academic or anthropological sense, but as a lived practice – is inescapably tied to the question of what does "being" mean? And then upon answering that, asking what does the descriptor "Hindu" entail. There are

maximalists who argue that being human and being Hindu is the same. On the flip side, there are those who deny – usually after suffering from various inequities within the Hindu society – that one can't be Hindu and human simultaneously. For most people, the truth lies in the proverbial middle not because that is the easy way out but because most human experiences are rarely at the extremes. To answer what it is to be a Hindu in our times is then ultimately an exercise to reduce an archipelago of subjective understandings into an island of objective knowledge.

The result is that most writings about being Hindu, even by "insiders", is indistinguishable from historical accounts of concepts, a cornucopia of myths, or are explorations of high philosophical subtleties. All of these are important, of course, but ultimately they are merely the scaffolding inside which Hindu identities learn to organise their inner worlds. If we are to be students of modern India, then this means learning to see how Hindu beliefs, commitments and affiliations are formed, sustain and change. To do this, away from the heat of reactionary furies and banal identity politics, is to learn to see the world for what it is.

CAPSULE



Edited
Researchers have successfully attempted gene-editing inside the human body to correct a defect in the DNA that causes Hunter's syndrome, a rare disease where the body cannot break down sugar that builds up in the skin, tendons and other tissue. These sugars build up and damage the body.



Gradient mapping
Recent fingerprint mapping is a useful tool for scientists to predict the rate of coastal erosion during the event of rising sea levels and ice from Antarctica and Greenland. The study published in *Science Advances* analysed 293 major port cities and found New York, London and Sydney are all vulnerable.



Plastic under water
A new study published in U.K. scientists have found plastic fibre inside worms living deep as 11 km in the trenches of the Pacific Ocean. Traces of persistent organic pollutants in marine amphipods of the North Pacific indicated that potent anthropogenic contamination reached the deepest marine trenches.



Old wine
Archaeologists have unearthed a clay jar from Republic of Georgia having traces of tartaric acid indicating that it could have been used for wine-making. The findings published in the *Proceeding of the National Academy of Sciences* show that wine could have originated around 6000 BCE itself.



Reversed diabetes
A recent study published in *Science Translational Medicine* by U.S. and Italian scientists shows successful reversal of type 1 diabetes in a mouse model. The researchers genetically engineered hematopoietic stem and progenitor cells to produce more of a protein (PD-L1) that runs low in mice and people with type 1 diabetes.

ODD & END

Policed fish
Fish signal their intentions, for instance, to attack, by means of colour changes and marks. A study recently found that honesty in signalling of intent is encouraged through a group activity in a species of fish. In Princess of Burundi chichlids – a family of fish that includes damselfish and superperches – a single black streak that was dynamically controlled is seen on the faces of both male and female fishes. The presence of this streak suggests aggressive behaviour towards other fishes. When this streak was falsely put in by modifying the fish, the researchers found that the fish showing false signals were attacked more than the control group. This suggests that the fish have a "social policing" method to weed out false signals.

NBRC team uncovers how damaged neurons recover functions

This is the first such detailed cell biological study of *C. elegans*

R. PRASAD

Researchers at the National Brain Research Centre, Gurgaon, have experimentally demonstrated how neurons that are injured or damaged can be functionally restored by fusion of the severed axons. Neurons can break during accidental injury and day-to-day stress-induced injury. Carpal tunnel syndrome is a typical case of peripheral nerve damage arising from several severed axons.

Neuronal damage arises when the axons are severed into distal and proximal fragments. Experiments carried out on *Caenorhabditis elegans* by a team led by Anindya Ghosh-Roy from NBRC has now shown how the touch sensation of the worms is restored when the two severed axon fragments fuse. The results were published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

"This is the first detailed cell biological study to show the basis of functional regeneration of damaged neurons in *C. elegans*," says Dr. Sandhya Padmanabhan Koushika from the Department of Biological Sciences at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Mumbai, and one of the authors of the paper.

They also found that functional recovery takes place in an age-dependent manner, with better recovery in the late larval stage and less recovery in adult worms.

The researchers used two femtosecond lasers to locate and cut the axons involved in touch sensation. During regeneration, one of the axons that successfully fuse with the distal counterparts contribute to functional recovery. "There is no fusion, there is no functional recovery," Dr. Ghosh-Roy says.

The researchers genetically proved that three molecules – *ced-7*, *psr-1* and *eff-1* – are essential for fusion. "In this study we showed that mutants lacking any of these three molecules show normal axon growth but fusion of the axons is perturbed. As a result, the touch sensation is not restored," says Aravee Basu, a graduate student from NBRC and the first author of the paper.

Dr. Ghosh-Roy's team has experimentally shown that *let-7* mutants (worms that do have *let-7* microRNA that is present in neurons) have higher amounts of *ced-7* molecule.



Age-dependent: "The mutants show functional restoration unlike in wild-type worms of the same age," says Anindya Ghosh-Roy (sitting left) •

The *ced-7* molecule is important for the recognition of the proximal and distal ends of the injured neurons. "We have experimentally shown that the level of *ced-7* is increased in the mutants. This leads to enhanced functional restoration," he says.

Effect of age

In humans, the ability to regenerate neurons gets reduced with age; the researchers have made similar observations in worms. In older worms, even when fusion takes place the functional restoration does not happen. It could be because the fusion is not complete.

The researchers used synaptic vesicles that travel from one end of the axon to the other to see if incomplete fusion prevents the vesicle movement or reduces the amount of vesicles travelling across the point of fusion to the distal axon.

"In larval stage we could see the synaptic vesicle movement across the point of fusion. But in adults, due to aging, only very few axons show vesicles moving from one end to the other. So the cytoplasmic continuity is compromised in the adult stage," says Dr. Koushika.

Complete fusion needed

The age-related decline in functional restoration is overcome in *let-7* mutants. "In mutants, the vesicle transport is maintained in adults indicating that the fusion is complete; the mutants show functional restoration unlike in wild-type worms of the same age," says Dr. Ghosh-Roy.

The researchers carried out experiments to find out why despite fusion the cytoplasmic continuity is compromised in adults stage. They found that the amount of *eff-1* protein at the tip of the growing axon is high in the larval stage. But in adult worms, the *eff-1* enrichment is reduced.

In *let-7* mutants, the amount of *eff-1* protein at the tip of the axons in adult worms is high and this improves the cytoplasmic continuity.

Functional recovery after injury might come into play after spontaneous breakage of axonal process during day-to-day stress induced injury.

The finding that the fusion of the severed axons can be genetically improved raises hopes for treating nerve injuries in human in future.

Plant emissions higher than believed

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Carbon released by plant respiration may be around 30% higher than previously predicted, a new study claims. The study, published in the journal *Nature Communications*, suggests that as the mean global temperature increases, respiration will increase significantly.

Future prospects

Such increases may lower the future ability of global vegetation to offset carbon dioxide emissions caused by burning fossil fuels. "Plants both capture carbon dioxide and then release it by respiration. Change in either of these processes in response to climate change have profound implications for how much ecosystems store carbon dioxide emissions from burning fossil fuels," says the author Chris Huntingford, of Britain's Centre for Ecology and Hydrology.

"In fact, this study provides the most up-to-date accounting of respiratory carbon releases from plants in terrestrial systems," Peter Reich, Professor at University of Minnesota College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences in the US, said. The findings are based on the comprehensive GlobResp database, which is com-

puter models

Merging this data with existing computer models of global land carbon cycling showed plant respiration has been a potentially underestimated source of carbon dioxide release.

"Once we incorporate this data into state-of-the-art carbon cycling models, we are much closer to being able to accurately model carbon cycle feedbacks for climates across the globe," Reich said.

posed of more than 10,000 measurements of carbon dioxide plant respiration from plant species around the globe.

computer models

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"Once we incorporate this data into state-of-the-art carbon cycling models, we are much closer to being able to accurately model carbon cycle feedbacks for climates across the globe," Reich said.

Sight restored, children identify faces

They differentiated faces from non-faces with 90% accuracy

ASWATHI PACHA

Children born visually impaired due to cataract and who gained sight through surgery were able to differentiate faces from non-faces in about two months with over 90% accuracy, a study reports. The kids were also able to recognise by sight the objects they knew by touch in just about a week's training. Five children aged 9-17 years thus regained sight showing that the brain retains the ability to acquire certain sensory skills even after several years of impairment.

"There is a general notion that kids who are born visually impaired [due to cataract] cannot gain sight beyond the first few years of life. But this appears not true in many cases. Current medical facilities can treat defects in lenses and corneas, and the brain can then begin to learn about the visual world," explains Prof. Tapan K. Gandhi, Department of Electrical Engineering at IIT Delhi and first author of the paper published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

"We can't call these children as totally sightless, since structurally the eye may be normal and vision potential exists. They can certainly gain vision once the cataract is removed. The quantum of improvement may depend on factors like density or position of cataract. The reason for cataract in several cases is not known, though a major part is played by intra-uterine infection in the pregnant mother due to rubella virus," explains Dr. Sumita Agarkar, Deputy Director, Department of Paediatric Ophthalmology at Sankara Nethralaya, Chennai who was



Trigger: Treating lens and corneal defects can get the brain to learn about the visual world, says Prof. Tapan K. Gandhi (centre) •

not associated with the work. "We have done such sight-restoration surgeries in infants as young as six weeks and even on a 25-year-old man."

Treatment and testing

The children for the surgery were identified through an initiative called Project Prakash, led by Professor Pawar Sinha from MIT, the corresponding author. Five children from Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan with dense bilateral cataracts were operated upon in 2011.

The researchers examined the children's ability to classify images as 'faces' or 'non-faces'. The children were shown 300 images and asked to distinguish between non-faces and facelike images to genuine faces. The face classification performance was very poor initially. The test was repeated after a week and every month up to two years. "The face is one of the most complex objects in the world... We saw steady improvement in the facial classification skills of the children," Prof. Gandhi adds.

This study addresses a longstanding question of whether skills can be developed later in

life, after the critical early age of development, and whether the brain can meaningfully interpret the visual world.

The researchers also found that patients can quickly learn to connect touch with sight. They were made to identify shapes blindfolded and then were made to see and identify. Within weeks after the surgery, kids could connect what they touch to what they saw.

Though they do not develop vision as sharp as normally sighted people's, the brain quickly acquired the ability to identify objects, shapes, and faces. The results were published in *Nature Neurosciences*.

"We found that although the brain does not possess cross-sensory mapping immediately after sight onset, it can acquire it after as little as a week of experience. We hypothesise that the brain discovers similarities in the dynamic information generated when a child is exploring objects simultaneously through touch and vision. These results have implications about brain plasticity as well as about strategies of sensory learning," explains Prof. Sinha in an email to *The Hindu*.

Delay in the protection of corridors threatens tiger population

AATHIRA PERINCHERY

It is not just poaching or habitat loss that threatens India's tiger population. Delayed action to protect crucial wildlife corridors – despite the availability of relevant ecological knowledge – is also killing these big cats, shows a study published in conservation journal *Oryx*.

For species like tigers which move across large distances, wildlife corridors, protected patches of land connecting two habitats, are crucial. Uttarakhand's Chilla-Motichur corridor is one such connecting the eastern and western tracts of the Rajaji Tiger Reserve. It is the only way tigers from the eastern tract (part of a larger, more connected landscape) can colonise the isolated western one. Over the years, however, the corridor has been deteriorating due to reasons including the expansion of nearby townships and the construction of a national highway and rail line.

Multi-pronged approach

Scientists at the Panthera, Nature Conservation Foundation and the University of Kent, U.K., used a multi-pronged approach to study the status of the Chilla-Motichur corridor. First,



Precious time: Construction of a vehicular flyover designed to facilitate animal movement has been delayed. • I. P. BOPANNA

they studied tiger presence in the area using presence-absence surveys of tiger signs, assessing change in tiger presence from data gathered between 2002 and 2009. While the eastern tract showed a high presence of tigers, the western one showed a distinct decline in tiger numbers and presence.

Second, the team studied the corridor's connectivity using remotely-sensed night-time lighting as an indicator of urbanisation.

They found that since 1993, urbanisation had decreased opportunities to restore the effectiveness of the corridor considerably.

The team compiled 31 research articles on the corridor and made 14 distinct recom-

mendations to restore corridor connectivity. Only five recommendations have been incorporated into government management plans, and delays in mobilising funds and approvals from state departments followed by the lack of deadlines to implement these actions exacerbated the problems.

"Institutional failings are mirrored in the inability of many state and central departments to work together for the restoration of Chilla-Motichur; this case typifies what happens with most wildlife corridors across the country," says lead author Abishek Harihar (Panthera and Nature Conservation Foundation). "If immediate action is not taken, the population in the western tract could go extinct."

Mind and medicine: Placebo and nocebo

You can even mislabel a dummy pill as a brand-name drug, and some patients find that it works



SPEAKING OF SCIENCE

D. BALASUBRAMANIAN

When a clinical researcher or a pharmaceutical company wants to check whether a new medicine or treatment (a pill, injection etc) works, they choose a large-enough set of patients for the clinical trial. They are divided into two groups. One of them is given the actual treatment (pill or the injection). The other is chosen as the control group; this is given not the actual treatment, but a "dummy" pill or injection. Neither group knows who gets what, but believes that they get the right one. The idea behind this comparative experiment, which lasts for 4-6 weeks, is to check whether the treatment works, how safe it is and what side-effects it may have – positive or negative.

The trials

Prior to the start of the trial, the researcher calls every participant and explains to him/her that this is being done to check the safety and efficacy of the trial and what possible side effects (positive and negative) could be faced, and asks each of them whether they consent to the trial. He also tells them that they are free to



Control group: The idea behind the comparative experiment is to check whether the treatment works, how safe it is and what side-effects it may have. • REUTERS

withdraw from the trial any time and for whatever reason. The reactions of the participants are of interest. Some of them say they already feel good. This is regardless of whether they were in the group that was given the drug or only offered the dummy. This phenomenon is termed the "placebo effect," the name coming from the Latin phrase "placebo" meaning "I shall please." The fact that they are being cared for already generates psychological benefit to them. This is not very different from how some people already feel better when they visit their friendly family doctor. You can even mislabel a dummy pill as

a brand-name drug, and some patients find that it works! A group led by Dr. Rami Burstein of Harvard Medical School labelled a placebo as the drug Maxalt (which is used to treat migraine headaches) and found it to be acceptable to many patients! While Maxalt treatment was clearly superior, the placebo effect increased in some participants. This indicates that labelling influences placebo. Some patients are taken in by the price factor. They feel that the more expensive a drug is, the better it must be! A group led by Dr Dan Ariely of MIT recruited 82 people to test the efficiency of a painkiller drug. To one set they gave the drug priced at \$2.50 per pill, and tested their ability to

withstand the pain generated by an electric shock. To another set of 41 people, they gave the same drug sold at a attractive discount and tested their ability to withstand the same strength voltage-generated shock. The one who got the discount priced drug claimed they could bear far less pain than those who got the regular price drug. There appears to be the belief that a costlier product is better. Is this not what one sees even with cosmetics and several other consumer products? Many companies exploit this belief by wrapping their products in fancy packages and enticing the buyer – placebo in action.

Clinicians and researchers have also noticed the opposite of placebo occurring among some participants. Here the participant anticipates and feels adverse or negative reactions to a treatment. Dr. Walter Kennedy, who researched on this phenomenon coined the term "nocebo" in 1961, meaning "I shall harm you", as the counterpart of placebo. Doctors mention that even telling the participants that a treatment might have some minor side effects – an itch or some pain – is sufficient for some to feel it.

A striking example of nocebo in action comes from a paper by Dr. Tinnermann and others in the October 6 issue of *Science*, with a commentary on it by Luana Colloca. They got the same skin cream packed in two identical looking boxes – one marked at a higher price while the other was marked cheaper. They further warned that though the cream relieves

itch, there might be a slight pain. The volunteer group that opted for the more expensive box said that they felt a little more pain than the group that opted for the less expensive box. The researchers, during the trial, also did imaging of the spinal region and the front part of the brains of the volunteers. The neural activity in the group that chose the costlier box was distinctly higher. The fact of the matter was – that the cream neither cured itch nor caused no pain at all! Colloca writes: "the anticipation of painful stimulation makes healthy study participants perceive non-painful and low-painful stimulations as painful and high-painful, respectively. Verbally induced nocebo effects are as strong as those induced through actual exposure to high pain".

Shared decisionmaking

Professional medicine as a science is one side of the coin. The placebo-nocebo duality demands an understanding and allowing for the socio-psychological features of the patient, and this is the other side of the coin. The former is rigorous, meant for the body, and a "science." The latter is individual-specific and, as some claim, is "art." The care of the patient must thus involve what has come to be called as "shared decisionmaking" or SDM. It thus has an ethical dimension to it. A friendly, family doctor has been practising SDM. Hospitals, drug companies and insurance companies need to introduce SDM.

Given the numbers and the money involved, this is not easy, but not doing so has ethical implications. [For those interested, the paper by Brody, Colloca and Miller in *J. Gen. Intern. Med.* 2012 Jun; 27(6): 739-42. doi: 10.1007/s11606-011-1977-1. Epub 2012 Jan 19]. dbala@hpvpei.org

DR HUMERUS SURENDRA



AROUND THE WORLD



Lung cancer triggers pulmonary hypertension

Researchers at the Max Planck Institute for Heart and Lung Research in Bad Nauheim, Germany, and the German Center for Lung Research have narrowed in on the underlying cause of chronic breathing difficulty (also known as pulmonary hypertension, or PH), a poorly understood symptom often observed in lung cancer patients. The findings provide evidence that cancer can trigger a previously unrecognised category of PH, and might pave the way for individualised treatments to prolong patients' lives. Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death, accounting for 28% of fatalities worldwide. Patients frequently presented with shortness of breath or laboured breathing have had it historically been attributed to tumour-related blockages. These researchers however found that thickened lung blood vessels were to blame.

Anti-malaria drug shows promise as Zika treatment

Chloroquine, a medicine well known to prevent and treat malaria may also be effective for Zika virus says a new collaborative study, led by researchers at Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute (SBP) and UC San Diego School of Medicine, U.S., in the journal *Scientific Reports*. The Zika virus remains a major global health risk. These results were based on studies in pregnant mice, which received chloroquine through drinking water in dosages equivalent to acceptable levels used in humans. This was the first time, say the authors, that a Zika infection was studied in a mouse model that transmits the virus in a way similar to humans.

Experimental peanut allergy patch shows promise

An experimental patch that delivers a high dose of peanut protein has shown promise in reducing allergic reactions in children and adults, researchers have said. About 2% of U.S. children are allergic to peanuts and must avoid them altogether. Peanut allergies are on the rise, and are the most common cause of severe and fatal food reactions in the U.S., according to researchers. The study, published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)*, enrolled 221 children and adults who are allergic to peanuts. "The sample size of each treatment group was relatively small," said the study researchers led by Hugh Sampson of the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York. In January, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) urged parents to feed babies peanut-containing foods beginning at the age of four months to five years. This practice reduces by 81% the risk of peanut allergy among infants deemed at high risk because they already had severe eczema, egg allergy or both, the agency said. — AFP

Price difference and diet quality

When healthier food, such as vegetables and dairy products, is pricier when compared to unhealthy items, such as salty snacks and sugary sweets, Americans are significantly less likely to have a high-quality diet, finds a study comparing food consumption trends. The Drexel University, U.S. study has been published in the *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*. On average, healthier perishable foods were nearly twice as expensive as unhealthy packaged foods and as the gap between neighbourhood prices of healthier and unhealthy foods got wider, study participants had lower odds of having a healthier diet.

Clues about coronary artery disease build-up

The build-up of plaque in the heart's arteries is an unfortunate part of ageing. But by studying the genetic make-up of people who maintain clear arteries into old age, researchers at the University of North Carolina, U.S., have identified a possible genetic basis for coronary artery disease (CAD) as well as potential new opportunities to prevent it. According to their study published in the *American Journal of Pathology*, the protein CXCL5 is found in much higher levels in older adults with much clearer heart arteries. The researchers analysed blood samples and heart scans from 143 people over the age of 65. Previous studies have linked CXCL5 to inflammation, leading some researchers to assume the protein was harmful. But recent research in mice suggests that the protein could help limit plaque build-up by changing the composition of fat and cholesterol deposits in the arteries.

DEMYSTIFYING SCIENCE

What is the Whistler-mode Chorus?

These are waves in space created by fluctuating electric and magnetic fields. The waves have characteristic rising tones — reminiscent of the sounds of chirping birds — and are able to efficiently accelerate electrons. Scientists have long known that solar-energised particles trapped around the planet are sometimes scattered into the earth's upper atmosphere where they can contribute to beautiful auroral displays. Yet for decades, no one has known exactly what is responsible for hurling these energetic electrons on their way. Recently, two spacecraft found themselves at just the right places at the right time to witness, first hand, both the impulsive electron loss and its cause. New research using data from NASA's Van Allen Probes Mission and FIREBIRD [Focused Investigations of Relativistic Electron Burst Intensity, Range, and Dynamics] II CubeSat has shown that a common plasma wave in space is likely to be responsible for the impulsive loss of high-energy electrons into the earth's atmosphere. — Science Daily

INTERVIEW | SYLVANA SINHA

'Our political issues must not affect health care'

The social entrepreneur says it is time to consider a seamless process for health care in South Asia

SUHASINI HAIDAR

Sylvana Sinha, a Bangladeshi social entrepreneur, hopes to build a series of primary health-care centres with diagnostic facilities and pathological laboratories, called Praava Health-care. Praava recently entered into an agreement with Narayana Hrudayalaya, based in Bengaluru. The mission, she tells *The Hindu*, is to have India's neighbours cooperate and provide health care to millions in the process. Excerpts.



Bangladesh's health indicators have been better than most of South Asia for years. Where do you think the country lags?

It is true that Bangladesh is doing better than any other country in South Asia on social development indicators and we are proud of that. However, the government has to some extent abdicated all responsibility for health to non-governmental organisations. They have also been given the power to run the *upazila* local complexes at the district level. So, in rural areas a lot of progress has been made and that's why you see improving numbers. But in India you can also access some of the best health-care facilities in the world, which is not the case in Bangladesh. Therefore, if you want world-class health care, specialisation, international

standard diagnostics, you have to travel out of Bangladesh. And that's only if you can afford it. I know, for example, of people who travel to Bangkok for diabetes tests every three months, which is absurd.

Tell us about your mission here.

I started on this journey about three years ago, to do something in the health sector, but I didn't know what it would be. Speaking with patients, doctors and public health professionals, I started to look for where the gaps were and why diagnostics were so bad. My aunt who was diagnosed with bone tumours was advised 10 sessions of radiation immediately. However she decided to travel abroad and double-check the diagnosis. In fact she had osteoporosis, which meant the radiation would have killed

her. And as I travelled around, I realised there were thousands of such cases. And the same time I read a study about patients coming to India. The number one word they used was "trust", as that they felt doctors in Bangladesh were so pressed for time, that they weren't paying them attention. I felt there was a space between this trust and quality gap that I could step into. So I decided to blend an outpatient facility with [a] world-class pathology clinic. We launched our first facility in August, and we have a plan for 30 such facilities between Dhaka and Chittagong in the next nine years. According to estim-

As I travelled, I realised that there were thousands of such cases... I read a study about patients going to India. The number one word they used was 'trust'...

ates, it would take about \$20 billion to bring Bangladesh's health facilities to India's level.

How much of this need is being met by Indian hospitals right now?

The numbers vary, but every single day, the Indian High Commission in Dhaka

issues up to 2,000 visas for medical issues alone. But it's hard to get medical visas. Several more on tourist visas come to India for check-ups and surgery. That alone means at least 300,000 to 500,000 Bangladeshis are travelling to India for medical reasons annually.

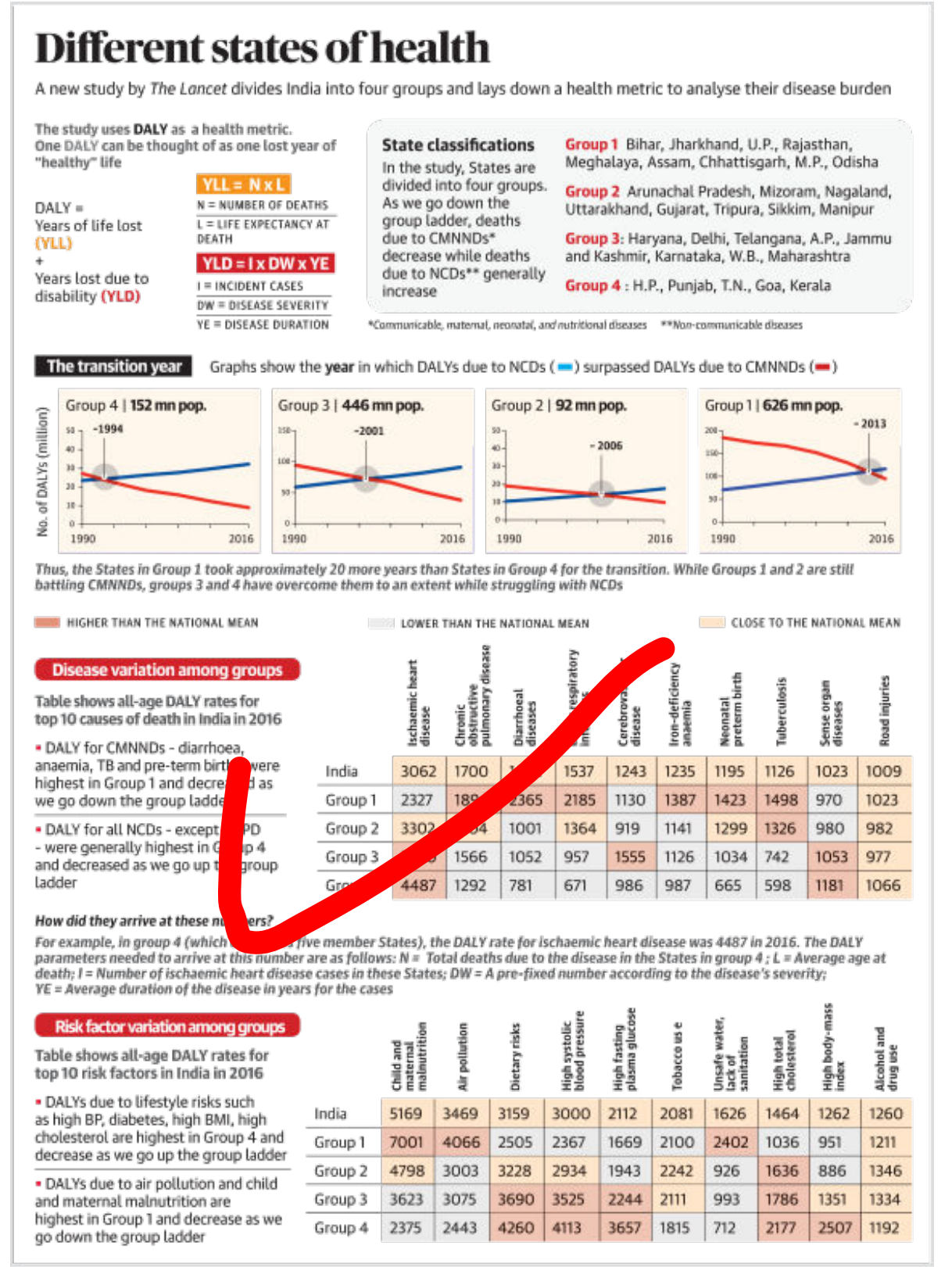
Given this big market, how can India and Bangladesh cooperate beyond just visas, as they improve ties?

I think it is time to consider a seamless process for health care in South Asia, not just from Bangladesh, but other neighbouring countries [too], whose citizens go to India for surgery. I know thousands go from Afghanistan, Nepal, the Maldives, [and] even Pakistan. So, even if we can't replicate Indian hospitals and the scale, what we can do is establish feeder facilities that take care of these patients before they travel to India. For example, Praava Health-care has now signed a partnership with Narayana Hrudayalaya, where Narayana sees about 100,000 patients from Bangladesh alone for surgery. So now we

can prep patients before their travel, carry out tests, and also coordinate with the hospital for after-surgery care. All our countries can learn from each other and make the pie bigger.

What about the larger health-care crisis: epidemics that are endemic to South Asia, such as tuberculosis, or HIV/AIDS?

That's a very important question. So one of the things we are hoping to do at Praava is to screen every single patient for diabetes, which is a major problem. One-third of Bangladeshis are pre-diabetic or diabetic. We are also offering HIV screenings, and in the future, work with the government to scale up. But my priority is to prove the profitability of quality public health service. After which we hope to work on providing cross-subsidies, alternative financing, and free services. The fact is, health care needs to be self-sustaining. So if you make money, you set up a foundation, and plough your profits back into the enterprise.



In Asia, a path to cleaner air



POONAM KHETRAPAL SINGH

Cancer. Stroke. Heart Disease. Asthma. These are some of the life-threatening diseases caused by air pollution, a problem that kills more than six million people worldwide every year, and also the most pressing environmental health risk humanity faces. In 98% of cities in low- and middle-income countries, air quality exceeds World Health Organisation safe levels and is having a severe impact on peoples' health. The youngest, the oldest and the poorest among them are most affected. For urban residents across the South-East Asia region, the situation is dire. As urbanisation proceeds, inadequate planning is compounding an already fraught scenario. Every day, more and more people are exposed to the deadly particulate matter from motor vehicles, diesel generators, smokestacks and power plants. And every day, those particulates are having a devastating impact on our immediate and long-term health.

Small but key steps

Despite the magnitude of the problem, change is possible. Each one of us can do our part. Choosing to use public transport over driving a private vehicle is a good way to make an immediate difference that not only decreases emissions but also saves money and encourages physical activity. Similarly, if and when we do use a private vehicle, we can ensure that its engine is well-tuned and running efficiently, thereby decreasing emissions and maximising fuel mileage. Though these steps are simple, they can have a wide-ranging impact. Private vehicle use remains a significant contributor to urban air pollution across the region. In and around the house, we can also make small but important changes. For example, instead of burning wood and other biomass fuels for cooking or heating, we can switch to using natural gas or liquefied petroleum gas (LPG). The household use of wood and other biomass fuels (including kerosene) is the cause of approximately 1.69 million deaths in the region every year — e a one of them preventable. Importantly, we can also make concerted efforts to cut down on waste, better disposal of waste, including ending open burning.

From the top

In aiding private citizens' actions, government interventions can be of crucial importance. It is now being seen across the region that from the municipal level up, governments are aiming to provide the infrastructure needed to provide healthier environments and taking steps to encourage public forms of transport. This is being done by building quality bus and rail systems, and making cities pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly through the provision of footpaths and bicycle lanes. Schemes are being implemented to provide incentives for households to switch to cleaner energy sources that are benefiting the poor and the vulnerable. Biomass continues to be burned largely as a result of cost incentives and there is a realisation now that demand can be shifted to other forms of household energy through subsidies and other innovative pricing mechanisms. Empowering and engaging the health sector is also important. Not only can the health sector identify and assist vulnerable groups to prevent exposure to air pollution, thereby mitigating its effects but it can also provide critical support to the society-wide struggle for clean air. Health institutions and workers have the power to raise awareness and promote change at the personal and policy levels — a role that should be encouraged and, where possible, supported. As a part of this wider push, city administrators ought to mobilise individuals and the cities they live in to take action against air pollution. Though air pollution represents a massive moral and practical challenge, it also represents a chance to chart a bold new path — one where clean air is an integral part of healthy economic development and growth. Indeed, as countries across the South-East Asia region develop and prosper, they needn't repeat the development tropes of a bygone era. They can and must write a different history.

Dr. Poonam Khetrpal Singh is Director, WHO-South East Asia Region (SEAR)

Healing with a laser touch

Lasers are providing a breakthrough in burn injury management

SHIKHA T. MALIK

Burn injuries are a major public health issue and their management is a key concern. Regular assessment of healing tissues is necessary but biopsies are painful and may hinder the healing process. Now, a group of Indian scientists have come up with a solution for easier assessment of healing progression, using laser light.



The strategy is to study biochemical changes by exploiting tissue fluorophores or chemical compounds that can re-emit light upon light excitation. Some of the most common fluorophores are collagen, elastin, amino acids (building blocks of proteins) such as tryptophan, phenylalanine and tyrosine that are responsible for tissue autofluorescence. Researchers hit injured

areas with laser light of a particular wavelength and captured the emitted light in a range, generating a spectrum. For each region, multiple spectra are generated and averaged. This yields an image that correlates with the collagen content reflective of healthy repair. Based on this knowledge, scientists have proposed a simple technique to evaluate the progression of healing using a non-invasive, fast and an easy-to-use tool. The results have been published in the journal, *Lasers in Medical Science*. "With LIF we evaluated collagen synthesis and the healing process in vivo without sacrificing the animal. The evaluation using this technique takes only 15-

20 seconds and is a biopsy free or non-invasive approach," explains Prof. Krishna K. Mahato, who led the research team. Preliminary studies on monitoring effectiveness of low power laser therapy (LPLT) in mice with burn wounds showed encouraging results. "LIF is objective and since it is an objective assessment, it doesn't demand experienced operators and thus is user-friendly," suggest the researchers. "We have promising results in tissue samples from burn patients and with further analyses and studies, we hope to have this tool routinely used for patients in the near future," Prof. Mahato told India Science Wire. — India Science Wire

A people and its contradictions

Cataloguing failures and frustrations of Bengalis, their sense of self, culture, and radical and reactionary politics

SUPRIYA CHAUDHURI

Portraits of a people are difficult to pull off, unless attempted with love, irony, and aplomb. Sudeep Chakravarti does not fall short on these counts in his whirlwind cultural, social and political history of the Bengalis, a community as notorious for its factiousness, chauvinism, and obstinate perseverance in self-harm as for its tolerance, cosmopolitanism, creativity and intellectual brilliance. Written with verve, energy, and polish, and drawing on considerable resources, both anecdotal and archival, Chakravarti's book takes its place beside other contemporary attempts at 'collective' portraiture, such as Jeremy Paxman's *The English* (1998) and John Hooper's *The Italians* (2015). Such attempts frequently founder on the need to both explode myths and sustain them.

In *The Italians*, Hooper quoted Orson Welles's famous insertion in Graham Greene's script for *The Third Man* (1949), to the effect that Italy under the murderous Borgias produced the Renaissance, while five hundred years of democracy in Switzerland produced only the cuckoo clock. Chakravarti is alert to the dangers of such sensationalism, cataloguing Bengal and the Bengalis' frustrations and failures with as much sympathy and perception as their undeniable record of achievement in the arts and sciences, and in the making of modern India and Bangladesh.

The great strength of his account is that it treats the Bengalis, despite their self-imposed divisions, as one people, and accordingly looks at the history of both



The Bengalis: A Portrait of a Community
Sudeep Chakravarti
Aleph
₹799

east and west – that is, both modern West Bengal and Bangladesh.

Literary, other pegs

A sense of history is at the core of this book's success: the sections I read with most absorption were on the origins of the Bengalis, their mongrel ethnicity, their religious dissensions, their syncretism and cosmopolitanism, their politics – radical and reactionary – and their formative historical crises, such as the 1943 famine, the Tebhaga land agitation, Partition, Naxalbari, *muktijuddho* (Bangladesh liberation war) and the birth of a new nation. Chakravarti's own family, with its roots in East Bengal, and its network of connections across borders and religions, in Bangladesh and India (not to speak of the inevitable diaspora) provides an invaluable anecdotal substratum to the more contemporary passages of this account. So too does the material taken from Chakravarti's experiences as a reporter, looking especially at Naxalbari and latter-day Maoist insurgency in *jangalmahal*.

By comparison, the descrip-



Myth and reality: A cultural chronicler needs to break out of the bubble of self-love created by the delusional Bengali gentry, and look more closely at the actual majority of the population. • GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

tions of gastronomy, literature, cinema and music seem conventional and uninspired – there are the obligatory accounts of the Tagores, of Nazrul, of the modern novelists, of children's literature, of cinema with its great *auteurs*, but modern Bengali poets and filmstars are notably absent (no Shakti, no Sunil, no Uttam, no Suchitra). The six Bengali seasons, and the riverine landscape, are poetically noted, but less attention is paid to the physical realities of urban settings and their trans-

formation in the wake of Partition. On the whole these are minor omissions – obviously a single book attempting to portray a community has to leave out almost as much as it includes, or be reduced to the kind of breathless, impressionistic list of 'Bengali' attributes that appears on the back cover.

The *bhadralok* view

But another problem, to which Chakravarti is undoubtedly sensitive, though he fails to resolve it, is that this is very much a *bhadralok*

(gentry) account of the Bengali 'sense of self'. While Chakravarti is at pains to explain the mixed, overwhelmingly non-Aryan, non-Brahmin and non-Ashrafi composition of the Bengali people, and offers fascinating vignettes of the rise (and fall) of Fazlul Haq's Krishak Praja Party, as well as of peasant rebellion, religious hatred, and uprisings fuelled by caste and class oppression, the collective 'subject' that emerges remains resolutely fixed in its *bhadralok* status, fenced round by

references to art, literature, food and clothes. Given that this species is not only dying, but perhaps already dead in Bengal today, the cultural chronicler needs to break out of the bubble of self-love created by the delusional Bengali gentry, and look more closely at the actual majority of the population. Some unexpected insights might have resulted from such a study, though it is also true that the aura – or miasma – of *bhadralok* culture is hard to dismiss in its entirety.

In a sense, the Bengalis are what they believe themselves to be, and their aspirations are closely identified with the image of itself that an educated, upwardly mobile class started peddling to the world from around the 19th century onwards. History is cruel to such delusions, and Chakravarti records with sympathy and intelligence the enormous traumas produced by cataclysms like the famine, Partition, peasant uprisings and labour unrest. But what of those labouring masses, those refugees and small entrepreneurs, shopkeepers and vegetable sellers, hustlers and dealers, farmers and craftspeople, first generation schoolgoers and dropouts? They are Bengalis too, but not as easily identified by the cultural clichés common in Bengali *bhadralok* parlance (Rabindrasangeet, film clubs, fine cooking, literature, and so on). To do Chakravarti justice, he is unremotely aware of these cracks in the Bengali self-portrait, and his account is politically aware and historically faithful, even though he never quite makes the (very Bengali) transition from *amra to ora*, 'we' to 'they'.

The road to peace

An action-packed memoir takes in difficult Israel-Palestine relations, the thorny dialogue process and the reasons for the breakdown

SUHASINI HAIDAR

In November 1993, a group of men crossed the Allenby Bridge from Israel to Jordan in disguise. Among them, foreign minister Shimon Peres, a distinguished statesman who had already served as prime minister, and worked with practically every Israeli prime minister since the nation was born. Yet, Peres had no qualms in putting on a fake moustache and a hat, as he travelled the distance, short in length, but very long in the making on the road to peace with Jordan.

Peres and his team were bound for the Raghadan Palace in Amman, to meet in total secrecy with King Hussein and his officials to iron out the final details of a "non-aggression" pact, that would end decades of bloodshed between the two countries. According to Peres, who records the story in his memoirs, "No Room for Small Dreams", completed just before he died last year, the fake moustache filled him with a sense of power and purpose. "I looked like an actor in a low-budget stage show," Peres writes, "But I felt like the tip of a spear."

Several subterfuges

The subterfuge is one of many Peres admits to in the book, including some that changed Israel's future: from procuring ammunition from the Czechs for the original war in 1949, to buying weapons and planes from Colombia and Cuba while he stayed in the U.S., and even working with the 'teamsters' or labour union bosses to ferret weapons out in small parts to Israel.

Later in life, there were larger subterfuges, like building a nuclear programme with French help in the Negev desert away from all eyes, including the prying eyes of their biggest ally, the United States. When finally caught out, and confronted by U.S. President John F. Kennedy, Peres' evasive answer became Israeli policy for the future: "Israel shall not be the first to introduce nuclear weapons to the region," he said.

At another point in the book, the subterfuge described is of how Peres, as defence minister, built the plan for the daring Entebbe raid of 1976 to rescue host-



Maximum miss: The book doesn't mention much about the plight of Palestinians in all Peres' decades in power. • AP

ages, without letting his Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin know until much later. As he describes it, Rabin was worried that commando action would lead to too many casualties. The IDF team that eventually carried out the raid was mostly successful, although they lost their commander Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's brother Yonatan, in the operation.

Memoirs are rarely ever 'Mea culpas'. And like others *No Room For Small Dreams* is a favourable view of the author, and one that is action-packed with a life fully lived. However, the book contains little by way of remorse, self-reflection or even much mention of the plight of Palestinians in all his decades in government and power.

There are many details of Peres' workings with Palestinian interlocutors, including Abu A 'la or Ahmed Qurei, who became Prime Minister of the Palestinian Authority, but none of the human tragedy that still afflicts Palestinians in the occupied territories, in refugee camps, and in Gaza. Instead, there are long passages on his commitment to the pursuit of peace, the need for compromise in order to achieve it, and detailed accounts of how he drove the processes with Jordan, Egypt and the Palestinian Authorities.

Peres, who spent many formative years on a socialist Kibbutz, speaks also of the



No Room for Small Dreams
Shimon Peres
Hachette India
₹599

hardened positions in Israel on the two-state solution, that now dominate the radical elements on both sides, neither side willing to give an inch. His disappointment in the politics of the present especially that of current Prime Minister Netanyahu is reflected by the almost negligible mention Netanyahu receives in the book, although he worked closely as prime minister with Peres as president from 2009-2014.

Hardened positions

"If you work for peace, you will have no more loyal a friend than me. If you turn your back on peace you will have no worse enemy than me," Peres says repeatedly in the book. Peres never did see the peace he worked so hard for, and by the time he died, after a stroke in September 2016, he had seen the total collapse of the dialogue he and Rabin painstakingly put together with the new policies of the far-right.

The well of emotion in Peres' memoirs is reserved

for the pages that describe Rabin's assassination. He describes each moment, including how they discussed the plan for a "peace rally" in Tel Aviv's King of Israel Square in November 1995, exactly two years to the day Peres had made his moustache crossing on the Allenby bridge. When he saw how many people came to support his peace efforts, Peres says Rabin burst into smiles and then sang songs, something he had never been known to do before. The words that follow, of Rabin's killing at the hands of ultra-radical Jewish assassin Yigal Amir, are clearly the most painful to write, but Peres documents each moment. While the killing of Rabin didn't kill the peace process immediately, it was clearly the beginning of the end.

Hamas, and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad picked up where Yigal Amir left off, with a series of deadly bus bombings that finished any chance of reconciling the two sides for time to come. Today, there is no road to dialogue, no commitment to the peace process, and little acceptance of the two-state solution mapped in the Oslo accords that won Peres, Rabin and Yasser Arafat a joint Nobel peace prize. Yet as Peres records in the last words written just days before he breathed his last, that road to peace remains the only one worth travelling.

Headwinds of change

Vignettes of the no-frills airline business, and more

MURALI N. KRISHNASWAMY

He chose R.K. Laxman's 'Common Man' as his airline's brand ambassador (there's a delightful essay on this), while the common man remembers him still as a pioneer in the no-frills airline business. Air Deccan, his dream come true, may now be a part of aviation history, but the low-cost aviation dream continues to live on in India.

"I was just twenty-eight years old after having served eight years in the Army. From the cocoon of the Army (huge defence scandals were still unheard of then), I plunged into civilian life and realised to my shock and disbelief that fighting the Pakistanis was easier than battling our bureaucracy and government," says Captain G.R. Gopinath, the trailblazer who needs no introduction.

In this collection of essays, from 2011 to 2017, most of which have been published in the mainstream media, with a few appearing in media blogs, the 'unstoppable Indian' gives a form to his thoughts and life-changing experiences, in five illuminating parts: as an entrepreneur who has faced the headwinds of Indian aviation, created an airline with a difference and then sold it to the now embattled business tycoon Vijay Mallya, only to regret it later; as a narrator of the hardships entrepreneurs have to face; as an Indian who worries about the bureaucracy and the government's ability to solve our numerous problems ('Is the Swachh Bharat campaign in real danger of remaining a mere slogan?'); as a 'politician' who tested his mettle, especially with the Aam Aadmi Party ('Why I joined AAP' and 'Why I quit the Aam Aadmi Party'); and, as an individual, who shares



You Cannot Miss This Flight: Essays on Emerging India
G.R. Gopinath
HarperCollins
₹399

vignettes of his early life and his general views. Though he covers a range of topics such as the economy, politics, farming, agriculture, defence, social issues and his life experiences, all in a candid manner, aviation is the theme that courses through the veins of the book. Unless "air connectivity goes deep into the bowels of the country and until a majority of the population can afford air travel, one cannot expect equitable growth," says Gopinath, who spells out how a vibrant aviation sector can create wonders – balanced growth and jobs for aspiring millions. If aviation "is not integral to Modi's vision, India has no hope of competing in the global economy," he adds.

Gopinath has written the essays with a perspective 'gained from his follies and journeys' and is sure to strike a chord in many an aspiring entrepreneur. Perhaps the only drawback of this easy-to-read compilation, which represents the "views of a layperson" is that a few of the essays sound somewhat repetitive.

At the fights

An insider recalls stories around memorable bouts

ASHWIN ACHAL

Roberto Duran's infamous 'No mas' declaration. Larry Holmes' destruction of an ageing Mohammed Ali. Marvin Hagler and Thomas Hearns in the round from hell. Mike Tyson spitting out a piece of Evander Holyfield's ear. These are some of boxing's blockbuster events that have inspired countless retellings.

Veteran sportswriter James Lawton was fortunate to cover nearly every significant bout in the final three decades of the 20th century. *A Ringside Affair* is Lawton's record of boxing's most enthralling era. The late 1970s to the early 2000s was dominated by heavyweights and welterweights. This made for intense contests, and plenty of bizarre, memorable happenings both in and outside the ring.

Take, for example, Duran's duel with 'Sugar' Ray Leonard in November 1980. The normally unbreakable Duran shocked the world when he quit at the end of the eighth round, telling the referee, "No mas" (No



A Ringside Affair: Boxing's Last Golden Age
James Lawton
Bloomsbury
₹799

more). A depressed Carlos Eleta, Duran's manager, later said, "Something strange happened to him." The Panama slugger earned the wrath of fans, before he redeemed himself with robust performances in subsequent fights. A few years later, Hagler and Hearns came out swinging in a violent first-round battle. The ferocity of the blows exchanged prompted Lawton's friend, a U.S. Navy man, to comment, "I never thought I would see anything so intense outside of war."

And then there is Tyson's defeat to the 42-1 underdog, James 'Buster' Douglas – considered the greatest upset in boxing history. A

grossly under-prepared Tyson, who had traded his training routine for wild parties in the build up to the fight, fell to the canvas in the tenth round and couldn't beat the count.

In terms of shock value, it is tough to match James Miller's paragliding antics during the Holyfield-Riddick Bowe encounter. Miller descended into the ring in the middle of the fight, causing a long disruption. Angry spectators attacked Miller and beat him unconscious. The book ends with Tyson's decline, from being the "baddest man on the planet" to a desperate loner in deep financial trouble. In what turned out to be his final appearance in the squared-circle, a disinterested Tyson threw in the towel against Irish journeyman Kevin McBride. "I don't want to disrespect the sport that I love. My heart is not into this anymore," Tyson admitted. Boxing had lost a true superstar, and would be the poorer for it. Lawton uses his extensive insider knowledge to add an extra layer to boxing's storied past.

Edward Lear is still loved for his joyous limericks and great love songs like 'The Owl and the Pussycat'. He is known too for his brilliant natural history paintings, landscapes and travel writing. This acclaimed historian's illustrated biography captures the colour of the Victorian age, brings us Lear's swooping moods and explains why his dazzling word-play makes him a very modern spirit.

BOOKSHELF



Economics for the Common Good
Jean Tirole
Princeton University Press
₹1,505

The 2014 Economics Nobel Laureate writes a passionate manifesto in which economics, far from being a 'dismal science' is a positive force for the common good. Translated from the French by Steven Rendall, the economist shares his insight on issues from global warming and unemployment to the post-2008 global financial order and the proper balance between the free market and regulation.



Where the Wild Coffee Grows
Jeff Koehler
Bloomsbury
₹699

Coffee is one of the largest and most valuable commodities in the world. An award-winning writer traces the story of its origins, history, and the threat to its future. He takes us to the cloud forests in southwestern Ethiopia, the original home of Arabica, and tells us how the cultivation of coffee spread around the globe, especially to Latin America.



Imagining India as a Global Power: Prospects and Challenges
Edited by Sangit K. Ragi, Sunil Sondhi, Vidhan Pathak
Routledge India
₹995

A look at India's relations with its neighbours and global powers farther afield including the U.S., the European Union, Russia and China; India's policies and strengths; and developments in economy, knowledge and innovation. It discusses India's international positioning, future plans and what it needs to do to improve its standing in the world.



India in the 1950s: A Republic in the Making
Gyanesh Kudaisya
Oxford University Press
₹595

A critical appraisal of India in the 1950s, a momentous decade in our history, the narrative is woven around the manner in which India moved away from conditions of disorder to deal with the 'unfinished business' of Partition. It talks about the cartographic reconstruction of India as a political space, the uncertain journey of its democratic institutions and the project of economic self-reliance it undertook.



Mr Lear: A Life of Art and Nonsense
Jenny Uglow
Macmillan
₹1,694

Edward Lear is still loved for his joyous limericks and great love songs like 'The Owl and the Pussycat'. He is known too for his brilliant natural history paintings, landscapes and travel writing. This acclaimed historian's illustrated biography captures the colour of the Victorian age, brings us Lear's swooping moods and explains why his dazzling word-play makes him a very modern spirit.

Sri Lanka holds the edge after a battle of attrition

Thirimanne and Mathews' half-centuries take the visitors to just seven runs shy of the Indian total, with six wickets in hand

LANKANS IN INDIA

S. DINAKAR
KOLKATA

Much like the ball in these conditions, the fortunes swung one way, then the other. The weather was pleasant but the cricketing temperatures soared at the Eden Gardens.

On a Saturday of searing intensity, the batsmen's skills were examined relentlessly and the bowling was laced with pace, movement and hostility. On view were passion and heart — Test cricket at its very best.

Sri Lanka displayed character and fight. The visitor seemed to be ahead too at 165 for four after restricting India to 172 on day three of the first Test.

Shami injured

There were several twists. In a blow to India, Mohammed Shami hobbled off the field — Virat Kohli completed the over — towards the end.

Shami, fast and skiddy, had bowled red hot spells earlier.

When play concluded, Sri Lankan captain Dinesh Chandimal — taking stance outside the crease to counter the movement — carried much of the Sri Lankan hopes with him.

Earlier, a combative 99-run association for the third

wicket in 29.4 overs between the left-handed Lahiru Thirimanne (51) and Angelo Mathews (52) put Sri Lanka in the box seat before India hit back.

Umesh Yadav got one to climb from off-stump, pushed Thirimanne back, and found the nick for Kohli to hold a low catch at second slip.

Then, Mathews committed the folly of attempting to strike Yadav on the up on this pitch.

The left-right combination had harried India. So elegant when he finds rhythm, Thirimanne cover-drove and flicked for runs. He found the gaps with a surgeon's precision.

There is an inherent solidity about Mathews' ways at the crease. His footwork can be tentative at the start but the Sri Lankan can be fluent once he overcomes the phase.

The former Sri Lankan skipper took his scoring opportunities, cut, pulled, and punched for runs.

A let off

India, though, could have ended the partnership earlier. Umesh got one to shape away from Thirimanne (on 27 then) but Shikhar Dhawan put down a sitter at first slip.

Bhuvneshwar Kumar impressed. His basics for a

swing bowler are spot on. He bowls from close to the stumps, has a high-arm action and possesses a wonderful wrist position.

He is also someone who harnesses the angles.

He got the left-handed Dimuth Karunaratne, who padded up, by bringing the ball into the batsman from round-the-wicket.

Bhuvneshwar strikes

Bhuvneshwar then removed Sadeera Samarawickrama, stroking with nonchalance until then, with a delivery that darted away.

Shami sent down some rippers but his length could have been fuller.

Umesh too could have pitched it up and got the batsmen on the drive.

It must be said though that the weather cleared up, sunshine lit the arena and the Indian pacemen, unlike their Sri Lankan counterparts, did not have the benefit of moisture on the surface and cloud-cover.

The ball still seamed around at a good pace but the conditions for batting were relatively better.

Better batting conditions

In the morning, Pujara promptly reached a half-century. His feet are a tad closer in his stance, he is more upright and this has lent his batting greater balance.

Pujara succumbed to a mean Lahiru Gamage delivery that broke back sharply from outside off.

Given his rather open-chested release, Gamage does have a tendency to nip the ball back.

Wriddhiman Saha, stroking between point and cover, and the left-handed Ravindra Jadeja, slashing and flashing, mounted a counter-attack of sorts.

Dilruwan Perera showed it was possible for a spinner to

strike in these conditions with dip and drift.

He is an old-fashioned off-spinner who uses his body in action and has an easy release.

Perera deceived Saha (on 25 then) only to see 'keeper Dickwella fluff a stumping, but soon removed Jadeja with one that drifted in from round-the-wicket. He then consumed Saha on the paddle sweep.

Sri Lanka had done well to restrict India within 200.

SCOREBOARD INDIA VS SRI LANKA, FIRST TEST

India — 1st innings: K.L. Rahul c Dickwella b Lakmal 0 (1b), Shikhar Dhawan b Lakmal 8 (11b, 1x4), Cheteshwar Pujara b Gamage 52 (117b, 10x4), Virat Kohli lbw b Lakmal 0 (11b), Ajinkya Rahane c Dickwella b Shanaka 4 (21b, 1x4), R. Ashwin c Karunaratne b Shanaka 4 (29b, 1x4), Wriddhiman Saha c Mathews b Perera 29 (83b, 6x4), Ravindra Jadeja lbw b Perera 22 (37b, 2x4, 1x6), Bhuvneshwar Kumar c Dickwella b Lakmal 13 (17b, 1x4), Mohammed Shami c Shanaka b Gamage 24 (22b, 3x4), Umesh Yadav (not out) 6 (8b, 1x4); Extras (b-6, lb-4): 10, Total (in 59.3 overs): 172.

Fall of wickets: 1-0 (Rahul, 0.1 overs), 2-13 (Dhawan, 6.2), 3-17 (Kohli, 10.1), 4-30 (Rahane, 17.2), 5-50 (Ashwin, 25.6), 6-79 (Pujara, 37.2), 7-127 (Jadeja, 51.2), 8-128 (Saha, 51.5), 9-146 (Bhuvneshwar, 56.2).

Sri Lanka bowling: Lakmal 19-

12-26-4, Gamage 17.3-5-59-2, Shanaka 12-4-36-2, Karunaratne 2-0-17-0, Herath 2-0-5-0, Perera 7-1-19-2.

Sri Lanka — 1st innings: Sadeera Samarawickrama c Saha b Bhuvneshwar 23 (22b, 3x4), Dimuth Karunaratne lbw b Bhuvneshwar 8 (15b, 1x4), Lahiru Thirimanne c Kohli b Umesh 51 (94b, 8x4), Angelo Mathews c Rahul b Umesh 52 (94b, 8x4), Dinesh Chandimal (batting) 13 (33b), Niroshan Dickwella (batting) 14 (16b, 2x4); Extras (lb-4): 4; Total (for four wickets in 45.4 overs): 165.

Fall of wickets: 1-29 (Karunaratne, 4.5), 2-34 (Samarawickrama, 6.4), 3-133 (Thirimanne, 36.2), 4-138 (Mathews, 38.5).

India bowling: Bhuvneshwar 14.4-2-49-2, Shami 13.5-5-53-0, Umesh 13-1-50-2, Ashwin 4-0-9-0, Kohli 0.1-0-0-0.



Dislodged: Cheteshwar Pujara's solid vigil, in trying circumstances, was terminated by a Lahiru Gamage beauty. •K.R. DEEPAK

Love playing on challenging wickets: Pujara

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Batting on the surface at the Eden Gardens was demanding. Cheteshwar Pujara and Angelo Mathews — both notched up half-centuries — shared their thoughts after the day's play.

Pujara said, "Personally, I always love playing on challenging wickets because it suits my temperament, it suits my technique. That's where your character comes out."

He added, "This game is well balanced. If we can get them out early and have enough number of overs left, we have a chance of winning. Hopefully tomorrow morning our fast bowlers will be fresh and if we get a couple of wickets, we can run through them."

The Indian batsman said playing county cricket



Swing king: Bhuvneshwar Kumar, with his double strike upfront, ensured that the Sri Lankan batsmen had to work hard. •K.R. DEEPAK

helped him cope with the pitch here. "This season, I played eight games which is almost half the number of the county matches in a season. I played on many chal-

lenging wickets over there, it helped me improve and understand my game."

Asked about Mohammed Shami's injury, he replied, "I don't think there's anything

serious, but I don't know what has happened. I think it is just a minor injury and I think he should be back on the field tomorrow."

Mathews' return at the

Eden Gardens marked the end of a frustrating injury-ridden phase. The former Sri Lankan captain said he had decided to temporarily stop bowling in Tests to manage his body better. "We will see how it goes. Yes, as of now, I am playing as a batsman."

Mathews said Sri Lanka needed someone to come up with a hundred. "Fifties are not going to do any good to anyone. If we get a start we need to go on to get a big one."

About the Indian pace attack, he said, "Mohammed Shami, Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Umesh Yadav are world class. We need to be mentally prepared and be ready to score runs off them."

On if was advantage Sri Lanka, Mathews said, "You never know. Cricket is a funny game. You can't take the foot off the gas."

Chandimal gets lucky with 'deceptive fielding'

S. DINAKAR
KOLKATA

An interesting incident occurred during the morning session of the third day involving Sri Lankan captain Dinesh Chandimal. And the birthday boy narrowly escaped punishment.

It happened when Bhuvneshwar Kumar stroked paceman Dasun Shanaka to cover point, and Chandimal moving in from cover, appeared to dive late and then shape for a throw — before pulling back — without the ball in his hand.

The ball passed Chandimal and was subsequently fielded and thrown back. Following the proceedings from the pavilion,

Indian captain Virat Kohli seemed convinced that his team was deprived penalty runs.

The umpire had a word with Chandimal, who turned 28 on Saturday, but the Sri Lankan skipper was not penalised.

According to the latest ICC rules, "Deceptive fielding" could be punished with five penalty runs by the umpires.

An umpire in the BCCI panel told *The Hindu*, "Earlier it was called 'mock' fielding but there were no penalty runs that could be awarded to the opposition."

"Now the ICC has come down hard on it."

He added, "I will give

you another example. If a wicket-keeper, standing up to a spinner, collects the ball after the batsman is beaten and then looks back creating an impression that the ball had passed him, deceiving the batsman into setting off for a run, it is a clear case of "Deceptive fielding."

However, an umpire has to make the distinction between deliberate acts and those that occur in the flow and rhythm of fielding.

It was also a day when Angelo Mathews received an official warning for hurrying down the pitch and Kohli was spoken to by the umpires for Umesh Yadav running into the dander area.

A barren day

Jamshedpur FC holds NEUFC



Acrobatic save: NEUFC goalkeeper T.P. Rehenesh foils a Jamshedpur FC attempt. •RITU RAJ KONWAR

ISL

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA
GUWAHATI

A 10-man Jamshedpur FC put up a strong defensive display to hold host North-East United to a goalless draw at the Indira Gandhi Stadium on Saturday. Watched by a weekend crowd of around 21,000, NEUFC, which had won four out of seven home games last season, created ample opportunities but failed to convert any one of them.

Jamshedpur had to thank goalkeeper Subrata Paul and defender Tiri for picking up a point. The two saved a plethora of chances as NEUFC made repeated forays.

The host controlled the game for a greater part of the opening half but could not translate it into goals. It could have gone ahead in the fourth minute when its prized possession Marcinho chipped down a cross from Jose Goncalves in the JFC box. But the Brazilian at-

tacking midfielder could not control his volley.

In midfield, NEUFC's Adilson Goiano and Lalrindika Ralte, who took the field for the injured Rowlin Borges, showed better creativity than Mehtab Hossain and Brazilian Emerson Moura in the JFC colours.

The visitors' best chance came in added time of the first half when Azuka Izu was released into the NEUFC box by Trindale Goncalves. The Nigerian forward's weak groundwork was easily saved by goalkeeper T.P. Rehenesh.

The second half saw more attacks from the Highlanders but the JFC framework and Paul came in the way on three occasions, blocking the attempts of Marcinho (64th) and striker Danilo Cezario (58th and 66th). JFC was reduced to 10 men in the 79th minute when its Cameroonian substitute Andre Bikey was given a straight red card for a foul on NEUFC substitute Luis Restrepo.

Arsenal silences talk of power shift

Mustafi and Sanchez's goals give it a convincing 2-0 win over Tottenham

EURO LEAGUES

REUTERS
LONDON

Shkodran Mustafi and Alexis Sanchez earned Arsenal a convincing 2-0 Premier League win over Tottenham Hotspur in the North London derby at the Emirates Stadium on Saturday.

Mustafi opened the scoring with a superb 36th-minute header and Sanchez doubled the advantage five minutes later with a close-range strike.

Arsenal has now won 11 Premier League matches in succession at its home ground after its first league victory over arch-rival Spurs in seven games.



Sealing it: Despite a poor first touch, Alexis Sanchez manages to shoot past Hugo Lloris from a tight angle. •AFP

The results: Premier League: Arsenal 2 (Mustafi 36, Sanchez 41) bt Tottenham 0; Bournemouth 4 (Wilson 26, 31, 84, Arter 70) bt Huddersfield

0; Burnley 2 (Cork 29, Barnes 40) bt Swansea 0; Crystal Palace 2 (McArthur 1, Zaha 35) drew with Everton 2 (Baines 6-pen, Niasse 45+1); Leicester 0

Goffin stuns Federer, enters final



Giant killer: David Goffin rallied past Roger Federer in the semifinal match of the ATP World Tour Finals. •AFP

ATP FINALS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

David Goffin produced a dazzling comeback to beat hot favourite and six-time champion Roger Federer 2-6, 6-3, 6-4 on Saturday and reach the final of the ATP Finals.

The Swiss World No.2 hit the ball sweetly from the start and the Belgian had no answer to his variety and weight of shot, lacking the weapons to put Federer under sustained pressure.

Federer, who had only lost four matches all year, rocked Goffin back on his heels at the beginning of the match.

He, broke him after mul-

tiplied opportunities in the first game to establish an early grip. The Belgian regrouped but Federer threaded a trademark backhand down the line to bring up three more break points in game five and secured the double break.

He was briefly held up by Goffin but sealed the set 6-2 with an ace.

But in a surprising twist, seventh-seed Goffin quickly found himself 3-0 up in the second set after breaking Federer at his first opportunity and suddenly looked rejuvenated.

The 26-year-old Belgian looked far more aggressive and was not willing to allow Federer to dictate play as the Swiss player lost his precision.

THE HINDU ON SUNDAY
Weekend Challenge
THE HINDU GROUP

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TV PICKS

NBA: Sony Six (SD & HD), 6 & 8.30 a.m.
U-19 Asia Cup: Final: Pakistan vs Afghanistan, STAR Sports 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 a.m.
India vs Sri Lanka: 1st Test, STAR Sports 1 (SD & HD), 9.15 a.m.
La Liga: Sony TEN 2 (SD & HD), 4.30, 9 & 11 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Monday)
ISL: STAR Sports 2 (SD & HD), 5.30 & 8 p.m.
Serie A: Sony TEN 1 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m. & 1.15 a.m. (Monday)
Bundesliga: SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 7.45 & 10.15 p.m.
Premier League: SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 9.30 p.m.
World Tour Finals: (final): Sony ESPN (SD & HD), 11.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF



Srikanth to skip Hong Kong Open

NEW DELHI
 After missing the China Open, K. Srikanth has now decided to give next week's Hong Kong Super Series a miss to be in the best shape for the Dubai Super Series Final in December. **PTI**

Murray splits with coach Lendl again

LONDON
 Former World No. 1 Andy Murray announced he had split with coach Ivan Lendl for the second time as he works towards regaining full fitness for the 2018 season. "I'm thankful to Ivan for all his help and guidance over the years. We've had great success and learned a lot as a team," **AFP**

British rider Hegarty dies in crash at Macau GP

BEIJING
 British rider Daniel Hegarty was on Saturday killed in a crash at the Macau GP, held in Macau. Top Gun Racing's Hegarty crashed at Fisherman's Bend, sustaining serious injuries as he hit the barriers after losing his helmet. Hegarty died while being taken to hospital. **IAANS**

Devanshi finishes second

NEW DELHI: Devanshi Rana, the young daughter of pistol ace Jaspal Rana, won the second place in women's air pistol in the fifth National selection trials at Tughlakabad on Saturday. Devanshi missed the No.1 spot by 0.4 point to Manu Bhaker, another trainee of Jaspal. In women's rifle 3-position, Gaayathri Nithyanandam clinched the top spot in the 45-shot final with a score of 588.
The results: Women: 10m air pistol: 1. Manu Bhaker 241.2 (384); 2. Devanshi Rana 240.8 (383); 3. Lakshmi Sidhu 217.2 (381). **50m rifle 3-position:** 1. Gaayathri Nithyanandam 457.4 (588); 2. Anjum Moudgil 457.2 (580); 3. Tejaswini Sawant 438.5 (585).

Ishant spells Maharashtra's doom

Rana scores career-best 174; Lalit Yadav impresses on debut

**RAKESH RAO
NEW DELHI**

Ishant Sharma's opening spell brought Maharashtra to its knees and some poor stroke-selection by the late-order left the visitors staring at the follow-on against an upbeat Delhi in the crucial Ranji Trophy Group A match here on Saturday.

After Delhi reached 419, with overnight centurion Nitish Rana scoring a career-best 174, the Delhi skipper struck thrice in quick succession to reduce Maharashtra to 14 for four. Needing 270 to make Delhi bat again, Maharashtra was tottering at 59 for eight in 25 overs at stumps.

Play was halted due to poor light when Maharashtra was 56 for six. But, soon the light improved and play resumed. Delhi bowlers made the most of the available time and struck twice to compound Maharashtra's woes.

Lack of application

Ishant sliced through the Maharashtra top order by sending back openers Rituraj Gaikwad, Murtaza Trunkwala and one-down Rahul Tripathi. Known to score big on placid tracks, the Maharashtra batsmen showed



Breathing fire: Ishant Sharma ran through the Maharashtra top-order, the batsmen struggling to cope with his pace and bounce. **SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR**

total lack of application to deal with the bounce and speed generated by Ishant and offered catches to the slip cordon and gully.

From the other end, Navdeep Saini sent back the reliable duo of Ankeet Bawane and Rohit Motwani to break Maharashtra's back. In fading light, debutant Lalit Yadav, who scored a strokeful 52 earlier in the day, scalped two wickets to complete Delhi's day.

What is going to hurt Maharashtra more is the fact that first it let Delhi get away from 55 for three to beyond 400 and then lost eight wickets in quick time to stare at defeat at the halfway stage.

In contrast to Maharashtra's poor batting, Rana and Yadav put on 104 runs for the sixth wicket to put Delhi in a strong position. Rana smashed four sixes and 18 boundaries during the knock that bettered his previous high of 146 scored against Assam in Baroda in October last year. Yadav showed no signs of nerves for a debutant and cracked 10 boundaries in his 94-ball knock.

From now on, only a monumental effort from Maharashtra can deny Delhi a possible victory.

The scores:
Delhi — 1st innings: Anuj Rawat c Naushad b Dadhe 20, Gautam Gambhir lbw b Dhupal 1, Dhruv

Shorey c Gaikwad b Khurana 7, Nitish Rana c (sub) b Bacchav 174, Rishabh Pant c Bawane b Khurana 99, Milind Kumar lbw b Dadhe 13, Lalit Yadav lbw b Bacchav 52, Manan Sharma c (sub) b Khurana 14, Navdeep Saini lbw b Bacchav 0, Ishant Sharma c(sub) b Bacchav 6, Vikas Mishra (not out) 2; Extras (b-22, lb-8, nb-1): 31, Total (in 111.1 overs): 419.

Fall of wickets: 1-11, 2-26, 3-55, 4-223, 5-281, 6-385, 7-400, 8-401, 9-407.

Maharashtra bowling: Nikit Dhupal 23-5-69-1, Pradeep Dadhe 19-3-77-2, Chirag Khurana 30.1-2-106-3, Shamsuzama Mujtaba Kazi 7-0-41-0, Rahul Tripathi 3-0-9-0, Satyajeet Bachhav 29-5-87-4.

Maharashtra — 1st innings: Rituraj Gaikwad c Pant b Ishant 0, Murtaza Trunkwala c Manan b Ishant 2, Rahul Tripathi c Rana b Ishant 10, Ankeet Bawane c Lalit Yadav b Saini 2, Rohit Motwani c Manan b Saini 12, Naushad Shaikh c Rawat b Lalit Yadav 23, Satyajeet Bachhav c Saini b Lalit Yadav 0, Chirag Khurana (batting) 3, Shamsuzama Mujtaba Kazi (batting) 0; Extras (b-2, lb-4): 6; Total (for eight wickets in 25 overs): 59.

Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-7, 3-10, 4-14, 5-51, 6-56, 7-58, 8-59.

Delhi bowling: Ishant Sharma 6-2-14-3, Navdeep Saini 8-2-21-2, Vikas Mishra 5-2-12-0, Manan Sharma 3-0-4-1, Lalit Yadav 3-1-2-2.

Karnataka sends UP on a leather hunt

Pandey hits double century; Nischal misses it by five runs



Brilliant knock: Manish Pandey put the Uttar Pradesh attack to the sword. **SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT**

**VIJAY LOKAPALLY
KANPUR**

Manish Pandey's batting brilliance exposed the limitations in the Uttar Pradesh attack as Karnataka continued to inflict deep wounds in the rival camp for the second day running.

Pandey's double-century, his career-best effort, was the highlight of a day which saw D. Nischal miss the distinction by five runs in the Group A Ranji Trophy match at the Green Park here on Saturday. This was Pandey's 14th First Class hundred.

Uttar Pradesh ended the second day's play with a daunting challenge as Karnataka amassed 642 for seven. The 354-run stand for the fourth wicket between Pandey and Nischal, broke the back of Uttar Pradesh bowling and left the home team introspecting its inconsistent selection policy which saw 20 players turning out in six matches.

Karnataka's robust cricket structure was on display as Nischal, 90 overnight, grew in the company of Pandey, who was in scintillating form after resuming at 63. Nischal, in his debut First Class century, batted 425 balls and hit 23 boundaries. Pandey's knock came off 301 deliveries with

31 fours and two sixes. "I like to score every ball, get a single every ball. He (Nischal) was too slow for my style, but he has a very good temperament and is a good batsman. I just told myself not to be complacent and concentrated on staying in the middle as much as possible," said Pandey.

The 28-year-old Pandey, with an aggregate of 329 runs from three innings this season, played to his potential and reputation. His wide array of strokes was the main reason for Uttar Pradesh's leather hunt.

The scores: Karnataka — 1st innings: R. Samarth c Upendra b Dhruv 16, Mayank Agarwal c Umang b Akshdeep 90, D. Nischal c Upendra b Dhruv 195, Karun Nair b Dhruv 62, Manish Pandey c Upendra b Intiaz 238, Stuart Binny b Intiaz 25, C.M. Gautam (batting) 4, Shreyas Gopal c Upendra b Intiaz 1; Extras: (b-1, lb-7, nb-1, w-1): 10; Total (for seven wickets in 180 overs): 642.

Fall of wickets: 1-66, 2-121, 3-236, 4-590, 5-633, 6-634, 7-636.

UP bowling: Ankit Rajpoot 41-4-173-0, Intiaz Ahmed 29-5-101-3, Dhruv Pratap Singh 27-5-108-3, Saurabh Kumar 50-9-146-0, Akshdeep Nath 15-1-51-1, Mohamud Saif 15-2-37-0, Suresh Raina 2-0-8-0, Rinku Singh 1-0-10-0.

Praggnanandhaa stuns Narayanan

**SPORTS BUREAU
TARVISIO (ITALY)**

Wonder-kid R. Praggnanandhaa continued his magical run by stunning fourth-seeded compatriot S.L. Narayanan and shared the second spot with two others at 4.5 points after five rounds of the World junior (under-20) chess championship here on Friday.

Russia's Kirill Alekseeenko maintained his all-win sequence to emerge leader going into Saturday's rest day.

The results (fifth round):
Open: Xu Xiangyu (Chn, 4.5) bt M. Karthikeyan (3.5); S.L. Narayanan (3) lost to R. Praggnanandhaa (4.5).

Aravindh Chithambaram (4) bt Peir Luigi Basso (Ita, 3); Shardul Gagare (3.5) drew with Harsha Bharathakoti (3.5). Sidhant Mohapatra (3) drew with Gergely Kantor (Hun, 3); Nchitua Morozov (Mda, 3) drew with Krishna Teja (3).

Vaibhav Suri (3) bt Richard

Chen (Can, 2); Kumar Gaurav (3) bt Sanchez Jorge Marcos (Cub, 2).

Mohammad Nubairshah Shaikh (3) bt Elkhon Bayramov (Aze, 2); Raunak Sadhwani (1.5) lost to Maaten de Vleschauer (Bel, 2.5). Lukasz Nowak (Pol, 1) lost to Tarini Goyal (2).

Girls: Gunay Mammadzada (Aze, 3) lost to Aakshaksha Hagawane (4). K. Priyanka (2.5) lost to R. Vaishali (3.5); Pratyusha Bodda

(2.5) lost to Gulrukhbegim Tokhirjonova (Uzb, 3.5); Arpita Mukherjee (2.5) lost to Anastasya Paramzina (Rus, 3.5).

Tea Gucci (Ita, 2.5) drew with G. Lasya (2.5); Parnali Dharia (2.5) drew with Boldbaatar Altantuya (Mgl, 2.5).

Assel Serikbay (Kaz, 3) bt Rutumba Bidhar (2); Mohandeseh Alijanzadeh (Iri, 1.5) lost to M. Mahalakshmi (2.5); Saina Salonika (2) bt Jesse Niki February (RSA, 1).

Dhruvpal stars for Velocity Polo

NEW DELHI:

Dhruvpal Godara scored three goals, including the match-winner in the extra 30 seconds and the equaliser earlier, in helping Velocity Polo lift the DGST Six-goal polo trophy, beating Army Service Corps (ASC) 4-3 in the final on Saturday.

The results (final):
 Velocity Polo 4 (Dhruvpal Godara 3, Tarun Sirohi) bt ASC 3 (Ravi Rathore, Yatinder Kumar, NS Khera).

Aika Aika Aika expected to score

HYDERABAD: Aika Aika Aika may score in the Telangana Andhra Sub-Aera Cup (1,600m), the main event of the races on Sunday (Nov. 19). There will be no false rails.

1. ELUSIVE HERO PLATE (2,000m), 3-y-o & over, rated 42 to 62 (Cat. II), 1-15 p.m.: Vijay's Dynamite (6) Gopal Singh 60, 2. Dahlois (5) A. S. Pawar 59.5, 3. Mathathi (3) Koushik 59.5, 4. Exclusive Striker (7) B. R. Kumar 58.5, 5. Tootsie Roll (0) Akshay Kumar 58.5, 6. Al Sadr (9) K. Sai Kiran 57, 7. Euro Zone (2) Nakhat Singh 55, 8. City Of Sails (8) G. Naresh 54.5 and 9. Gunner (4) Ashhad Asbar 52.5.

1. VIJAY'S DYNAMITE, 2. EXCLUSIVE STRIKER, 3. DAHLOIS.

2. NAGARJUNA SAGAR PLATE (1,100m), (Cat. II), maiden 2-y-o only (Terms), 1-45: 1. Lockhart (9) Ashhad Asbar 55, 2. Solo Winner (6) Nakhat Singh 55, 3. Aarohi (8) Deep Shanker 53.5, 4. Air Salute (0) Arshad Alam 53.5, 5. Alta Vita (7) Deepak Singh 53.5, 6. Mystique (2) Sai Kumar 53.5, 7. Royal Faith (3) Ajit Singh 53.5, 8. Shimmers (5) P. P. Dhebe 53.5, 9. Silver Babe (10) Kuldeep Singh 53.5 and 10. Vallee Romance (4) Akshay Kumar 53.5.

1. VALLEE ROMANCE, 2. SHIMMERS, 3. LOCKHART.

3. BHONGIR PLATE (Div. II), (1,400m), 3-y-o & over, rated upto 30 (Cat. III), 2-15: 1. Flowersfrombrook (5) P. P. Dhebe 61.5, 2. Vijay's Harmony (6) Akshay Kumar 61.5, 3. Ice Mummy (8) Nakhat Singh 61, 4. Invasion (2) Md. Ismail 61, 5. Halo's Princess (7) Deep Shanker 60, 6. Recumbent bus (4) K. Sai Kiran 58, 7. Cannon Grey (1) N. Rawal 56 and 8. Roma Rio (3) Deepak Singh 55.5.

1. FLOWERSFROMBROOK, 2. VIJAY'S HARMONY, 3. HALO'S PRINCESS.

4. ARDENT KNIGHT PLATE (1,200m), 3-y-o & over, rated 26 to 46 (Cat. III), 2-45: 1. Dream Catcher (2) Akshay Kumar 60, 2. After Eight (4) S. S. Tanwar 58.5, 3. Jumeira Express (12) Arshad Alam 57, 4. News O' Star (3) Ajit Singh 57, 5. China Millennium (0) Ashhad Asbar 56.5, 6. Shandaar (10) C. P. Boppanna 56.5, 7. Lord Gift (7) Ajeeth Kumar 56, 8. Good Strike (8) B. R. Kumar 55, 9. Gladstone (9) N. Rawal 54, 10. Sharp Eye (11) A. S. Pawar 54, 11. Soaring Sensex (6) P. P. Dhebe 53.5 and 12. Red Bullet (5) Kunal Bunde 52.

1. DREAM CATCHER, 2. GOOD STRIKE, 3. AFTER EIGHT.

5. VEGAVATHI PLATE (1,400m), 4-y-o & over, rated 26 to 46 (Cat. III), 3-15: 1. Princess Of Dreams (5) Deep Shanker 60, 2. Secret Art (7) Kuldeep Singh 60, 3. Raja Hindustani (3) Ashhad Asbar 59.5, 4. Golden Xanthus (9) Sai Kumar

58.5, 5. Time To Climb (4) Md. Sameeruddin 56.5, 6. Great Glory (6) Deepak Singh 55, 7. Own Battle (8) Nakhat Singh 55, 8. Clit Colors (2) A. A. Vikrant 54.5, 8. Samba (10) Akshay Kumar 54.5 and 10. General Salute (1) B. R. Kumar 52.5.

1. PRINCESS OF DREAMS, 2. SECRET ART, 3. GOLDEN XANTHUS.

6. BHONGIR PLATE (Div. I), (1,400m), 3-y-o & over, rated upto 30 (Cat. III), 3-45: 1. Blaze Of Glory (7) A. A. Vikrant 61.5, 2. Koney (3) K. Sai Kiran 61.5, 3. Mountain Of Light (8) P. P. Dhebe 61.5, 4. Patron Saint (1) B. Dileep 61.5, 5. Sunday Carnival (6) Akshay Kumar 61, 6. Gaandeevan (5) Koushik 58.5, 7. Princess (9) A. S. Pawar 58, 8. Kohinoor Legend (2) Deepak Singh 56 and 9. Enter Canter (4) S. S. Tanwar 52.

1. PRINCESS, 2. BLAZE OF GLORY, 3. ENTER CANTER.

7. TELANGANA AND ANDHRA SUB-AREA CUP (1,600m), 3-y-o & over, rated 74 & above (Cat. D), 4-15: 1. Exclusive Wind (13) B. R. Kumar 62, 2. Vijay Viraj (7) A. S. Pawar 62, 3. Happy Guy (9) C. P. Boppanna 60.5, 4. Ashwa Raftar (3) Ashhad Asbar 58, 5. Aika Aika Aika (2) Akshay Kumar 56.5, 6. Kolors (5) P. Dhebe 56.5, 7. Time For Fun (8)

58.5, 5. Time To Climb (4) Md. Sameeruddin 56.5, 6. Great Glory (6) Deepak Singh 55, 7. Own Battle (8) Nakhat Singh 55, 8. Clit Colors (2) A. A. Vikrant 54.5, 8. Samba (10) Akshay Kumar 54.5 and 10. General Salute (1) B. R. Kumar 52.5.

1. PRINCESS OF DREAMS, 2. SECRET ART, 3. GOLDEN XANTHUS.

8. TIME AND PLACE PLATE (Div. II), (1,200m), 3-y-o & over, rated upto 30 (Cat. III), 4-45: 1. Sweet Story (10) C. P. Boppanna 61.5, 2. Friendly Gesture (12) B. R. Kumar 60.5, 3. Conroy (13) G. Naresh 60, 4. Withrose-makeup (11) Akshay Kumar 60, 5. Jasmine Garden (8) Aneel 59, 6. Indian Knight (2) Sai Kumar 58.5, 7. Novitious (3) K. Sai Kiran 57.5, 8. Glorious Grey (9) Deepak Singh 56.5, 9. Tough Sussex (7) Ajit Singh 56.5, 10. Aalishaan (4) Md. Ismail 54, 11. Cannon Fury (5) Kunal Bunde 54, 12. Hammer (1) Ashhad Asbar 54 and 13. Whisper (6) Khurshad Alam 51.5.

1. SWEET STORY, 2. WITHROSE-MAKEUP, 3. HAMMER.
Day's best: VALLEE ROMANCE.
Double: PRINCESS OF DREAMS - PRINCESS.
Jkt: 4: 5, 6, 7 & 8; Tr (i): 1, 2 & 3; (ii): 3, 4 & 5; (iii): 6, 7 & 8; Tla: all races.

Nakhat Singh 54.5, 8. That's My Darling (12) Md. Ismail 53.5, 9. Western Wind (10) K. Sai Kiran 53.5, 10. Net Champ (11) Deepak Singh 52, 11. Prospero (4) Kuldeep Singh 51.5, 12. Red Rumble (6) Gopal Singh 51 and 13. Baashagar (1) Ajeeth Kumar 50.

1. AIKA AIKA AIKA, 2. ASHWA RAFTAR, 3. PROSPERO.

9. ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY BAYVIEW TROPHY (1,200m), Cl. III, rated 40 to 66 - 4:30: 1. Jimbo (7) Merchant 59.5, 2. Lincoln (6) Srinath 58.5, 3. Makino (8) Neeraj 57.5, 4. Juggernaut (4) Dashrath 57, 5. Elysee (9) C.S. Jodha 56, 6. Grey Flannel (2) J. Chinoy 53, 7. Shaoqing (1) Raghuvver 52.5, 8. Fringe Benefit (5) Zeeshan 51.5 and 9. Lady Sergeant (3) Trevor 51.

1. LINCOLN, 2. MAKINO, 3. ELYSEE.

7. KAMAL FOUNDATION & ROTARY CLUB OF MUMBAI MALABAR HILL TROPHY (1,200m), Cl. V, rated 1 to 26 - 5:00: 1. Allegra (7) Ravhuver 60.5, 2. Moonshine (9) Srinath 60.5, 3. Alyaties (1) Shelar 59.5, 4. Gandalf (6) Merchant 59, 5. Advance To Contact (2) Bhawani 58.5, 6. Lilac Time (10) Dashrath 58, 7. Forever Free (4) Daman 57.5, 8. Glorious Thunder (8) J. Chinoy 57.5, 9. Yutaka (12) C.S. Jodha 57.5, 10. Smokey Roses (3) Nikhil 57, 11. Beyond Forces (11) Zeeshan 55.5 and 12. Milwalkee (5) Mosin 53.5.

1. MOONSHINE, 2. ALLEGRIA, 3. LILAC TIME.
Day's Best: RENATO.
Double: GOLDIE'S PET - LINCOLN.
Jackpot: 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7.
Treble: 5, 6 & 7.
Tanala: 4 & 5.
Super Jackpot: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7.

5. SMT. PADAM & RTN. DARSHAN CHADDA, A RHADDA FAMILY CHARITIES & ROTARY CLUB OF MUMBAI DOWNTOWN SEALAND TROPHY (1,000m), Cl. IV, rated 20 to 46 - 4:00: 1. Renato (11) Suraj 61.5, 2. Fabio (12) S.J. Sunil 60, 3. Art Deco (8) Trevor 59.5, 4. Ridge-wood Star (4) Neeraj 59.5, 5. Ascension (13) C.S. Jodha 59, 6. Touch Me Not (2) Dashrath 59, 7. Wind Craft (7) Bhawani 59, 8. Snow Crystal (6) S. Sunil 58, 9. Brothers ofthewind (3) Baria 56, 10. Pricelessgirl (10) Raghuvver 56, 11. Adams Beginning (9) Daman 54.5, 12. Abraxas (5) Kuldeep 52.5 and 13. Financier (1) Merchant 50.

1. RENATO, 2. FABIO, 3. ART DECO.

Ruffina fancied for Rotary Club Of Bombay Trophy

MUMBAI: The 3-year-old filly Ruffina who is unbeaten in her last four starts, maintains her winning form and should not find it difficult to win the Rotary Club Of Bombay Trophy, the main event of the opening day's races here on Sunday November 19.

Rails will be placed at the original point. An amount of ₹ 5,00,000 will be added to the collection of Super Jackpot Pool.

1. UPL LIMITED TROPHY (1,000m), Cl. II, rated 60 to 86 - 2:00 p.m.: 1. Ladislaus (6) Trevor 61, 2. Goldie's Pet (2) David Allan 55, 3. God's Own (4) Dashrath 54.5, 4. Incento (5) J. Chinoy 54.5, 5. Anacapri (1) Neeraj 52.5 and 6. Dominator (3) Raghuvver 49.

1. GOLDIE'S PET, 2. ANACAPRI.

2. ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY TROPHY (1,400m), Cl. I, rated 80 and upward - 2:30: 1. Ship Rock (4) Neeraj 59, 2. Super Sunshine (5) Bhawani 58.5, 3. Mygrator (3) Suraj 57, 4. Remember Me (1) T.S. Jodha 56.5 and Ruffina (2) David Allan 55.

1. RUFFINA, 2. MYGRATOR.

The Rules (3) Neeraj 51.5 and 9. Irises (8) Nirmal 51.

1. WE BREAK THE RULES, 2. TAKE FIVE, 3. TURNING POINT.

4. SMT. SARLA & RTN. GIRDHARI LAL MODI & ROTARY CLUB OF MUMBAI DOWNTOWN SEALAND TROPHY (1,400m), Cl. IV, rated 20 to 46 - 3:30: 1. Glyndebourne (7) Trevor 60, 2. In The Stars (10) Suraj 59, 3. Forest Fairy (2) Srinath 58, 4. Arabian Storm (9) Raghuvver 56.5, 5. Angels Touch (3) Bhawani 55, 6. Bidstone Hill (5) Baria 53.5, 7. Rain Dance (4) Shubham 53.5, 8. Kingsman (11) J. Chinoy 52, 9. Sassy Lass (8) Dashrath 52, 10. Royal Clair (1) T.S. Jodha 51.5 and 11. Gregorian Chants (6) Merchant 50.

1. FOREST FAIRY, 2. IN THE STARS, 3. GLYNDEBOURNE.

5. SMT. PADAM & RTN. DARSHAN CHADDA, A RHADDA FAMILY CHARITIES & ROTARY CLUB OF MUMBAI DOWNTOWN SEALAND TROPHY (1,000m), Cl. IV, rated 20 to 46 - 4:00: 1. Renato (11) Suraj 61.5, 2. Fabio (12) S.J. Sunil 60, 3. Art Deco (8) Trevor 59.5, 4. Ridge-wood Star (4) Neeraj 59.5, 5. Ascension (13) C.S. Jodha 59, 6. Touch Me Not (2) Dashrath 59, 7. Wind Craft (7) Bhawani 59, 8. Snow Crystal (6) S. Sunil 58, 9. Brothers ofthewind (3) Baria 56, 10. Pricelessgirl (10) Raghuvver 56, 11. Adams Beginning (9) Daman 54.5, 12. Abraxas (5) Kuldeep 52.5 and 13. Financier (1) Merchant 50.

1. RENATO, 2. FABIO, 3. ART DECO.

**G. VISWANATH
PUNE**

Yuki Bhambri quelled an aggressive but erratic Ramkumar Ramanathan 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 in a thrilling final of the KPIT-MSLTA \$50,000 ATP Challenger at the Mhalunge-Balewadi sports complex on Saturday.

The Delhi-based Bhambri, two years elder than his opponent, turned the match on its head after dropping the opening

Udayan reigns in dramatic finish

A nervous Baisoya misses a simple putt, follows it up with a bogey

BENGALURU OPEN

ASHWIN ACHAL
BENGALURU

Udayan Mane won the Bengaluru Open golf championship in the most dramatic of finishes at the KGA here on Saturday.

Udayan and nearest rival Honey Baisoya entered the final par-5 18th hole tied on 20-under overall scores. After a wayward tee-shot, Udayan recovered well to save par. Baisoya – lucky to see his tee-shot bounce off the trees and into play – was eventually left with a 3-foot putt to save par and force a playoff. With a large crowd watching the grandstand finish, a nervous Baisoya missed the simple putt. A shocked Baisoya returned a bogey, allowing Udayan to take the title by one stroke.



Champion: Udayan Mane kept his cool in the final round to take the honours. ■SUDHAKARA JAIN

When the enormity of his error dawned on Baisoya a short while later, it was all too much to take.

"I cried in the changing room. I was overcome with emotion," Baisoya, who held a two-shot lead overnight, said, "I over-hit the putt because I was affected by

nerves. I couldn't hold it together in that pressure moment. My mind went blank."

A sympathetic Udayan, who won his third PGTI tournament of the season, exuded sportsmanship when he consoled his forlorn competitor.

"Baisoya's miss genuinely hurt me too. It was hard to watch. I feel that both Baisoya and I won this tournament. I told him not to worry, and that he is a talented player who has a bright future," Udayan said.

The build-up to the crescendo saw Udayan erase his two-shot deficit by the end of

the 12th hole. The duo then made par on the next five holes. Baisoya nearly fell out of the reckoning in the 17th hole, when he pulled his tee-shot far wide.

Much like the fortunate circumstances he encountered on the 18th hole, the ball ricocheted off the trees and landed kindly. "It seemed like everything was going Baisoya's way, but I suppose things got evened out in the end," Udayan stated.

The scores (top-nine):

268: Udayan Mane (69, 65, 66, 68); **269:** Honey Baisoya (67, 64, 67, 71); **271:** Harendra Gupta (68, 69, 67, 67); **274:** Khalil Joshi (69, 70, 69, 66); **275:** Himmat Rai (66, 71, 69, 69); **276:** Dharma (67, 70, 69, 69); **277:** Mithun Perera (71, 68, 69, 69).

Aware, Khatri excel

NATL. WRESTLING

Y.B. SARANGI
INDORE

Two experienced wrestlers, Rahul Aware and Musam Khatri, gave brilliant performances to announce their return to the top on the final day of the National wrestling championship at the Abhay Prashal Indoor Stadium here on Saturday.

Aware, who did not fight in the last Nationals, showed a big heart to beat Harphool against the run of play in the 61kg semifinals. When Harphool was leading 4-0, Aware grabbed a chance and pinned him to reach the title clash.

Even though he took a medical time-out in the final, Aware exhibited his sound defence to protect his score and record a 6-3 victory over Sharvan.

In a closely-fought 97kg semifinal clash, the seasoned Khatri topped

man-in-form and Commonwealth Games medallist Satyawart Kadian 3-1. With the scores tied at 1-1 and both wrestlers tired, Khatri came up with a fine counter-attack.

The medallists: Freestyle: **61kg:** 1. Rahul Aware (RSPB), 2. Sharvan (Chd), 3. Harphool (SSCB), Sonafa (Mah)

70kg: 1. Amit Dhankar (Har), 2. Arun Kumar (Del), 3. Vinod Kumar (SSCB), Vikas (Chd).

79kg: 1. Jitender (RSPB), 2. Veerdev Gulia (Har), 3. Amit (Del), Kautuk (Mah)

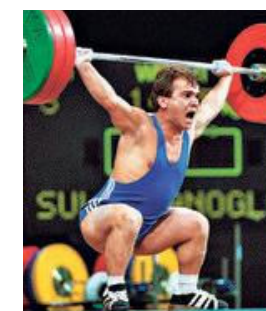
92kg: 1. Somvir (Har), 2. Ajrudin (Raj), 3. Jonny (HP), Gopal Yadav (RSPB)

97kg: 1. Mausam Khatri (Har), 2. Rubaljeet Singh (SSCB), 3. Ravi Barot (MP), Satyawart Kadian (RSPB)

125kg: 1. Sumit (RSPB), 2. Hitender (RSPB), 3. Gural Singh (Pun), Satender (SSCB)

Team event: Freestyle: 1. Haryana (84 points), 2. RSPB (78), 3. SSCB (49); **Greco Roman:** 1. Haryana (85), 2. SSCB (74), 3. RSPB (74); **Women:** 1. Haryana (91), 2. RSPB (87), 3. UP (69).

'Pocket Hercules' passes away



Naim Suleymanoglu. ■AP PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ISTANBUL

Turkey's legendary triple Olympic gold-medal winning weightlifter Naim Suleymanoglu, the diminutive 'Pocket Hercules', has died aged 50, State media said on Saturday.

Suleymanoglu, who was only 4.8 feet tall, scored a historic hat-trick of consecutive Olympic titles starting in Seoul in 1988 then Barcelona in 1992 and Atlanta in 1996.

The Bulgaria-born Suleymanoglu, who was admitted to intensive care in September after suffering liver failure, died in hospital here, the Anadolu news agency said.

The weightlifter had been given a liver transplant earlier this month.

Sharath-Sathiyana duo third

SPORTS BUREAU
STOCKHOLM

The Indian men's doubles pair of Sharath Kamal and G. Sathiyana bagged its second International bronze medal in two weeks, finishing third in the International Table Tennis Federation-World Tour Swedish Open here.

The two lost to the Hong Kong duo of Kit Kwan Ho and Ting Chun Wong 12-10, 11-3, 7-11, 11-4 in the semifinals.

Falchero powers to maiden win

MRF CHALLENGE

S. DIPAK RAGAV
SAKHIR (BAHRAIN)

French GP3 driver Julien Falchero tasted his first victory in the MRF Challenge in the fourth and final race of round one here on Saturday.

Rinus van Kalmthout had earlier dominated race three to pip championship leader Felipe Drugovich and Falchero. Drugovich leads the championship with 80 points, while Falchero is second with 65.

In race one, van Kalmthout made the perfect getaway to lead into the first corner with Drugovich holding off Falchero. Behind them Alex Karkosik managed to pass Dylan Young as Martono lost places. van Kalmthout pulled away even as Drugovich and Falchero were locked in a battle.

The final race of round one once again saw van Kalmthout have a sound start with Falchero second ahead of Drugovich. Though Drugovich passed Falchero, the Frenchman passed him

again. The Safety Car was called out when Young hit Enqvist in the first corner. But at the restart Falchero passed van Kalmthout with a great move into the first corner. On lap four Martono passed Drugovich for third place and closed in on the leaders.

Harri Jones and Michael Amendola collided on lap seven, which brought out the safety car for the second time. van Kalmthout tried to get past Falchero at the restart only for Martono to get past in the first corner but the Dutchman fought back

and passed Martono at turn 4. Falchero held on to take his first win.

The results: Race three : 1. Rinus van Kalmthout (20:18.394); 2. Felipe Drugovich (20:26.178); 3. Julian Falchero (20:26.224); 4. Alex Karkosik (20:29.630); 5. Presley Martono (20:35.324).

Race four: 1. Julian Falchero (24:44.559); 2. Rinus van Kalmthout (24:45.020); 3. Presley Martono (24:45.851); 4. Felipe Drugovich (24:47.371); 5. Alex Karkosik (24:50.189).

(S. Dipak Ragav is in Bahrain at the invitation of MRF)



Moment to savour: Falchero, the winner, flanked by van Kalmthout and Martono. Arif Rahimi, left, BIC chairman, and Arun Mammen, vice-chairman & MD, MRF, are also seen.

Jisna makes cut for u-20 Worlds

NATL. JR. ATHLETICS

STAN YAJAN
GUNTUR

She is a senior Asian championship bronze medallist and has been to the senior World championships, but Jisna Mathew is not very welcome in her home State Kerala team.

That's because the 18-year-old rarely competes in junior State meets, a rule that the Kerala Athletics Association often sticks to despite the young girl's impressive credentials.

On Saturday, with anger and disappointment probably pushing her, Jisna broke the under-20 girls' 400m meet record on her way to gold at the Coromandel 33rd National junior athletics championship at the Acharya Nagarjuna University Stadium, Mangalagiri, near here.

And though her time, 53.52s, was not a personal best, it helped Jisna – who was running under the Athletics Federation of India's banner – comfortably qual-



Making her mark: Jisna Mathew, despite not clocking her best, was too good for her rivals in the 400m.

ify (entry standard 55s) for next year's under-20 World championships in Tampere, Finland.

"Qualifying was never an issue but she would have clocked a much better time had there been somebody to push her," said her coach P.T. Usha.

The results (winners only):

Boys: Under-20: 100m: Akash Kumar (UP) 10.67s. **400m:** Amod Jacob (Del) 46.59s (NR, OR 46.99). **High jump:** Geo Jos

(Ker) 2.12m. **Discus:** Sahil Chaudhary (UP) 54.70m. **10000m walk:** Juned (Har) 42:59.65.

Under-18: 100m: Gurinderveer Singh (AFI-Pun) 10.83s. **400m:** W. Nihal Joel (Kar) 48.16s. **Decathlon:** Anuj Sangwan (Har) 6618 pts (NR, OR 6617).

Under-16: 100m: Nisar Ahmed (Del) 10.85s (NR, OR 11.01).

400m: Anu Kumar (Utr) 48.39s. **Long jump:** Devesh (UP) 7.04m. **5000m walk:** Sarvjeet Patel (AFI) 22:23.16s. **Under-14: 100m:** Roshan Ku-

Anindith sparkles on day one

P.K. AJITH KUMAR
GREATER NOIDA

Not entirely surprisingly, Anindith Reddy dominated day one of the JK Tyre FMS-SCI National racing championship.

The defending champion from Hyderabad won both races at the Buddh International Circuit here on Saturday.

He is very much in the driver's seat going into Sunday's finale.

He was quite impressive on this day, taking the top spot in the two races with seconds to spare.

His closest rivals are Vishnu Prasad and Nayan Chatterjee, the latter admitting, "Anindith has proved he is in brilliant touch."

In the LGB Formula Four, Chithest Mandoy of Avalanche Racing leads the table, but Sandeep Kumar of Dark Don Racing closed in on him after winning the day's first race and coming second in the second.

The results:

Euro JK 17: Race 1: 1. Anindith Reddy, 2. Vishnu Prasad, 3. Nayan Chatterjee.

Race 2: 1. Anindith Reddy, 2. Vishnu Prasad, 3. Nayan Chatterjee.

LGB Formula 4: Race 1: 1. Sandeep Kumar, 2. Diljith, 3. Chithest Mandoy.

Race 2: 1. Diljith, 2. Sandeep Kumar, 3. Saran Tmras.

JK SBK 600cc: 1. Gurvinder Singh, 2. Vijay Singh, 3. Anand Nagarajan.

JK SBK 1000cc: 1. Simranjeet Singh, 2. Dilip Lalwani, 3. Deepak Ravi Kumar.

Suzuki Gixxer Cup: 1. Sachin Chaudhary, 2. Joseph Mathew, 3. Sanjeev Mhatre.

FIM ACCR: 1. Sai Rahul Pillarisetty (India-A), 2. Israel Vantalaruaizela (India-A), 3. Lal Nunsanga (India-A).

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NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE NO. ELS/KJGY/SRE/T-03 dtd. 13.11.2017

Open tender through E-tendering are invited by Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRS, Electric Loco Shed, Khanalampura Yard, Northern Railway, Saharanpur (Ambala Division) for and on behalf of the President of India from the registered tenderer on website www.ireps.gov.in for the following work upto 15.00 hrs. on the date of closing against the work and will be opened thereafter. Open Tender No.: ELS/KJGY/SRE/T-03. Name of work: Hiring of truck capacity 9 MT for transportation of Railway material from any originating station to any destination station for three years (thirty six months) for Electric Loco Shed, Khanalampura Yard, Saharanpur. Date of Closing/Opening: 23.12.2017 Approx. Cost.: Rs. 52,41,000.00. Earnest Money: Rs. 1,04,820.00. Completion Period: Three Years/36 Months. Validity period: 120 days. Cost of tender form: Rs. 5,000.00 (non refundable). 1. The required Earnest Money & Tender Document cost will only be accepted through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. upto tender closing date and time i.e. 23.12.2017 at 15.00 hrs. Manual payments through demand draft, bankers cheque, deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. Offers which are not complying above will be considered invalid. 2. Tenderer(s) should have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate to participate in E-Tendering of works Tenders. 3. Tenderer are required to upload scanned copies of all related eligibility documents including PAN/GSTIN as per conditions. 4. All Taxes are applicable as per extant rule. 5. For details, please log on IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in. 3508/2017

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NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE (through e-tendering)

Name of work with its location : Provision of Rainnet facilities at Store Depot Complex / SSB App. Cost of the work (₹) : ₹ 13,79,725.92 only Tender Document Fee (₹) : ₹ 2,000 only. Earnest Money Deposit (₹) : ₹ 27,600 only. Address of the office : Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer/IDL, Northern Railway, 3rd Floor, Annex-1, DRM office, New Delhi-110055. Date & Time for upload the tender/closing of tender : Tender uploading/closing date & time - 20.12.2017 up to 15:00 hrs. Website particular & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc : See the Northern Railway website www.ireps.gov.in & Notice board at S&T branch, 3rd Floor, DRM office, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055. Tender No. 558-Sig-16-Tele-OT-823 Dated: 16.11.2017 3495/17

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MILITARY ENGINEER SERVICES

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS

CWE (Utilities), Delhi Cantt-10 on behalf of the President of India invites online item rate bids on Single Stage Two Cover Bid System for the following work:-

1. Name of Work- "Special Repair to replacement of BER 16X3.0 Ton mully type Air Condition of WARDEC & HQ CAMS under GE (U) P&M, Delhi Cantt-10"
2. Estimated Cost- Rs 20.40 Lakh
3. Period of completion- 180 days
4. Tender ID -2017_MES_149649

For further detail refer web site "eprocuremes.gov.in"/"eprocure.gov.in"

Note:- Notice Inviting Bid as published in newspapers shall not form part of Notice of Tender/Bid document. davp/10102/11/1682/1718

NORTHERN RAILWAY

e-AUCTION NOTICE NO. 09

No. 3-S/24/Auction Programme/Sale/2017-18 Dated 17.11.2017
E-Auction will be conducted for disposal of Ferrous Scrap, Non Ferrous Scrap, Other Misc Scrap, Condemned Loco, Coaches and Wagons, Scrap Rail and other scrap P Way material. Used lead Acid Batteries/Used oil/Refused oil will be sold only to recyclers registered with State Pollution Control Board. Auction programme is as under:-

e-AUCTION DATES FOR December 2017.

SN	Depot conducting auction	1st round	2nd round	3rd round	4th round	5th round
1	Alambagh Lucknow	06	13	20	27	--
2	Shakurbasti	08	15	22	29	--
3	Jagadhari Workshop	05	12	19	26	--
4	Sr.DMM/LKO	14	28	--	--	--
5	Sr.DMM/FZR	18	29	--	--	--
6	Sr.DMM/UMB	04	18	28	--	--

1. The details of item to be sold in auction will be available in catalogue at www.ireps.gov.in
2. The intending purchasers may inspect the scrap material before the auction during working hours at nominated locations.
3. The details on last sold rates in auctions are available at www.railnet.gov.in
4. To participate in e-auction, purchasers need to get themselves registered with ireps. For further details regarding registration and other conditions of e-auction, please visit Railway website www.ireps.gov.in 3506/17

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PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF PERSON ACCUSED

See section U/S 82 Cr. P.C

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely Sanoj S/o Megh Singh R/o Satish Tyagi Ka Makan near Sai Farm, Village Morti, P.S. Shihani Gate, Ghaziabad U.P. have committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 454/17 U/s 279/337/304A IPC has been registered at P.S. Khajuri Khas, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the above said accused Sanoj cannot be found and whereas it has said accused Sanoj has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Sanoj of FIR No. 454/17 U/s 279/337/304A IPC has been registered at P.S. Khajuri Khas, Delhi is required to appear before the court to answer the said complaint on 22.12.2017.

By Order
Ms. Bhawani Sharma, ACMM, Court Room No. 58, DP/5937/NE/17-(Court Matter) KKD Court, Delhi

CITY UNION BANK LTD.

Administrative Office : No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001.
Phone : 0435-2402322, 2401622 Fax : 0435-2431746

POSSESSION NOTICE (Immovable Properties)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of City Union Bank Ltd., having its Administrative Office at No.24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001 and one of the Branch Offices at M-17, Ground Floor, Lajpat Nagar II, South Delhi, New Delhi under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2)&(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated 10-08-2017 calling upon the borrowers No.1) M/s. Anannya Jewellery, K-81, Ground Floor, Veer Savarkar Marg, Lajpat Nagar-II, New Delhi - 110 024. No.2) Mr. Anand Parkash, S/o. Satya Parkash Sharma, No.117, Kailash Hills, East of Kailash, New Delhi - 110 065. Also at Mr. Anand Parkash, S/o. Satya Parkash Sharma, K-81, Ground Floor, Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi - 110 024. No.3) Mrs. Shriti Anand, W/o. Anand Parkash, No.117, Kailash Hills, East of Kailash, New Delhi - 110 065. Also at Mrs. Shriti Anand, W/o. Mr. Anand Parkash, K-81, Ground Floor, Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi - 110 024 to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice being Rs. 5,90,43,773/- (Rupees Five Crore Ninety Lakh Forty Three Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Three Only) within 60 days from the date of the said Notice with subsequent interest thereon from 03-08-2017 with monthly rests.

The borrowers above named having failed to repay the amount despite the receipt of the above referred statutory notice, NOTICE is hereby given to the borrowers above named and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this 16th day of November 2017.

The borrowers above named in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of City Union Bank Ltd., for an amount of Rs. 5,90,43,773/- (Rupees Five Crore Ninety Lakh Forty Three Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Three Only) and interest thereon from 03-08-2017 till the repayment of entire dues.

- That our New Delhi-Lajpat Nagar Branch has also extended financial assistance as requested by No.1 of you represented by No.2 of you as its partner for which No.2 of you stood as co-obligants and No.2 of you stood as guarantor. LN CUB OSL SPECIAL - BR.501812080026484 Rs.18,00,000/- on 28-12-2016 at the rate of 13.00%. Balance outstanding Rs.19,54,755/- as on 02-08-2017.
- That our New Delhi-Lajpat Nagar Branch has also extended financial assistance as requested by No.1 of you represented by No.2 of you as its partner for which No.2 of you stood as co-obligant and No.2 of you stood as guarantors. LN CUB OSL SPECIAL BR.501812080026484 Rs.40,00,000/- on 21-03-2017 at the rate of 12.50%. Balance outstanding Rs. 42,04,764/- as on 02-08-2017.

Immovable Properties Mortgaged to our Bank

Schedule-A: (Property owned by Mr. Anand Parkash, S/o.Sathya Parkash Sharma)
Property No. I : Front Portion of Ground Floor, Shop on North West side admeasuring about 9' x 40' that is 40 Square Yards approx. (adjacent to the property No.K- 81/A), of the freehold Property No.II, K/81-B situated at Lajpat Nagar II, New Delhi - 110 024 and proportionate undivided, indivisible and impartible ownership rights in the free hold land underneath and bounded as under: East: Remaining Portion of the same Property, West : Property No.K-81/A, North: Road, South: Property of Shri Ram Labhaya Chopra.

Property No. II : Corner Side Ground Floor Portion (Back Side), admeasuring approx. 600 Square feet of property bearing No.II, K/81-B, erected on the Plot of land, admeasuring 200 Square Yards, situated at Lajpat Nagar II, New Delhi - 110 024 and proportionate undivided, indivisible and impartible ownership rights in the free hold land underneath the said property and bounded as under: East: Road, West: Property No.K-81/A, North: Entrance of the property/common staircase/Remaining portion of the same property interconnected. With shop on front side of the same owner, South : Service Lane.

Place : Lajpat Nagar-New Delhi, Date : 16-11-2017
Authorised Officer

Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts

Trimshatam Pratishtha Mahotsav

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Shri Prasoos Joshi
Eminent Lyricist and Chairman CBFC,
Presided over by
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Eminent Play Writer and Director

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Release of DVD on "Devnarayan"
Release of Bhinn Shadaj Series DVDs
Release of film on Masroor Temple Complex titled
"Agyat Shilpi" Directed by Amit Dutta.
Screening Film Agyat Shilpi

Date: 19th November 2017
Time: 3.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.

Venue: Auditorium, C.V. Mess Building, Janpath, New Delhi
website: www.ignca.nic.in; Email: igncacadarsana@gmail.com;
www.facebook.com/IGNCA; Twitter: @igncald
RSVP: +91-11-23388155 (9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.)
Nearest metro station : Central Secretariat, Gate no.2 and Janpath, gate no.1 and 4

All are cordially invited

THE HINDU

ON SUNDAY

SECTION 2



Hariri arrives in France after Saudi hostage rumours

page 3



Protesters want Mugabe to go, march to his residence in Harare

page 3



A checklist for home owners while selling their property

page 9

Online exhibition shows hidden depths of Picasso's *Guernica*

page 14



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IN BRIEF



Russian official proposed Trump-Putin meeting

A Russian official, claimed to be acting at the behest of Vladimir Putin, had offered in 2016 to arrange a meeting between the Russian President and Donald Trump. An advocate of Christian causes endorsed Trump campaign aides saying Alexander Torshin, deputy governor of the Russian central bank who has been linked both to Russia's security services and organised crime, had proposed a meeting. But Jared Kushner, son-in-law of the President, rejected it, said two persons who have seen Kushner's message

FOREIGN PAGE 4

In Kashmir, militancy is a black hole that sucks in young stars

Despite security operations, educated youth are increasingly joining ultras

PEERZADA ASHIQ SRINAGAR

Atimaad Fayaz, a resident of Shopian's Amchipora, was pursuing his M.Phil. in Urdu when he was reported missing on November 3. Now, he is believed to have joined the militant group Hizbul Mujahideen.

According to a senior counter-insurgency official, "Fayaz has no history of participating in any major street protests. He is known to be a studious and religious person. [However] A preliminary investigation suggests he has joined the Hizbul Mujahideen." The development has left Fayaz's neighbours equally surprised.

But Fayaz is not the only educated Kashmiri to turn to

militancy. Despite major successes against local militant networks in Kashmir in 'Operation All-Out' - launched in May this year - police data suggest that around 10 local youth join the militant groups every month in the Valley. And more recently, many of them are educated youngsters from affluent families.

Varying backgrounds
The fresh recruits are drawn from varied backgrounds - one is an M.Phil., another an ace footballer who was a regular at government-run sports events, and third a young matriculate student, according to the police.

A science student, Umar Ganai, of the Islamic Univer-



Majid Khan who surrendered to the police. AFP

sity of Science and Technology, Awantipora, in south Kashmir, and an engineering student Eisa Fazili of the Pir Panchal Valley-based Baba Ghulam Shah University, continue to elude the security forces - Ganai since November 2016 and Fazili since August this year.

According to police records, even those enrolled in varsities in other parts of the country are drawn to militancy.

Sabzar Ahmad Bhat, 32, who was pursuing a Ph.D in Botany from Jamia Millia University, has been underground since October 2016. The family was preparing to send him to New Delhi. However, he was sucked into the protests triggered by the killing of Hizbul Mujahideen commander Burhan Wani.

SUNDAY SPECIAL

Many students-turned-militants have already been killed this year. In August, 22-year-old Irfan Sheikh, a resident of Maldera-Zainapora, Shopian, and a graduate of the Islamic University of Science and Technology with B.Tech in Food Technology, was killed in Awneera village. Sheikh's friend said his discussions always revolved around the "unresolved Kashmir dispute and

state of Muslims."

Militant handlers are finding the Valley a happy hunting ground for recruits, as it grows with little signs of a political resolution to the unrest.

Turning point?

The return of recent recruit Majid Khan, who was fast becoming a poster boy of militancy, is a departure from the trend. His ailing mother's viral online video and social media appeals helped the police ensure his surrender on November 17.

An ace footballer and B.Com student, Khan was seen leading his friend Yawar Nisar's funeral earlier this year. Yawar, a class 12 student, had turned to the gun and was killed on August 4. Khan was photographed kissing the forehead of his slain friend. The day

he went missing this month, he went about his normal routine. "By the evening," said a police officer, "Majid had joined the Lashkar-e-Taiba."

A picture on the social media circulated last week, showed Khan toting an AK-47. "Why look up at the stars when the biggest star is me," read his last Facebook post before he joined the LeT.

A police official said his surrender paves the way for more armed youth to return to the mainstream. "I hope many more will follow Khan," said a counter-insurgency official in Anantnag.

According to J&K's Director General of Police S.P. Vaid, 65 youth have been weaned away from the militants' ranks this year.

However, the security agencies are worried by the

fresh militancy graph, with "sustained militant recruitment" this year despite Operation All-out. Around 73 local militants have been killed in the operation, police data show. On the flip side, according to the data, over 50 locals have joined militancy since July.

"On an average of around 10 militants [join] a month" mainly in the Pulwama-Awantipora-Tral belt and the Shopian-Kulgam-Anantnag belt. "Half of them have been killed," the police said.

About 105 local youth joined the militants this year. "Over 150 locals continue to remain active, mainly in south Kashmir," said the police.

Worryingly, the number of militants' remains by and large the same as in May when Operation All-out was launched.

Tunnel vision



Work in progress: Workers constructing one of the two tunnels in the Kuthiran hills in Thrissur district of Kerala on the Salem-Kochi National Highway 544. The 965-metre structure is part of the six-laning of the stretch. ■K. K. MUSTAFAH

Now, TMC turns to cows ahead of panchayat polls

Opposition sceptical as party plans to distribute bovines to rural households

SOUMYA DAS KOLKATA

In an apparent bid to counter the BJP, the Trinamool Congress (TMC) government in West Bengal has unveiled a fresh strategy with the cow at its centre. The government will distribute cows to households in rural areas ahead of the panchayat polls.

Minister of Animal Resources and Development Swati Deb Nath said the scheme had nothing to do with politics and rural elections but was aimed at increasing the "production of milk" in the State.

"The sole purpose of distributing cows is increasing



The scheme is aimed at increasing milk production in the State, says Minister

the milk production in the State. It has to be kept in mind that we will distribute heifers (young cows) which will not only boost milk production but will also increase the income of rural self-help groups," Mr. Deb-

nath told *The Hindu*. Initially the government will distribute more than 1,000 cows across the State, the Minister said.

While the Minister did not specify a date or district from where the project will be rolled out, TMC sources said it's likely to be kicked off from Birbhum, where BJP and TMC cadre often get into serious confrontation.

A section of TMC however, leaders told *The Hindu* that the scheme was "to counter politics of polarisation" of the BJP and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). "It is not only to counter BJP and RSS' politics of polarisation, but also to

consolidate the Hindu vote base," said a TMC party official, who left the BJP to join TMC in 2016.

'Political bankruptcy'
Opposition parties have dubbed the move "vote bank politics." "It shows nothing but the political bankruptcy of the TMC, said Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M) Polit Bureau member and MP Md. Salim. "Now it has no other option but to make an issue out of cow," he added. State BJP President Dilip Ghosh said, "it is damage control tactics" of TMC as its politics of appeasement "had alienated people of the State."

NIA team visits slain RSS leader's house in Ludhiana

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

A National Investigation Agency (NIA) team on Saturday visited the residence of the slain RSS leader Ravinder Gosain in Ludhiana and the area where he was killed last month, an official said.

The 12-member team, headed by an officer of the rank of Inspector General of Police, reached Ludhiana on Friday evening. During the visit to Gosain's residence on Saturday morning, the team recorded the statements of his family.

The team met Ludhiana

Police Commissioner Shoke and a three-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) led by Deputy Commissioner of Police Gagan Aji Singh, who was formed by the Punjab government to probe the case, sources said.

"The State police shared all details of the case with NIA team," the official added.

The NIA took over the probe from the police following a Home Ministry order on Thursday, nearly a month after the State decided to hand over the investigation, and the police claim of the role of

Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence in the murder.

The NIA re-registered the case under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, the Indian Penal Code and the Arms Act. On October 17, Gosain, 60, was returning home after attending a morning drill (RSS Shakha) when he was attacked near his house. He died on the spot as the attackers fled.

Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh handed over the probe to the NIA and announced ₹5 lakh in compensation to Gosain's family and a government job to one of his progeny.

Design contest for rail stations' makeover

PRESS SECRETARY OF INDIA NEW DELHI

An international design contest will decide the new look of three railway stations in the country - Nagpur, Haridwar, Gwalior in Uttar Pradesh and Bhubaneswar in Odisha.

The Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Limited (IRSDC), mandated with developing new railway stations and redeveloping existing ones, has called for the competition to develop the stations according to international standards. "This is the first time that we have moved from the normal process of hiring

architects and giving them three concepts for our projects for redevelopment. Now, we will get multiple concepts and thus have a wider scope," S.K. Lohia, Managing Director and Chief Executive of IRSDC, said.

The competition, open to architects and students from both India and abroad, will get the help of Indian embassies to facilitate entries from across the world. While the architects will compete in two stages, the winner in the students group will be declared based on their design ideas in the first stage.

It has white flowers, but a covetous heart

Parasitic plant found in Nagaland has no chlorophyll of its own, survives by stealing food from its host

SHIV SAHAY SINGH KOLKATA

Scientists have discovered a new species of parasitic flowering plant that has no chlorophyll, and survives by feeding on another species of plant that does (chlorophyll helps a plant make its own food using sunlight).

The species, named *Gleadovia konyakianorum*, in honour of the Konyak tribe of Nagas, was identified during an exploration earlier this year near Tobu town of Mon district in eastern Nagaland.

"It is a holoparasite [complete parasite] that derives its entire nutritional requirement from the host

plant, which is a Strobilanthes species. The plant was found in the semi-evergreen forest at an altitude of 1,500-1,600 metres," said Dip Kumar Roy, a scientist with the Botanical Survey of India (BSI).

Along with Mr. Roy, two others - N Odoyo, also from the BSI, and a Russian scientist, Leonid V. Averyanov - published the details of the new species in the journal *Phytotaxa*.

Though it has no chlorophyll, the plant has a vascular system and extracts its nutrition from the host plant with the help of a haustorium, the scientists said. A haustorium is a



Gleadovia konyakianorum is a root parasite that grows up to 10 cm in height and bears white, tubular flowers

specialised structure with which plant parasites attach themselves to the host plants and derive nutrition.

Gleadovia konyakianorum

is a root parasite that grows up to 10 cm in height, and bears white, tubular flowers. Interestingly, this is only the fourth species from the genus *Gleadovia* to be found in the world. The other three are *Gleadovia banerjiana* (discovered in Manipur), *Gleadovia mupinensis* (found in China) and *Gleadovia ruborum* (discovered in Uttarakhand and also reported elsewhere).

The white flowering parasite was found in a group of 15-20 plants, and since the species hasn't been reported elsewhere, scientists have described its status as 'data deficient' as per International Union for Conservation of Nature

(IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species criteria. "Parasitic plants are often referred to as curious plants, as they steal their nutritional needs from the host. Not only are they rare, they are crucial links in the plant kingdom that attest to Darwin's theory of survival of the fittest," said Rajib Gogoi, a scientist from BSI's central national herbarium.

Plant parasites can be stem or root parasites. Common stem parasites in India are *Loranthus* sp, on Mango trees, and *Cuscuta reflexa*, a climber. Among root parasites is *Sapria himalayana*, found in Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya.

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UNICEF says open defecation poses a serious threat to children's health: India has the world's highest number of diarrhoeal deaths among children under five. Those who survive are prone to malnutrition and other infections. Here are two toilet stories, from a slum near Pune, and a district in Uganda on how policy can make change.

The tiny toilets miracle

JAYANT SRIRAM

Yasin Shaikh runs a small tailoring shop in Balajinagar, a slum area near the Maharashtra Industrial Development Complex in Pimpri-Chinchwad, Pune's satellite city. Like many structures in the area, his residence is his workplace, and it has grown and morphed over time. His family used to live in a small room at the back; now it has shifted up to a new room on the first floor and rented it out.

The room at the back is small – barely 7 ft x 15 ft – but miraculously, adjacent to one wall is a new addition: its own toilet. It's just big enough for an Indian-style commode, bucket and tap, but in pristine condition, with a proper door and blue tiling running half-way up the walls.

If you had told Mr. Shaikh two or three years ago that this room could hold an individual toilet, he would have scoffed, and not just because of the size constraints.

"There were no sewer lines here," he says. "We thought the only option was to use the public toilets in blocks." Or, like many in the area tired of queuing up and the sub-standard sanitation of these blocks, simply defecate in the open.

Mr. Shaikh could be speaking for the residents of any of the 1,500 homes in Balajinagar – mostly all as small or smaller, and equally haphazardly built – which now have toilets in what would have seemed to be impossibly restricted spaces.

Additional investments
Each one seems like a highly innovative use of space, and like it could only fit that one home.

Not surprising: most of them were designed and constructed by local masons



A perfect fit: Building new infrastructure in slums is arduous. It needs strong support from municipal authorities and space to make basic improvements. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

who know the lay of the houses and have a sense of where each one would best fit.

The initiative has been facilitated by Pune-based Shelter Associates, which gets the process started by providing residents with the basic materials, from cement and tiling to the door and their part of the partnership, the residents take care of the rest.

"We've noticed that over 80% of the beneficiaries have made additional investments, aside from the basic material that we provide," says Pratima Joshi, founder and Executive Director of Shelter.

Ms. Joshi founded Shelter in 1993, originally working on both housing and sanitation, but focussing on the latter in the last few years. Aside from the Pune area, it has implemented projects in cities across Maharashtra. The project funding now comes from corporate CSR.

The NGO starts each project by getting the lay of the land. This may not sound

unique, but what makes it different is the extensive use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping.

Ms. Joshi and her co-founders, all architects, found that much of the data available with the local bodies was second-hand, and often entered manually on extensive spreadsheets, making it hard to understand and access.

In 1997-98, they started using GIS software, then used mostly by the Department of Defence and Department of Forests, and began tweaking it to map poverty and public infrastructure. Next came household surveys, to understand how infrastructure connected homes and families.

Then, all the findings are integrated on to a GIS platform overlaid on a Google Earth map. (In 2009, Shelter was featured as a Google Earth Hero, an organisation that had made innovative use of the platform for urban development.)

"Once we finish the GIS mapping," Ms. Joshi says,

"we take this data to the government and to make a case for what needs to be done in terms of improving infrastructure."

Building new infrastructure in slums is often arduous, needing huge support from the municipal authorities, and the space to make basic improvements. Shelter works with both elected municipal representatives and engineers from the municipal corporation to see where and how new lines can be laid.

The actual installation can take time, but once it's done, the process speeds up. "Once materials are delivered to their doorsteps, the toilets usually get built in 10 days," Ms. Joshi says.

When Shelter started working in Pimpri-Chinchwad, only 30% of its slums had sewerage infrastructure; now that is over 50%.

Shelter has recently begun to work with the Thane and Navi Mumbai municipal corporations, after officials, having seen its results, invited it to implement pilot projects.

The power of shame

JYOTI SHELAR

Twinomujuni Enock's wife is 'more pleasant' with him, he says, and that makes him happy. The 45-year-old farmer grows Irish potatoes and pineapples in his one-acre farm in Kabale, in western Uganda. He sells his produce in the neighbouring sub-county, or if he's lucky, to tourists wandering by on their way to Lake Bunyonyi or to Bwindi Impenetrable National Park to spot mountain gorillas. He makes around 100,000 shillings (around ₹1,800; UGX 1 = around INR 0.02) a month. Nothing much has changed in his life or fortunes in the past few years to affect his spouse's equanimity. Except for one thing: "I built a latrine at home."

In Kabale, most residents didn't have modern toilets in their properties. The men would use the fields, while their families used the areas around their homes. To get rid of the smell, women traditionally burnt banana leaves and then cleaned up the area.

After Mr. Enock built the latrine – a tiny hole in the ground in a thin-walled cabin behind the house which cost him UGX 1,50,000 – his wife doesn't have to do that any more. But, Mr. Enock confesses, of love for his family wasn't his only motivation: he feared arrest or a UGX40,000 fine and worse, public shaming.

"Many other farmers were being shamed," he says. "I didn't want to be humiliated. In a way, I was left with no other choice."

He admits, though, that he now takes much less time off work, as his seven children fall sick much less often.

Uganda has a population of 42 million, almost as many as Odisha. The country loses 33 children every



The better way: A social worker explains the importance of toilets to residents of Kabale, in Uganda, with posters. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

day to diarrhoea (similar all-India figures are 328). Kabale is mostly a rural district, over 400 kilometres away from the country's capital, Kampala.

Incomes aren't high – the average Ugandan rural household earns around UGX 3,03,000, less than half an urban household's UGX 7,03,000 (as per Uganda Bureau of Statistics figures for 2016-17).

But this little district with a population of around 200,000 (less than that of the Mumbai suburb of Andheri) in 1,18,878 households, has succeeded in getting 97% of them to build toilets, becoming the first in the country to declare itself open-defecation-free. Seven other districts now follow the same programme.

"The credit goes to the harsh measures we took," says Namanya Oliver, district health officer of Kabale. First, a field survey identified households which did not have latrines. Next, offending households were sensitised to the dangers of

poor sanitation, then given around three months to build a toilet. If they didn't, the man of the house was arrested, and faced a choice between a fine of weeks in jail, or community service. "We also put their names in a book of shame," Mr. Oliver says. "We even go on to show to announce names of people found defecating in the open or who fail to have a latrine at home."

In the last two years, 64 households have been fined, and hundreds featured on the list.

Not everyone uses them
The battle hasn't been won yet, though. Ensuring that everyone uses their latrine is the next challenge: actual usage is just 54%.

Allen Saturday, 41 and a mother of six, is happy the family has had a toilet since 2016. "Who likes cleaning all that up," she asks. "I did it for so many years, then my daughters helped me." But she isn't sure about her husband; he's out in their fields

all day, so he must be doing his business out there.

"We are now focussing on behavioural change," says Munduni Samuel, a government health assistant.

"We insist on making it a habit to defecate only twice, morning and night time. Our message emphasises that those who defecate more than twice are ill. We tell them to follow this for three days and the body will get used to it."

Officials are spreading awareness about diarrhoeal deaths among children, worm infestations, and other results of poor sanitation. They are also promoting simple hand-washing techniques, like a soap bottle and water can hanging from a wooden frame; the can tips over slightly when a stick, connected to it with string, is stepped on.

They teach school children to use this *jugaad* hands-free handwasher, and through them, the adults.

Mr. Oliver says the district aims to achieve 100% latrine usage in a couple of years.

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d) Gopalkrishna Gokhale

Hint: Check out 'Despatches' page in section II of today's edition.

SMS your answer in the below format:
THOS<space>Name<space>Age<space>City<space>Area pincode<space>Option a, b, c, or d to 080828 07690

*T&C apply.

ELSEWHERE



Jesse Jackson has Parkinson's disease
CHICAGO
American civil rights leader Jesse Jackson announced on Friday that he has Parkinson's disease. The 76-year-old Baptist Minister, who once worked with Martin Luther King Jr. for the cause of equal rights for African Americans, said it has become "increasingly difficult to perform routine tasks." AFP

Saudi recalls envoy to Berlin over comments
RIYADH
Saudi Arabia has recalled its ambassador to Berlin in protest over comments made by the German Foreign Minister perceived as suggesting Lebanon's Prime Minister Saad Hariri had been held against his will in Riyadh, Saudi state media said on Saturday. AFP

Can't deliver life-saving aid to Yemen capital: MSF
CAIRO
International aid group Doctors Without Borders (MSF) said it had not been able to deliver life-saving medical and humanitarian assistance to the people in dire need in the Yemeni capital because of a blockade by a Saudi Arabia-led coalition fighting Yemen's Shia rebels. AP

Chinese, N.Korean envoys discuss regional concerns
SHANGHAI
A senior Chinese envoy discussed regional concerns with officials in Pyongyang on Saturday, North Korean state media said, as the U.S. presses China to help ease the standoff over the North's nuclear weapons. The visit by Song Tao is the first by a senior Chinese envoy for more than a year. AFP

Protesters march to Mugabe's abode

Zimbabwe soldiers block thousands of demonstrators; country prepares to oust its leader of 37 years

REUTERS
AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
HARARE
Zimbabweans celebrating the expected fall of President Robert Mugabe began marching towards his residence in the capital Harare on Saturday, live television pictures showed, as the country prepared to oust its leader of the last 37 years.

Zimbabwe soldiers blocked thousands of protesters as they tried to march towards the official residence, an AFP correspondent on the scene said. Earlier in the day, tens of thousands of people flooded the streets of the capital singing, dancing and hugging soldiers in an outpouring of elation as Mr. Mugabe's rule comes to an end. In scenes reminiscent of the downfall of Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu in 1989, men, women and children ran alongside the armoured cars and troops



Loud and clear: A protester holds up a banner among crowds marching on the streets of Harare, demanding the departure of President Robert Mugabe on Saturday. AFP

that stepped in this week to oust the only ruler Zimbabwe has known since independence in 1980.

The 93-year-old Mr. Mugabe has been under

house arrest in his lavish 'Blue Roof' compound in Harare, from where he has watched support from his Zanu-PF party, security services and people evaporate

in less than three days.

Emotions ran over on Harare's streets as Zimbabweans spoke of a second liberation for the former British colony, alongside their dreams of

political and economic change after two decades of deepening repression and hardship. "These are tears of joy," Frank Mutsindikwa, 34, told Reuters, holding aloft the Zimbabwean flag. "I've been waiting all my life for this day. Free at last. We are free at last."

Shock waves in Africa

Mr. Mugabe's downfall is likely to send shock waves across Africa, where a number of strongmen, from Uganda's Yoweri Museveni to Democratic Republic of Congo's Joseph Kabila, are facing mounting pressure to step aside. The secretary-general of Zimbabwe's War Veterans Association, Victor Matemadanda, called on those at an anti-Mugabe rally to march on Mr. Mugabe's residence, and live television footage showed hundreds of protesters marching in that direction.

Hariri in Paris after Saudi 'hostage' rumours

Macron brokering Lebanon solution

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PARIS
Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri arrived in France on Saturday from Saudi Arabia, where his shock resignation announcement two weeks ago sparked accusations that he was being held there against his will.



Emmanuel Macron, right, and Saad Hariri in Paris on Saturday. AFP

Mr. Hariri is in Paris at the invitation of France's President Emmanuel Macron, who is attempting to help broker a solution to a political crisis that has raised fears over Lebanon's fragile democracy. **1-Day celebrations** Lebanese President Michel Aoun said he had spoken by telephone to Mr. Hariri, who said he would be back in Lebanon for Independence Day celebrations on Wednesday. Mr. Macron greeted Mr.

Hariri warmly as he arrived for talks at the Elysee Palace hours after flying in from Riyadh with his wife.

Their eldest son Houssam was due to join the couple for lunch with Macron at the palace.

But the Hariris arrived in Paris without their younger children - Loulwa and Abdelaziz, born in 2001 and 2005 - who are staying in Riyadh "for their school exams", a source close to the premier said.

Russia again vetoes bid to renew Syria gas attacks probe

U.S. envoy Haley says Moscow is 'wasting' UN council's time

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
UNITED NATIONS
Russia cast a second veto in as many days at the United Nations Security Council on Friday to block the renewal of a probe to identify the perpetrators of chemical weapons attacks in Syria.

A draft resolution put forward by Japan would have extended the UN-led Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM) for 30 days to allow time for negotiations on a wider compromise.

But Russia used its veto power to prevent adoption after 12 council members voted in favour of the measure, effectively ending the mission. China abstained,



Vasily Nebenzia

while Bolivia voted no. It was the 11th time that Russia has used its veto power to stop council action targeting its ally Syria.

"Russia is wasting our time," U.S. Ambassador Nikki Haley told the council after the vote. "Russia has no interest in finding ground

with the rest of this council to save the JIM."

'Simple and shameful' "Russia will not agree to any mechanism that might shine a spotlight on the use of chemical weapons by its ally, the Syrian regime. It's as simple and shameful as that," she said.

A separate Russian draft resolution that called for changes to the JIM failed to garner enough support, with just four votes in favour.

"Any extension of the JIM's mandate for us is possible only provided fundamental flaws in its work are rectified," said Russian Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia.

Finance Minister has not quit: Pak.

PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA
ISLAMABAD
Pakistan Finance Minister Ishaq Dar has not resigned, the Pakistan government said on Saturday, despite reports that the cabinet had decided to step down after his indictment in the Panama Papers scandal.

The National Accountability Court had indicted Mr. Dar on September 27 in a corruption case but he continued to serve as Finance Minister amid strong criticism from Opposition parties.

Media channels earlier reported that Mr. Dar had sent resignation to PM Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, forcing the government to clarify the confusion.

19 held after clashes in Sri Lanka

At least 6 injured in Sinhalese-Muslim violence, say police

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO
Following violent clashes between Sinhalese and Muslims living near Galle, Sri Lanka's Special Task Force was deployed to the southern coastal town Friday night, the government said.

According to locals, a road accident involving Sinhalese and Muslim persons led to the clash, after certain groups in both communities reportedly confronted each other over it.

Additional police battalions, the Special Task Force and the anti-riot squad brought the situation under control, said Law and Order Minister Sagala Ratnayaka in a statement issued on Saturday. He warned of "stern

action" against those attempting to resort to racist propaganda, "irrespective of their political and political affiliations".

Police have arrested 19 people in connection with the violence, in which six people were injured. They were admitted to a hospital in Galle, located about 5 km south of Colombo.

'Situation stabilised'

Hilmy Ahmed, vice-president of the Muslim Council of Sri Lanka, an umbrella body of Muslim civil society organisations, said: "We were worried that the clashes might lead to another 'Aluthgama', but thankfully the situation stabilised," he said, referring to the anti-Muslim riots in 2014 in

Aluthgama town, some 60 km away. "Muslim youth must take part in the violence on Friday," he said.

Over the past few years, Sri Lanka has witnessed a growing incidence of hate speech by hardline Buddhist groups targeting the minority Muslims, who make up nearly 10% of the island's population.

In June, the Muslim Council reported over 20 anti-Muslim attacks across the country.

While no major incidents have been reported in the last few months, social media attacks and intimidation of Muslims continued to spread fear in the community, Mr. Ahmed said.

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ELSEWHERE



Sen. Al Franken apologises for groping

WASHINGTON
Sen. Al Franken has written a letter to the House of Representatives who accused him of groping, kissing and fondling her, saying he is sorry for his actions and apologises. Ms. Tweeden, a radio host, wrote the letter on Friday while appearing on the TV talk show "The View." AP

Iran asks France not to interfere in missile plans

BEIRUT
France should not interfere in Iran's missile programme, Ali Akbar Velayati, the chief adviser to Iran's supreme leader, said on Saturday according to state media. French President Emmanuel Macron said on Friday that Tehran should be less aggressive in the region and should clarify the strategy around its ballistic missile programme. REUTERS

Egypt opens Gaza border for three days

GAZA CITY
Egypt opened its largely sealed border with Gaza on Saturday for the first time since a reconciliation agreement saw the Palestinian Authority take control. A Palestinian official at the Rafah crossing said it had opened at 0700 GMT and was expected to stay open for three days. AFP

U.K. to consider taxing single-use plastics

LONDON
Britain's finance department said on Saturday it expected Finance Minister Hammond to announce next week to include a consultation on taxing and charging environmentally damaging single-use plastics.

Russian Official tried to broker a Putin-Trump meet

The proposal in 2016 by Aleksander Torshin was rejected by Kushner, says email

MATT APUZZO
MATTHEW ROSENBERG
WASHINGTON

A senior Russian official who claimed to be acting at the behest of President Vladimir Putin of Russia tried in May 2016 to arrange a meeting between Mr. Putin and Donald Trump, according to several people familiar with the matter.

The news of this reached the Trump campaign in a very circuitous way. An advocate for Christian causes emailed campaign aides saying that Aleksander Torshin, the deputy governor of the Russian central bank who has been linked both to Russia's security services and organised crime, had proposed a meeting between Mr. Putin and Mr. Trump. The subject line of the email, turned over to Senate investigators, read, "Russian backdoor overture and dinner invite," according to one person who has seen the message. The proposal made its way to the senior levels of the Trump campaign before Jared Kushner, the President's son-in-law and a top campaign aide, sent a message to top campaign officials rejecting it, according to two people who have seen Mr. Kushner's message.

Though the meeting never happened, Mr. Torshin's request is the latest example of how the Russian government intensified its effort to contact and influence the Trump campaign last year as Mr. Trump was closing in on the Republican presidential nomination.

It came just weeks after a self-described intermediary for the Russian government told a Trump campaign aide, George Papadopoulos, that the Russians had "dirt" on



Closely watched: U.S. President Donald Trump and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin in Vietnam earlier this year.

Mr. Trump's rival, Hillary Clinton, in the form of "thousands of emails." Soon after Mr. Torshin's outreach fizzled, Donald Trump Jr., the President's eldest son, arranged a meeting at Trump Tower after having been told that a Russian lawyer with ties to the Kremlin would bring damaging information about Ms. Clinton to the meeting.

High-ranking official
The latest disclosure about Mr. Torshin, who is a leading figure in Mr. Putin's party, United Russia, shows the direct involvement of a high-ranking Russian official in the Kremlin's outreach to the campaign.

The overture to the Trump campaign was first reported by CNN. *The New York Times* confirmed new details, including Mr. Torshin's involvement and his claim to be acting on Mr. Putin's behalf. In a letter on Thursday, the Senate Judiciary Committee accused Mr.

Kushner with withholding a "backdoor overture" email, an accusation Mr. Kushner's lawyers denied. In a letter to the Senate Judiciary Committee on Friday, Abigail D. Lowell, a lawyer for Mr. Kushner, said that the date had been looked for all documents related to Mr. Kushner's contacts with the Russians and that he had responded. "Again, this was not any contact, call or meeting in which Mr. Kushner was involved," Mr. Lowell said. "He is forwarded this long chain later on."

Mr. Torshin's proposal is explained in a May 2016 email from Rick Clay, an advocate for conservative Christian causes, to Rick Dearborn, a Trump campaign aide. Mr. Clay was organising a dinner in Louisville, Kentucky, honouring wounded veterans, and Mr. Trump was scheduled to be in the city for the National Rifle Association's annual convention. In the email to Mr. Dearborn, Mr. Clay said

he hoped that Mr. Trump would attend the dinner, and he also included details about the overture from Mr. Torshin.

The email said the dinner would be a chance for Mr. Trump to meet Mr. Torshin, who is a life member of the NRA in the United States and a vocal advocate for gun rights in Russia, according to three people who have seen the email.

The email said the Russians believed they had "shared Christian values" with the Trump campaign. Mr. Torshin has established ties to Russia's security establishment. He served in the upper house of the Russian Parliament and also sat on the country's National Anti-Terrorism Committee, a separate government council that includes the director of the Federal Security Service, known as FSB, and the Ministers of Defence, Interior and Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Clay said in a telephone interview Friday that while the request seemed "very thin", he did not think at the time that anyone in the Russian government was trying to interfere with the election. Mr. Dearborn forwarded the email to top campaign aides, including Paul Manafort, Rick Gates and Mr. Kushner, according to two people who have seen the exchange. Mr. Kushner replied that Mr. Dearborn should decline, saying people often claimed to be acting as intermediaries for powerful figures just to gain access to the campaign.

Mr. Clay said Mr. Dearborn sent him a response rejecting the idea.

"He told me it was inappropriate," Clay said. "I agreed with him." NYT

Trump reinstates curbs on elephant trophy imports

Says he will take a call after reviewing all conservation facts

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump on Friday put on hold a decision taken by his administration earlier in the week to allow American hunters to bring trophy parts of elephants hunted in Zimbabwe and Zambia.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) had concluded that allowing the import of such material would help the cause of conservation, while overturning an Obama-era decision to ban them. American hunters can legally bring trophies of hunted elephants from South Africa and Namibia as of now.

"Put big game trophy decision on hold until such time as I review all conservation facts. Under study for years," Mr. Trump posted on Twitter. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said in a statement earlier that he and the President "talked and both believe that conservation and healthy herds are critical". "As a result, in a manner compliant with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations, the issuing of permits is being put on hold as the decision is being reviewed," he said.

Imports of elephant parts from Zimbabwe and Zambia were banned after the Obama administration con-

cluded that these countries were unable to establish that hunting was helping conservation of African elephants that are listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act.

Licence fees

The U.S. has argued that the large amounts paid in licence fees helped conservation efforts.

Explaining its decision to lift the ban, the FWS had said it has "determined that the hunting and management programmes for African elephants in Zimbabwe and Zambia will enhance the survival of the species in the wild".

U.S. could close PLO office

Move comes after Abbas called for ICC probe against Israel

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON

The Trump administration has put the Palestinians on notice that it will shutter their office in Washington unless they've entered serious peace talks with Israel, U.S. officials said, potentially giving President Donald Trump more leverage as he seeks an elusive peace deal.

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson has determined that the Palestinians ran afoul of an obscure provision in a U.S. law that says the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO)'s mission must close if the Palestinians try to get the International Criminal Court (ICC) to prosecute Israelis for crimes against Palestinians.

A State Department official said that in September, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas crossed that line by calling on the ICC to

investigate and prosecute Israel.

The legal provision says that the U.S. can't allow the Palestinians to have an office if they try to "influence or determine by their actions to initiate a judicially authorised investigation, or to actively support such an investigation, that subjects Israeli nationals to investigation for alleged crimes against Palestinians."

90-day grace period

Mr. Trump now has 90 days to consider whether the Palestinians are in "direct and meaningful negotiations with Israel". The official said it was unclear whether the U.S. might close the office before the 90-day period expires, but said the mission remains open at least for now.

Even if the office closes, the U.S. said it wasn't cutting

off negotiations with the Palestinians and was still focused on "a comprehensive peace agreement between the Israelis and the Palestinians".

The State Department official said in an e-mail that "this measure should in no way be seen as a signal that the U.S. is backing off those efforts."

Mr. Abbas said in his speech at the UN General Assembly in September that the Palestinians had "called on the ICC to open an investigation and to prosecute Israeli officials for their involvement in settlement activities and aggressions against our people".

The President is allowed to waive the requirement only if he certifies to Congress "that the Palestinians have entered into direct and meaningful negotiations with Israel".

Caracas ex-Mayor reaches Spain after fleeing house arrest

Ledezma says there is a 'government plan' against him

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MADRID

The former Mayor of Caracas, a staunch opponent of Venezuela's President Nicolás Maduro, arrived in Madrid early on Saturday after escaping house arrest and fleeing to Colombia.

Antonio Ledezma, 62, managed to cross the border on Friday, saying he would now help organise resistance to Mr. Maduro's increasingly authoritarian rule which has left millions facing food and medicine shortages.

From Bogotá, he flew to the Spanish capital where he was met by his wife and his two daughters as well as former Colombian President Andrés Pastrana.

Jailed in 2015

A lawyer by profession, Mr. Ledezma was arrested and jailed in February 2015 over allegations that he was plotting to overthrow the President, and had been under



Antonio Ledezma at Bogotá airport on Friday, before he left for Spain. AFP

house arrest since August following surgery.

"Venezuela is not at the edge of an abyss, it's at the bottom of the abyss: it is collapsing," he said on arriving at Madrid's Barajas airport.

Mr. Ledezma said he plans to travel the world to demonstrate "the hope of all Venezuelans to finish with this regime, this dictator-

ship, and accused Mr. Maduro's government of "colluding with drug traffickers".

He said on Friday that he had fled Caracas because Venezuelan military and intelligence officials had informed him of a "government plan" against him, though he provided no details.

Economic crisis

Oil-rich but cash-poor Venezuela is facing a deepening political and economic crisis as Mr. Maduro has moved to marginalise opposition forces, which control the country's legislature, and stifle independent media.

This month, the government signed a deal with Russia to restructure foreign debt of some \$150 billion after it was hit hard by falling oil prices and sanctions imposed by Washington, which has labelled Mr. Maduro a "dictator".

Raging inferno



Clouds of smoke: A large fire in a six-story building of New York City's Harlem neighbourhood on Friday caused its roof to collapse. Over 100 firefighters fought the inferno for hours. There was no immediate cause given. AP

Cambodian reporters charged with espionage

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PHNOM PENH

Two Cambodian journalists were charged on Saturday with spying for the United Kingdom following news reports of a London-based Radio Free Asia amid a sweeping government crackdown on dissent.

The reporters were detained on Tuesday night, days before Cambodia's main Opposition party was dissolved over allegations it conspired with the U.S. in a treason plot.

That case was blasted by Washington as baseless and decried by rights groups as hastening the country's descent into a de facto one-party state under Premier Hun Sen.

The ruling followed months of legal attacks aimed at silencing Mr. Hun Sen's political rivals, outspoken NGOs and independent media. Radio Free Asia was forced to shut its office after 20 years due to a series of threats.

The former RFA journalists - Oun Chhin and Yeang Sothearin - now face up to 15 years in jail for allegedly running an illegal media studio from a guest house in the capital, according to police.

After seeing "enough grounds, the prosecutor at the Phnom Penh Municipal Court decided to charge them with providing a foreign state information that is destructive to the national defence", said court spokesman Ly Sophana.

Hun Sen has been leaning heavily on anti-American rhetoric to justify the unprecedented clampdown on critics before elections in 2018 which he is now guaranteed to win.

His allegations of a U.S.-backed coup plot have sent relations with Washington into a tailspin.

On Friday, Washington demanded the immediate reversal of the ruling against the Opposition party, which it said had stripped next year's election of any legitimacy.

The Kochs are inching closer to becoming media moguls

The billionaire brothers plan to support a bid by magazine publisher Meredith Corp. for Time Inc., the owner of popular titles including TIME

SYDNEY EMBER
KENNETH P. VOGEL

Four years ago, Charles G. and David H. Koch seemed poised to control some of the U.S.'s biggest newspapers. Known for using their vast wealth and network of donors to advance their brand of libertarian-infused conservatism, the titans of Koch Industries explored buying the Tribune Co.'s eight newspapers, including *The Los Angeles Times* and *The Chicago Tribune*.

They ended up not making a bid, and in an interview with his hometown paper, *The Wichita Eagle*, Charles Koch suggested that Koch Industries was rethinking whether it was wise to enter such a troubled industry.

"There are tremendous changes going on in media,"

he said. "We're back at square one, analysing where is the most change, where are the best opportunities for new entrants to come in and add value?"

The answer, it appears, was the magazine business.

In a move that came to light on Wednesday, the Kochs have tentatively agreed to back an offer by magazine publisher Meredith Corp. for Time Inc., the owner of titles including *TIME*, *People* and *Sports Illustrated*. Koch Industries, the sprawling industrial conglomerate controlled by the two brothers, plans to support the deal.

Meredith and Time Inc. have discussed the details of a potential transaction over the last week and are hoping to announce a deal, should it occur, on the Monday after

Thanksgiving. Under the preliminary terms of Meredith's proposal, the company would pay \$18 to \$20 a share for Time Inc., people involved in the talks said.

Cash infusion

Meredith, the Iowa-based company behind popular monthly magazines like *Family Circle* and *Better Homes and Gardens*, has arranged for a \$600 million cash infusion from the Koch brothers through their private equity arm, Koch Equity Development, these people said. Under the terms of the proposal, Koch would receive preferred shares in the company.

According to people involved in the talks, Meredith has also lined up \$3 billion in financing from three banks: Citibank, Barclays, Credit



Many detractors: A protest against David Koch in New York City in June 2014. GETTY IMAGES

Suisse and Royal Bank of Canada. Meredith has been busy lately reviewing Time Inc.'s financials, which have become somewhat complicated, because the company

had been in the process of selling several magazines, including *Sunset* and *Golf* and a stake in *Essence*.

Meredith has indicated that it would acquire all of

Time Inc.'s properties, but was still seeking clarification about the status of those sales, these people said.

The Kochs have long tried to shape political discourse through their support of non-profit organisations, universities and think tanks. Beyond their flirtation with *Tribune*, they have expressed little interest in running a media company.

Passive investment

Some Koch allies suggested that the brothers' investment would be passive and would not give them any operational control over the company. These people said the Kochs saw a potential moneymaker in Time Inc., rather than a megaphone for advancing their free-market ideology.

Other Koch associates, however, surmised that the Kochs' involvement in the possible deal was partly driven by their desire to advance their views. Should Meredith succeed in acquiring Time Inc., Koch Industries would have a stake in a company with access to millions of online and print readers. "Knowing the Kochs, I think they'd have to see it as a business that could at the same time further their political interests," said Stanley S. Hubbard, a long-time associate of the brothers and a donor to their advocacy groups.

Although it now has a diminished role in the crowded landscape, *TIME* magazine, with its influential *Person of the Year* and *Time* 100 issues, still reaches a weekly paid audience of roughly 3 million. NY TIMES



GETTY IMAGES

SAO PAULO

Pirates of the Amazon: Rise of river gangs

While paddling a kayak down the muddy waters of a river in the Amazon region of Brazil, Emma Kelty, 43, crossed a clutch of heavily armed men floating about on their canoes. The British woman had been warned of pirates who she started her solitary journey in Peru in 2015. She ignored the gang and continued her journey that was supposed to cover the entire stretch of the Amazon. "My boat was stolen and I will be murdered. Cool," Kelty tweeted about the threat. The words came true and she could not finish the trip. Last month, she was shot at twice and her decapitated body dumped in the river by a gang of seven men, including three minors.

The incident sent a shiver through the expatriate community in Brazil. The Amazon is a favourite hunting ground of foreigners seeking thrill and adventure in the world's most diverse and dense ecosystem. Last week brought more bad news as an American couple and their two children vanished when a raft crossing the river was attacked by pirates. The family jumped from the raft when it came under attack and used a surfboard to escape. They hid in the woods for three days, surviving on insects and leaves. "They saw people looking for them. But they were not sure if they were policemen, pirates or local people. Out of fear, they decided to stay hidden," Vanessa Macedo, a local policewoman,

The number of pirate attacks in the Amazon region has increased four times from 50 in 2015 to over 200 in 2016. Both tourists and commercial vessels come under attack

told reporters after the family was found safe near a riverside village.

Before leaving for the U.S., the family recognised their three assailants. The police have issued arrest warrants and are combing the area for them, with little success so far.

The pirates have become a new headache for the police in Brazil, where the crime graph is spiralling as the economy continues to sink. Latest figures show that Brazil saw a 6.8% rise in its homicide rate in the first six months of 2017. Violence is on the rise across the country, especially in the northern parts, where the Amazon and its tributaries flow. These rivers – and tourism and trade happening on them – are the new targets of these pirates.

The pirates, according to the police, are organised gangs that have moved from the country's coasts to the rivers of the Amazon. Armed with AR 15 assault rifles, machine guns, VHF radio system and high-powered binoculars, these gangs mostly target vessels that transport fuel and electronics from the free trade zone of Manaus, the capital of Amazonas State. According to government estimates, companies transporting cargo through Amazon rivers lose up to 100 million reals (\$30 million) a year to these gangs.

Easy targets

According to police sources, the *modus operandi* of the pirates is simple. With small, fast boats, they surround big vessels at night, tie a rope and climb on the raft and take the stolen cargo to a larger boat, which is anchored near the rafts. "The pirates have sophisticated weapons and communication system, while we struggle for resources. The economic crisis has made it even worse with the government cutting down on our budgets," says a senior policeman from the region, speaking on condition of anonymity. "The number of pirate attacks in the region has increased four times from 50 in 2015 to over 200 in 2016. Now, they have turned to tourists, the easy targets."

With the news about attacks on tourists spreading, there are fears of a sharp dip in the number of travellers going to the region. That will be another blow to the small communities settled along the rivers who are dependent on tourists for survival. Already reeling under the economic crisis, these villages may give more recruits to the pirates if the government fails to address the livelihood crisis they face.



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GETTY IMAGES

LONDON

Perils of Britain's social housing

On the surface, the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (RBKC), the wealthy central London local council that is home to the luxury department store Harrods and the affluent neighbourhood of Notting Hill, appears the ideal place to live, with the highest median income (£1,40,000 a year) and highest life expectancy in Britain. However, dig a little deeper and things look different. In one part of the borough, child poverty levels are among the worst in Britain, with 58% of children living in poverty. While in one neighbourhood life expectancy is around 94 years for a man, another part of the borough, it has declined in the last 20 years. These are some of the statistics that feature in a detailed and highly critical report published this week, looking into conditions in Kensington and Chelsea, five months after a devastating fire tore through Grenfell Tower, the 24-storey public housing high-rise within the borough, killing 71 people. The tragedy occurred despite warnings from residents of their concerns about the maintenance of the building and the risks posed should a fire take hold, including the lack of an alarm system.

"Kensington and Chelsea is a microcosm of everything that has gone wrong in our country in the past few years," writes Labour MP Emma Dent Coad in her report, which contrasts the council's willingness to spend on what she describes as a host of vanity projects while penny-pinching when it came to social welfare and housing spend. "The proximity of huge wealth attracted by an overheated international property market unencumbered by taxes, alongside poverty so extreme that children and older people are suffering malnutrition, is a scandal that brings shame on our society in the 21st century London."

Broad-based inquiry

The Grenfell tragedy and the questions it raised continue to haunt British politics. In September, a government-commissioned inquiry opened into the tragedy, led by a former judge, Marti Moore Bick, which is examining everything from the construction and maintenance and management of the building to the response of the emergency services. However, some critics have argued that its reach does not go far enough – and that a far more

The Labour Party is pushing for the British government to set aside funds to install sprinklers in high-rises across the country in the coming budget

broad-based inquiry looking at the wider issue of social housing in Britain and issues such as racial prejudice need to be included. A separate review of building regulations and fire safety is also under way, with the Labour Party pushing for the government to set aside funds to install sprinklers in high-rises across the country in the coming budget.

Meanwhile, the government (and local authorities) has continued to face criticism over the speed of the response – a substantial number of families who lost their homes in the fire remain in temporary housing, while campaign group Justice4Grenfell has expressed concerns about the direction of the immigration amnesty offered to undocumented survivors of the fire, arguing it offered no "certainty, safety or security for traumatised survivors". Questions have also arisen about the limited distribution of charitable funds – to various organisations – by members of the public in the wake of the tragedy.

This week, another controversy surfaced as the Labour Party accused the Conservatives of insensitivity as a written survey in a wealthy ward in Kensington and Chelsea asked residents to rate the importance they accorded the Grenfell tragedy on a scale of 1 to 10. "Grenfell inquiry has barely got under way and the same group of politicians who have been in charge of the RBKC appear to be already brushing what happened under the carpet," tweeted Labour MP David Lammy.



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WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

TOKYO

The Indian in the Yasukuni Shrine

To the northwest of Tokyo's imperial palace, the Yasukuni Shrine is a 148-year old complex of memorials and cherry tree-dotted grounds, commemorating those who died in the service of Japan between 1869 and 1947.

It has emerged as the symbol of Japan's fraught relations with its neighbouring countries and its uncomfortable relationship with its Second World War history. Among the two million people buried there are 1,068 convicted war criminals. Some of these are categorised as "Class A" criminals and guilty of a special category of crimes against peace and humanity" by the 11-member team of justices from Allied countries that made up the 1946 Tokyo War Crimes Tribunal.

Visits to Yasukuni by senior Japanese politicians are viewed as provocations in neighbouring countries, in particular China and South Korea, as provocations, tantamount to a denial of war crimes. Japanese nationalists believe Yasukuni visits to be a just exercise of sovereignty, indicating a move on from what they consider to be an overly apologetic stance to the war. On the day this correspondent visited, there were scant traces of these bitter recriminations. A series of memorials dedicated to military horses, pigeon carriers and dogs charmed camera-wielding tourists. But the plaque attracting the tightest knots of visitors featured a large black and white photograph

Revisionists in Japan selectively quote Indian jurist Radha Binod Pal's dissenting judgment in the Second World War trial to 'absolve' Tokyo of war crimes

of an Indian judge: Radha Binod Pal.

In Japan, this Bengali jurist elicits the kind of recognition and reverence that other countries reserve for the likes of Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore. Biographical mini series about the judge are aired on Japanese TV, memorials to him have been erected in Tokyo and Kyoto, and books debating his legacy are published every few years. The average Indian would be hard-pressed to identify Justice Pal at all. Until the war, he was best known for his contributions to the Indian Income Tax Act, 1922. His international profile comes from his participation in, and eventual dissent from, the Tokyo War Crimes Tribunal.

Twenty-five of Japan's top wartime leaders were convicted by the tribunal of the new category of 'Class A' charges. Going against the grain of Allied judgment, Pal issued a 1,235-page dissent in which he rejected the creation of the 'Class A' category as *ex post facto* law. He further slammed the trials as the "sham employment of legal process for the satisfaction of a thirst for revenge". And he argued that the nuclear incineration of Hiroshima and Nagasaki should also be counted as major war crimes.

Procedural flaws

The Indian judge tends to be valorised by Japanese nationalists and historical revisionists who seek to deny Japan's wartime culpability. But in fact the jurist did not absolve Japan. His intention was rather to highlight the flaws in the legal process of the trial. Since all the judges were appointed by victor nations, the Indian justice thought the trial to be biased and motivated by revenge.

In his 2007 book on Pal, Takashi Nakajima, an Associate Professor at Hokkaido University's Public Policy School, criticises right-wing supporters of Pal for relying on out-of-context quotes from the dissenting judgment. Pal's dissent ran to a quarter of a million words, but Prof. Nakajima says that only a handful of quotes tend to be used by historical revisionists as ballast for their agenda.

Back at the shrine, a Japanese tourist gazed at the Pal memorial, silently mouthing the words written on the plaque: "When Time shall have softened passion and prejudice... then Justice, holding evenly her scales, will require much of past censure and praise to change places."



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GETTY IMAGES

KARACHI

Pakistan's Jadhav dilemma

As officials of the Foreign Office, the Law Ministry, the Interior Ministry and the military met in the office of Attorney-General Ashtar Ausaf last month, they had two proposals on their hands. One was to allow consular access for Kulbhushan Jadhav, the Indian national sentenced to death on spying charges, and the other was to grant permission to Jadhav's wife for a meeting with him.

After much deliberation, it was decided that as a goodwill gesture, Jadhav's wife will be allowed to meet him. The diplomatic note in this regard was sent to the Indian High Commission on November 10.

The proposal to allow consular access was hotly debated, a participant at the meeting told *The Hindu*, requesting anonymity. "It was argued that if consular access is allowed, it will destroy India's case at the International Court of Justice (ICJ), which is based on the premise that Pakistan was not granting consular access," he said. "But a military representative opposed it by saying that the matter is of national security and granting consular access to the Indian government will not be a wise decision."

The ICJ ordered May not to carry out Jadhav's execution pending a final decision. Jadhav was arrested by Pakistani authorities in March last year. His video-taped confessional statement was released by the military in which Jadhav stated that he was working for the Indian intelligence agency Research and Analysis Wing. He was subsequently tried for espionage and conspiracy against Pakistan in a military court and sentenced to death. India dismisses the charges and insists that Jadhav was a retired Navy officer.

Allah Nazar, chief of the Balochistan Liberation Front (BLF), was accused of working with Jadhav. Nazar is reportedly hiding in Afghanistan. His family was briefly detained on the Afghan frontier last month while attempting to cross the border. The BLF has claimed several attacks on security forces and civilians. In the latest, 15 people were killed in an attack in Turbat on November 15. Pakistan has also asked Iran to investigate how Jadhav operated out of its territories for a few years.

As Pakistan prepares its case for the ICJ, scheduled to begin in January, the execution of Jadhav seems unlikely in the near future.

The Jadhav issue has also become a political controversy in Pakistan with the main opposition parties accusing the government of being soft on the case

"Even if Army Chief General [Qamar Javed] Bajwa rejects Jadhav's mercy petition, he can appeal in High Court. After that, he can also file a mercy plea with the President," a member of Pakistan's legal team at the ICJ said. Pakistan will submit its "counter-memorial" to the ICJ by mid-December. The Pakistani side is relying on its argument that the case is a matter of national security and should not be seen as a bilateral diplomatic issue.

Weak point

The Pakistani side fears that the trial of Jadhav by the military court remains one of the weak points in its case. Pakistan claims that Jadhav was a serving naval officer in contradiction to India's stand that he had retired much earlier. "If India manages to prove in the ICJ that Jadhav was not a serving naval officer, then our case becomes weak. We will have to grant consular access to him," an official associated with preparing the 'counter-memorial' said.

In Pakistan, Jadhav has also become a political issue. Opposition parties have accused the government of being soft on the case. The government dismisses such criticism. Foreign Minister Khawaja Asif made a sensational claim in September during his visit to the U.S. that Afghanistan offered Pakistan to exchange Jadhav with the mastermind of the 2014 Army Public School attack in Peshawar in which 144 people, mostly children, were killed. However, he said Pakistan refused the offer.



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GETTY IMAGES

WASHINGTON

All the President's nuclear arms

The U.S. is estimated to have 7,000 nuclear warheads and the President has the sole power to authorise their use. Once the President

takes the decision, a nuclear warhead could be heading to its target in less than five minutes, if it is on a land-based ballistic missile. For submarine-based missiles, it could take as much as 15 minutes. Being in charge of the 'nuclear button' is considered to be the most consequential of all presidential powers and whether Donald Trump could be trusted with that responsibility was raised first by his Republican rivals, and later by his Democratic opponent Hillary Clinton during last year's election campaign.

The intimate fear of a nuclear strike that stalked America during the Cold War has been revived again, thanks to North Korea's advancing capabilities and a President who speaks and tweets – about nuclear war in an apparently thoughtless fashion. Alarmed by remarks such as North Korea would be "totally destroyed", the Senate Foreign Relations Committee held a formal hearing last week on the question of "authority to order the use of nuclear weapons". The last time Congress held such a hearing was 41 years ago.

The 2010 Nuclear Posture Review says the U.S. could consider the use of nuclear weapons in extreme circumstances "to defend its vital interests and that of its allies and

The President's nuclear powers were designed to kill the possibility of a rogue General launching a weapon. Now, the question is: Can the Generals stop a President gone rogue?

partners. America's existing nuclear command structure was developed in accordance with the threat posed by the Soviet Union. A missile's travel time from Soviet bases to America was 30 minutes, and the response ought to be quicker than that.

What is ironical in the current debate on the concentration of the nuke power in the hands of the President is that it was originally designed to eliminate the possibility of a rogue General launching a weapon without authorisation. Now, the question is do the Generals have the power to stop a President gone rogue. The use of nuclear weapon is a political decision to be made by the elected President. But life has come full circle.

War powers

Authorisation of war falls under congressional powers, but if an attack against America is "imminent", the Commander-in-Chief has the powers to act. But Generals can refuse to obey illegal orders. So, can a General deliberate on the question of the legality of the presidential directive before he initiates a nuclear strike? Robert Kehler, the former head of U.S. Strategic Command, agreed in theory, but fumbled when confronted with scenarios.

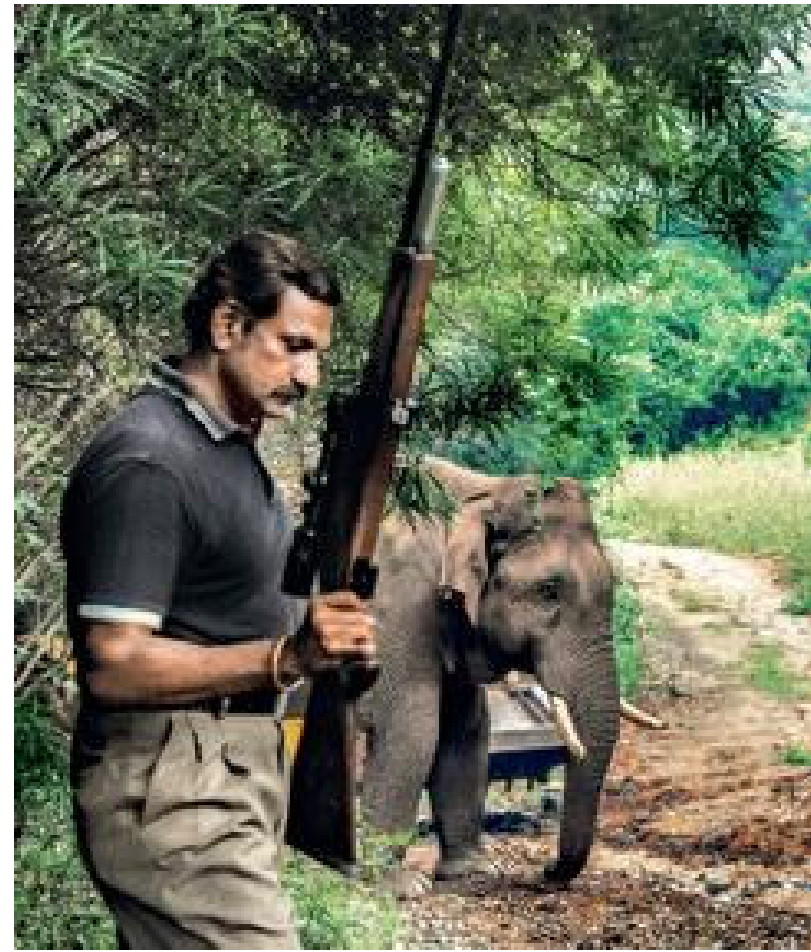
The question also is how to distinguish an imminent threat? Peter Feaver, a political scientist at Duke University, who deposed before the Senate Committee, distinguished between "scenarios where the military wakes up the President versus scenarios where the President is waking up the military". In the first, there is not much scope for deliberations if the President orders a strike. In the second, if the President is pressing the military to move towards a nuclear strike, there could be scope for more deliberations on questions of legality and proportionality. "Context matters," said Mr. Kehler. The actual mode of initiating a U.S. nuclear response is classified, but what is known is that a military aide carries what is called the 'nuclear football' all the time with the President. The enclosed codes are used by the President to authenticate a strike, in a communication with the National Military Command Centre at the Pentagon. Some Democratic lawmakers are arguing for legislative restrictions on the power. Experts deposing before the committee warned that such measures will undermine America's nuclear deterrence capability.



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Keeping a watch: A forest official tracking a wounded wild elephant at Kondanur village on the outskirts of Coimbatore on November 13.



Within range: A veterinarian getting ready to tranquilise the tusker with a dart to treat an abscess in its left foreleg.



Drug delivery: Ready with healing formulation.



Up close: Treatment begins in right earnest as veterinarians inject drugs into the tusker.



Ball of medicines: A veterinary team readies drugs on cotton to clean the abscess in the foreleg of the tusker.



Salve in a stick: A forest official applying anti-inflammatory drug on the swollen leg.

Operation Jumbo: when a village rose as one

A massive operation was mounted by forest officials and people to save a wounded wild elephant at Kondanur on the outskirts of Coimbatore, all in vain

TEXT AND IMAGES BY M. PERISAMY

A wild tusker enters Kondanur village on the outskirts of Coimbatore with an abscess in its left foreleg. Forest officials and people swing into action to save its life. Enraged Pari and Sujay, *kumkis* or tamed elephants, from the Chadivayal camp of the Tamil Nadu Forest Department to nudge it to safer ground. What follows is a massive operation that lasts more than a day. But in the end, tragedy strikes.

Facing brickbats for the increasing number of deaths of wild elephants, the Forest Department in Coimbatore wanted to redeem its image by saving the life of the tusker. After about 25, that the villagers spotted roaming nearby on November 13. After the *kumkis* drove the tusker from a tough thicket-covered terrain to the plains, an earthmover was

positioned to stop it from moving downstream, especially after being sedated.

Conservator of Forests Ramasubramanian and District Forest Officer N. Sathesh monitored the operation. Forest veterinarians N.S. Manoharan, K. Asokan and M. Jayabharathi tranquilised the animal with darts. The tusker stood its ground challenging them, and only after a third round of sedation could they get closer. An incision was made on the football-sized abscess to clear puss, dead tissue and dirt.

The elephant responded to treatment and started moving back into the forest in the evening, and the department deputed watchers to track it. But the relief proved short-lived, when the tusker was found dead at 4.30 a.m. on November 14. Clinical examination revealed septicaemia (infection of the blood), and the elephant had become feeble and anaemic with reduced food intake, hastening its death.



Farewell forever: The elephant moving up the dry bed of a stream after treatment. The animal died early in the morning of November 14.

Medicinal bath: A forest official spraying medicine on the tusker.



How smart money moved

BAVDHARINI K S

The stock market has been through a turbulent phase since the last quarter of 2016. While the market crashed towards the end of last year due to demonetisation and Trump's election as US President, the market recovered after March this year and went on to hit record highs. The flood of domestic money that entered the equity market after demonetisation is one of the reasons why the Sensex surged in 2017. Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) blew hot and cold in this period, going on a buying spree in some months and selling in others.

Institutional investors, both foreign and domestic, are called 'smart money' in stock market parlance since they have the skills to make the right decisions in stock selections. We analysed the changes in the shareholding pattern of companies forming the BSE 500 basket between September 2016 and September 2017 to find out what the smart investors did in this turbulent period.

Mutual funds have been the most optimistic set, increasing the value of their holdings the most, from ₹4,98,763 crore in September 2016 to ₹7,44,060 crore in September 2017, recording a 49 per cent jump. This buying spree has also increased their stake in BSE 500 companies from 4.5 per cent to 5.7 per cent. FPI holdings, on the other hand, have seen a more moderate 19 per cent increase in value. Their stake in the BSE 500 companies has remained more or less stagnant at 20.5 per cent in the one-year period to September 2017.

Mutual Fund moves

MFs were in vogue in the period under consideration, with fund houses witnessing humongous inflows. The monthly flows into equity funds between September 2016 and September 2017 averaged ₹12,161 crore, up 155 per cent from the monthly flows of ₹4,770 crore recorded in the corresponding period the previous year. Investors, flush with funds post-demonetisation, channelled much of their savings into MFs, given the stagnating real estate and gold market.

Stocks in the non-banking finance sector were the most preferred by mutual funds with their stake increasing in 32 NBFCs in this period. Given the lacklustre performance of other sectors, healthy earnings growth and visibility in NBFCs prompted mutual funds to up their holding in stocks such as Capital First, Equitas Holding, and Gruh Finance. A niche focus and ability to manage risks within the segment kept MF interest going in this space.

It is also apparent that MFs adopted a contrarian strategy, preferring to increase their exposure to beleaguered sectors such as banking, pharmaceuticals and IT. These were among the top 5 sectors in terms of the number of companies that have recorded increase in MF stake. With the sharp run-up in prices making growth stocks pricey, MFs seem to have turned their attention to sectors where stock prices had been beaten down due to various concerns.

The highest increase in MF stake was in Max Financial,



• GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

with holding up from 18 per cent to 30 per cent. Other stocks that witnessed similar sharp increases were Raymond, Somany Ceramics, Nava Bharat Ventures, Hindalco and Nilkamal. While some of these stocks were bought for strong fundamental prospects and relatively cheaper valuation, others were either turning around or showing improved prospects.

There is no sectoral trend visible in stocks in which MFs have pared stakes. Stocks such as Rain Industries, Crompton Greaves, and Multi Commodity Exchange witnessed sharp drop in MF holdings. Profit booking due to sharp increase in stock price making valuation rich appears to be the primary reason for paring stakes while some stocks, such as Astra Microwave, Advance Enzymes and Inox Wind were exited due to deteriorating prospects.

Interestingly, MFs have been slow in exiting stocks that delivered steep losses, thus staying true to their long-term leanings. For instance, hit by regulatory woes, stocks such as Ajanta Pharma, Glenmark Pharma, Divi's Lab and Sun Pharma have delivered over 32 per cent losses but MF stakes in these companies have reported minimal change during the period under consideration. In Reliance Communication, which lost nearly 60 per cent, MF stake has increased by 0.8 percentage points.

Fund managers struggled to find stocks to invest in, given that most of the high-growth companies were trading at a stiff valuation. They therefore had to drill lower to find mid and small-cap stocks to invest in. Among the top 20 stocks that witnessed a sharp increase in MF stake, 16 stocks had market capitalisation less than ₹10,000 crore.

Following FPIs

Foreign Portfolio Investors infused \$933 million into equity markets between October 2016 and September 2017. But there has been no change in their overall stake in BSE 500 companies in this period.

Bank and NBFC stocks were the preferred choice of FPIs too in the period under consideration when the number of stocks with increase in

stake is considered. But while mutual funds were more bullish about these sectors – as evidenced by the fact that companies with decrease in stakes were fewer in these sectors – FPIs also took stock-specific calls in the banking and NBFC space; reducing stakes in a number of bank and NBFC stocks, such as Manappuram Finance, IDFC, Dewan Housing Finance and Repco Home Finance.

Foreign investors were also less optimistic about stocks in troubled sectors such as pharmaceuticals and IT, with more stocks recording reduction in FPI stakes in these sectors. FMCG is another sector that saw FPI's stake reduction, probably due to soaring valuations.

The highest increase in FPI

stake was recorded in Fortis Healthcare, up 19 percentage points, followed by Shriram Transport Finance by 18 percentage points. Most of the stocks where FPIs have increased stakes substantially have shown improved financial performance, barring a few such as Fortis Healthcare, where regulatory relaxation in FPI holding limit resulted in a sharp increase.

Deteriorating financial as well as stock price performance seems to have led to FPI exits in stocks such as Manappuram Finance, IDFC, Indian Hotels, and HDIL. In Nava Bharat Ventures, while mutual funds topped stakes, anticipating a turnaround, FPIs seem to have exited early.

While MFs have been more confident about buying into

mid and small-cap stocks, FPIs have been a little more cautious. Among the top 20 stocks that witnessed a sharp increase in FPI stake between September 2016 and 2017, only eight stocks had market capitalisation less than ₹10,000 crore, implying that FPIs preferred stocks that were liquid so that exit does not get too difficult.

Who was smarter?

Who fared better with their investment calls, MFs or FPIs? We tried to weigh the performance of MFs and FPIs on a few parameters to see which category is smarter. These are aggregate numbers and specific fund houses could have performed better or worse than what the total implies.

When it comes to picking

multi-baggers, FPIs have been more savvy. Among the BSE 500 stocks, there were 30 multi-baggers between last September and this. While FPIs increased stakes in 21 of these stocks, MFs increased stakes in 17. This is, however, a chicken-and-egg situation as MF and FPI buying tends to push up stock prices due to the impact cost.

If we consider the stocks that have gained the most, FPIs appear to have made better bets. In Indiabulls Ventures, which gained 918 per cent in the 12 months since last September, FPIs have increased their holding by 13.4 percentage points while MFs have no stake in the stock. In stocks such as Adani Transmission, Bombay Dyeing, Motilal Oswal and Sterlite Technologies that gave bountiful returns, FPIs have expanded stakes more than MFs.

If we consider stocks that have gained between 20 and 100 per cent, there were 195 such stocks in the period under consideration. Mutual funds have taken the right calls in 130 stocks, bettering FPIs who increased stakes in only 115 stocks.

We tried to see if the financial performance has influenced the decisions of mutual funds and foreign portfolio investors. It is seen that MFs give more weightage to financial performance of companies, when compared to FPIs.

There were 210 companies that recorded more than 10 per cent growth in sales in the September 2017 quarter compared to the same quarter in 2016. While FPIs have increased stakes in 115 of these companies, mutual funds have increased their holdings in 132 companies.

Similarly, 255 companies recorded more than 10 per cent growth in net profit in the September 2017 quarter when compared to September 2016 quarter. While FPIs have expanded stakes in 132 of these companies, mutual funds have increased holdings in 166 of these companies.

To sum up, both MFs and FPIs have done well in cornering stocks that gave high returns but FPIs seem to have taken higher risks and hence reaped higher rewards. MFs have, however, played it safe with fundamentally sound companies that have shown improvements in earnings.

ALERTS



New cancer cover from LIC

LIC's new cancer cover policy provides fixed benefit if any of the specified early/major stage cancers is diagnosed during the policy term. The sum assured varies from ₹10 lakh to ₹50 lakh. The minimum age for entry is 20 and the maximum 65. The plan has two options. Under the first, the basic sum insured would remain unchanged; in the other, the sum insured increases by 10 per cent of basic sum insured each year for five years beginning from first policy anniversary or until the diagnosis of first event of cancer, whichever is earlier.

Auto transfer of PF balance

EPFO has introduced new composite form to apply for auto-transfer of PF balance. This facility will be available after the first payment is received from the new employer. Members requesting auto transfer should submit details such as date of joining, date of exit and reason for exit from the previous employment. It is also mandatory that the UAN of the member is activated and Aadhaar number seeded and verified by the previous employer.

Short-term digital loans

Paytm has tied up with ICICI Bank to launch 'Paytm ICICI bank Postpaid' for offering interest-free short-term digital loans for 45 days. This service is a digital credit account and can be activated online. The digital loan is sanctioned based on the credit score of the customer and the sanction amount ranges from ₹3,000 to ₹20,000. Beyond 45 days, the bank will charge penalty of ₹50 and interest rate of 3 per cent per month. This offer can be availed by common customers of Paytm and ICICI Bank.

Carpet area up for affordable houses

The Union Cabinet has approved an increase in carpet area for the middle income group (MIG) under the Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban). Under MIG I category, the carpet area is now 120 sq m from 90 sq m earlier. The carpet area under MIG II category will now be 150 sq m from 110 sq m.

RE-TWEETS



Moody's India rating upgrade. Long overdue..Recognition of reforms: GST, bank recap plan, Bankruptcy code & macro-stability

- Arvind Subramanian



To help farmers move away from rice straw burning caused by the need to prepare the rice field for sowing wheat on time, we need to create an economic option for not burning the straw. Market driven alternatives should be demonstrated.

- M S Swaminathan



This Children's Day, let's do something really special for our kids. Keep them healthy and fit. Encourage them to take up a sport, any sport.

- Sachin Tendulkar



ETF assets in India grew 5 times & global ETF assets grew 2 times in the last 2 years

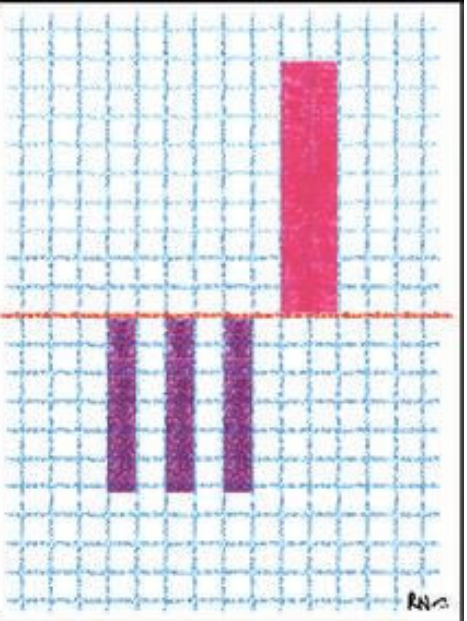
- Adil Bakshi



BS-VI norms advanced by 2 years to 2018 in Delhi. It is the world's toughest vehicle emission standards. It'll make four-wheeler expensive. But most important, it'll help curb pollution.

- Anshul Saxena

POCKET



"You have to go broke three times to learn how to make a living." - CASEY STENGEL

What retail investors did



BAVDHARINI K S

Retail investors, that is, those holding stake up to ₹1 lakh, have not fared too well when compared to mutual funds and foreign portfolio investors in the period between September 2016 and September 2017.

They have not been able to latch on to the top performing stocks unlike the institutional investors. Of the 27 multibaggers among the BSE 500 companies, retail investors have reduced stake in 17. A similar trend is seen in the 188 stocks that

They have not been able to latch on to top performing stocks unlike institutional investors

gave returns between 20 and 100 per cent; retail investors have decreased stake in 100 of these companies, including South Indian Bank, Ashok Leyland and NIIT Tech.

A relatively shorter investment horizon and impatience could be the reasons for earlier exits from stocks

that have given outsized returns.

These investors have also run after mid and small-cap stocks in the period under consideration. Among the top 20 stocks where the retail stake was high, 18 stocks had a market capital of less than ₹10,000 crore.

Sector-wise, the preferred choice for these investors was the finance sector, where they have increased stakes in 31 companies, including Ujjivan Financial Services, Max Financials and GIC Housing Finance.

They have, however, reduced stakes in banking and FMCG stocks forming part of the BSE 500 index.

If we consider the top 10 stocks that have witnessed a sharp increase in retail investor stake, these are companies such as Titagarh Wagons, BF Utilities and Texmaco Rail that have recorded steep losses in the recent September 2017 quarter. Their top preference included stocks from diverse sectors such as construction, capital goods, sugar and pharma.

HOME TRUTHS

Get the most on your property sale

Here is a checklist for home owners to avoid the usual hassles



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

MEERA SIVA
Property is an illiquid asset and selling it is often a long-drawn activity. Many home owners end up getting frustrated not just with the process but also the result – delays, lack of genuine buyers, miscommunication due to use of agents and settling for a lower sale price. However, some simple precautions can help prevent such hassles and ensure that owners are better prepared to deal with the practical realities.

The property must not have any title-related issues. For example, plots must be approved by the authorised government authorities. All approvals – for original construction and later modifications – must be in place. This will avoid delays due to questions raised by government authorities or potential buyers.

Good condition
You must also take steps to get the property in good condition. For example, if it is a plot of land, it helps to clear overgrowth and mark the boundaries clearly. For homes, you must do major repair work, if you can. If you are unable to do it or prefer that the buyer takes care of it, you can get a quote for the work from a local contractor. This gives a base for negotiating with the buyer on any price reduction to take care of the work.

Painting, cleaning the premises and ensuring there are no leaks or electrical issues

also help. But this must not be done with the idea of covering up issues. Badly done patch-up raises suspicion about any hidden problems and may be counter-productive.

If the house is older than, say, 30 years, it also helps to get a structural evaluation done and an informal report kept handy to be shared with the buyers.

Right price
Each property is unique and setting the right price is not easy. You can take the help of a property valuation expert who can give an assessment of your property, for a fee.

You must also do your own research on the market conditions in the locality. Many property portals give you ample data – asking price, size, features – and provide photos. You can use these to make an estimate.

However, the prices you see on the website often do not tell the full story. To know the mar-

ket reality, it helps to make enquiries as a buyer, on properties that are comparable to yours.

It is also advisable to discuss with your real estate agent to be aware of the sale trends in the local area. Talk to a few agents, possibly as a buyer, to know the price, availability, terms and speed at which property transactions are happening. The price you set must ideally give room for buyers to negotiate but not be so high that it fails to trigger their interest.

Proper reach

As with any sale, you must take steps to ensure that the property details reach potential buyers. There are many online portals that let owners advertise, but the onus is on you to give all the relevant details.

Property is still a very offline market and hence online alone may not get the job done. You

cannot ignore the traditional method of using brokers. With the new Real Estate Regulatory Act (RERA), brokers are required to be registered and are liable for punishment if they give misinformation.

However, it may take some time to find a pool of registered brokers to pick. Until then, get their client references, talk with them and decide.

You can also avoid delays and stress by judging how genuine the buyer is. For example, some buyers may pay a token advance and stall the deal closing.

This may be either because their tactic to frustrate the seller and renegotiate terms or they may be unable to arrange funds.

Take the help of your agent or adviser to better evaluate buyers, create strong agreements and not get locked into deals that waste time.

The author is co-founder, RaNa Investment Advisors



MAXIMISE CHANCES

- Maintain proper records
- Complete repairs and refurbishing
- Fix price to give room for negotiation

Rules for brokers

Under the Real Estate Regulatory Act (RERA), brokers are required to be registered and are liable for punishment if they give misinformation

SAVE SMART

Small banks, big rates

With the newly licensed banks offering higher rates on their deposits, savers still have good deals

RADHIKA MERWIN
The last two years has been particularly trying for depositors. Rates on bank deposits have fallen sharply, more so after the Centre's demonetisation move last November. On an average, rates on your fixed deposits have plummeted by nearly two percentage points over the last two years. The unkind cut in savings deposit rates a few months back, has also come as a hard blow for savers. Enter small finance banks that have become operational after being granted license by the RBI, nearly two years back. With these newly licensed banks upping the ante to woo customers and rake in deposits, savers still have good deals on offer.

per cent of loans up to ₹25 lakh), there is so much curb on deposit taking.

Of course, a small finance bank may not be able to offer you transactional comfort like your friendly neighbourhood bank. But given that most of the small finance banks offer the technology and digital solutions on par with other banks, lower branch presence may not be as much of dampener. Also, when it comes to fixed deposits that are locked in for a specific period of time, rates matter more than operational ease.

Deposit insurance

If you are worried about the safety of your deposits, note that deposit insurance is compulsory for all banks in the country. With new format banks joining the fray, aside from deposits in all public sector banks, private sector banks, local area banks, and regional rural banks, small finance banks and payments banks too are now covered by the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (DICGC). Each depositor is insured up to ₹1 lakh for both principal and interest. For calculating this limit, all deposits across branches of the same



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

bank are aggregated. sWhat's more, small finance banks are required to maintain a much higher capital adequacy ratio of 15 per cent, against the 9-odd per cent that traditional banks have to adhere to. This helps mitigate the risk attached with a newly operational bank.

What they offer

So small finance banks are an option that depositors can consider to earn higher interest on their deposits. What's on offer?

Let us look at savings deposits first. While most banks now offer 3.5 per cent on lower value deposits below ₹50 lakh or ₹1 crore, a few small finance banks offer 6 per cent to 7.25 per cent on similar deposits.

While a few other banks such as Kotak Bank, YES Bank, In-

duSind Bank and RBL Bank also offer higher rates (5-6.5 per cent) on saving deposits, the threshold (in terms of deposit value) for these higher rates are much higher.

For instance, in case of RBL Bank, balances over ₹10 lakh fetch you 6.5 per cent. In case of Fincare Small Finance Bank, you can earn 7 per cent on balances above ₹1 lakh. Suryoday Small Finance Bank offers 7.25 per cent on balances above ₹1 lakh up to ₹10 lakh. ESAF gives you 7 per cent on deposits above ₹10 lakh. For deposits under ₹1 lakh small finance banks offer 5-6.25 per cent interest rate.

The differential rates offered by small finance banks on fixed deposits are far more attractive. In the one to two-year deposits,

for instance, most banks on an average offer 6.5-6.75 per cent. The best rate offered is by IDFC Bank at 7.5 per cent for a 366-day deposit and 7.25 per cent for up to two years. Some small finance banks offer far higher rates. Fincare Small Finance Bank offers 8.75 per cent for deposits with tenure of 21 months to 24 months. ESAF offers 9 per cent on deposits from one to two years. Suryoday and Utkarsh Small Finance Bank offer 8.4-8.5 per cent for deposits up to two years.

For two to three-year deposits, while most banks offer around 6.5-6.75 per cent (best rate 7.3 per cent by RBL Bank), Fincare and Suryoday top those rates, offering 9 per cent and 8.75 per cent respectively.

Most of these small finance banks also offer senior citizens an additional 0.5 percentage point interest.

Bottomline

With small finance banks offering a notable 150-200 bps higher rate on certain fixed deposits, depositors can consider them. With inflation creeping up and deposit rates at rock bottom levels, savers need to shop for rates beyond the obvious choices.



RISK MITIGATORS

- Deposits are insured
- Higher capital requirement
- Regulated by RBI

Good deal

Small finance banks offer 150-200 bps higher rate on certain fixed deposits than your traditional banks

LOAN BASICS

NRIs, borrow against your deposits

The restrictions on end-use varies for rupee loans and foreign currency loans

GURUMURTHY K
Non-resident Indians (NRIs) have an easy way to obtain a loan in India with minimum documentation. Loans against non-resident external (NRE), non-resident ordinary (NRO) and foreign currency non-resident (FCNR (B)) deposits are available with leading banks such as State Bank of India (SBI), ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank. Some other banks offer loans against one of these options. These loans can be taken either as a demand loan or as an overdraft. NRIs have three options to hold a deposit in the domestic banks. They are the non-resident external (NRE), non-resident ordinary (NRO) and foreign currency non-resident (FCNR (B)) deposits.



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

Bank gives 90 per cent of the principal amount of the deposit or up to a maximum of ₹500 lakh as loan. HDFC Bank offers 90 per cent of the principal amount for NRE and NRO deposits and 70 per cent of the FCNR (B) deposit as loan. SBI offers unlimited loans on its NRO and NRE deposits. But when it comes to the foreign currency loan, on the FCNR (B) deposits, SBI restricts the loan amount to \$25,000, €20,000 and £15,000 depending on the currency in which we borrow. Bank of Baroda offers 95 per cent of the FCNR (B) deposit you have with them as loan.

While the NRE and NRO are rupee-denominated and can be held as an account or a deposit, the FCNR (B) can be only in the form of a deposit and is held in a foreign currency such as the US dollar, euro, pound, yen. Loans against NRE and NRO deposits are given out in rupees while loans against FCNR (B) deposits are in foreign currency.

whether you take a rupee loan or a foreign currency loan. A rupee loan taken can be utilised within the country while a foreign currency loan cannot be used for domestic purpose.

A rupee loan can be used for investments, purchasing a house or an apartment, for doing any business activity or for any emergency requirements. However, these loans are not allowed to be used for agricultural and plantation activities and as an investment in real-estate business.

Also, you cannot lend the money borrowed through this route and cannot repatriate the same. On the other hand, the foreign currency loans can be used for investments outside India as per RBI guidelines

According to experts, if you intend buying a home, taking loan against these deposits is better than going for a normal home loan.

Rishi Mehra, CEO, Wishfin.com says, "Given the time consumed in the lengthy formalities and the cost such as processing fee associated with a normal home loan, it is advisable for the NRIs to go for a loan against NRE deposits if they have huge sums stacked in them". He also adds that borrowing against the deposits could be cheaper than taking a normal home loan.

Interest rate and loan tenor
Experts say that the interest rates on the loan will typically be 1 to 2 percentage points over and above the deposit rates. For instance, SBI charges 1 per cent over and above the deposit rates for the loans taken against its NRE and NRO deposits.

The deposit rates for SBI are 4.25 per cent (for deposit of ₹1 crore and above), 6.25 per cent (for deposit less than ₹1 crore and a tenor of less than two years) and 6 per cent (for a deposit less than ₹1 crore and tenor two years and above).

Bank of Baroda, on its foreign currency loan against FCNR (B) charges 1.5 per cent over the six-month LIBOR rate

at the time of taking the loan or 1.5 per cent over and above the deposit rate whichever is higher.

The loan tenor is generally the pending period for maturity of the deposit.

Repayment options

Two types of repayment options available. First is by way of adjusting both the loan and interest amount with that of the deposit amount at the time of maturity.

That is, when the deposit matures, the total loan amount (principal plus the interest component) will be deducted and the balance will be paid back to the borrower at the time of maturity.

Secondly, an NRI can repay through fresh inward remittance by transferring money to these deposits through a regular banking channel. Repayment can also be made from another NRO account.

For a foreign currency loan, failure to repay the interest amount will lead to a pre-matured closure of your account.

However, if you have taken a loan against your deposit, pre-mature closure of deposit is not allowed. The outstanding loan has to be repaid in order to withdraw the deposit before the actual maturity date.



HIGHLIGHTS

- Interest is 1 to 2 percentage points over deposit rates
- Deposit is up to tenor maturity
- Repayment can be adjusted with maturity amount

YOUR TAXES

SUDHAKAR SETHURAMAN

I have paid interest under Sections 234 B and C as shown by the system while filing returns. Now, CPC has sent a demand notice for additional interest. I want to know the details of interest calculation under these two sections. Now that the calculation has been found wrong, should I file rectification request or can I file revised return?

Venugopal

The Income Tax Act requires assessee to discharge their tax liability by payment of advance tax over four instalments if the total tax net off taxes withheld exceeds ₹10,000.

Under section 234B, interest is payable on total tax liability as determined by the tax officer minus taxes withheld at source (net tax liability). Interest under Section 234B is payable when the advance tax paid is less than 90 per cent of the net tax liability by March 31 of the previous year. Interest is payable at the rate of 1 per cent per month for each month or part thereof till remittance of taxes.

Interest under Section 234 C of the Act is payable on deferment/shortfall in instalment payment of advance tax and accrues till March 31 of the previous year. The deadlines are: On or before June 15 – up to 15 per cent of advance tax payable; on or before September 15 – up to 45 per cent of advance tax payable; on or before December 15 – up to 75 per cent of advance tax payable; on or before March 15 – up to 100 per cent of advance tax payable.

Interest is payable at the rate of 1 per cent per month on the outstanding tax amount. Interest under section 234C is payable with reference to returned income. The Act allows relief from payment of interest under Section 234C in case advance instalment payment is up to certain limits.

Also, assessee subject to presumptive taxation will be liable for interest under Section 234C only if 100 per cent of the advance tax is not paid on or before March 15. If the CPC order demanding additional interest is accurate, then you can pay the interest demand without filing any revised tax return.

The writer is Partner, Deloitte Haskins & Sells LLP. Send your queries to taxtalk@thehindu.co.in

BANK FD INTEREST RATES (%)

Bank	Years				
	less than 1 year	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 5	W.E.F
FOREIGN					
Citi Bank	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.25	11-17
DBS Bank	6.10	6.30	6.50	6.70	08-17
Deutsche Bank	6.00	6.75	6.75	7.25	11-17
HSBC	6.00	6.25	5.00	5.00	09-17
Scotia Bank	4.00	4.50	4.50	5.00	04-16
StanChart	6.50	6.75	6.50	6.50	11-17
INDIAN- PUBLIC SECTOR					
Allahabad Bank	6.50	6.60	6.50	6.50	07-17
Andhra Bank	6.25	6.50	6.25	6.25	10-17
Bank of Mah	6.00	6.50	6.25	6.00	01-17
BOB	6.40	6.65	6.50	6.50	08-17
BOI	6.25	6.60	6.20	6.30	09-17
Canara Bank	6.35	6.50	6.50	6.20	09-17
CBOI	6.50	6.60	6.50	6.50	04-17
Corp Bank	6.25	6.50	6.50	6.50	11-17
Dena Bank	6.25	6.50	6.25	6.30	09-17
IDBI Bank	6.50	6.75	6.25	6.25	07-17
Indian Bank	6.25	6.50	6.25	6.00	02-17
IOB	6.25	6.75	6.25	6.00	06-17
OBC	6.40	6.60	6.40	6.40	08-17
PNB	6.25	6.60	6.50	6.25	08-17
Punjab & Sind	6.25	6.50	6.50	6.50	11-17
SBI	6.25	6.25	6.00	6.00	11-17
Syndicate Bank	6.15	6.50	6.60	6.60	08-17
UCO Bank	6.35	6.50	6.40	6.25	09-17
Union Bank	6.75	6.75	6.50	6.50	08-17
United Bank	6.00	6.10	6.00	6.00	04-17
Vijaya Bank	6.50	6.60	6.50	6.50	11-17
INDIAN- PRIVATE SECTOR					
Axis Bank	6.50	6.85	6.25	6.25	10-17
Bandhan Bank	6.90	7.15	6.80	6.40	10-17
Catholic Syrian	6.25	6.50	6.75	6.50	03-17
CUB	7.00	7.10	6.85	6.85	11-16
DCB	6.65	6.90	7.00	7.10	09-17
Dhanlaxmi Bank	6.00	6.60	6.50	6.50	08-17
Federal Bank	6.50	6.70	6.50	6.50	10-17
HDFC Bank	6.25	6.75	6.00	6.00	NA
ICICI Bank	6.50	6.75	6.50	6.50	07-17
IDFC Bank	7.00	7.50	7.25	7.20	12-16
Indusind Bank	6.50	6.85	6.75	6.50	10-17
J & K Bank	6.25	6.75	6.50	6.25	09-17
Karnataka Bank	6.90	6.85	6.50	6.50	10-17
Kotak Bank	6.60	6.80	6.60	6.25	11-17
KVB	6.75	6.75	7.00	7.00	05-17
LVB	6.75	6.90	7.00	7.00	11-17
RBL Bank	7.10	7.20	7.30	7.20	09-17
SIB	6.00	6.75	6.50	6.50	06-17
TMB	6.75	7.00	6.90	6.90	04-17
TNSC Bank	6.50	6.75	6.50	6.50	01-17
Yes Bank	6.75	6.75	6.75	6.75	08-17

Data taken from respective bank's website as on 16 Nov 2017. For each year range, maximum offered interest rate is considered; Interest rate for deposit amount below Rs 1 Cr. Contributed by BankBazaar.com, an online marketplace for financial products.

THIS WEEK IN BusinessLine PORTFOLIO

- ▶ **Stock Calls**
This major steel maker with a global presence is on a roll. Should you invest?
- ▶ **Mutual Funds**
This Equity-Linked Savings Scheme (ELSS) has outperformed its benchmark across time periods
- ▶ **People**
Rajeev Yadav of Fincare Small Finance Bank on changing dynamics within MFI

LOOK FOR YOUR COPY ON MONDAY

IN BRIEF



GoAir adds 4 A320neos, to introduce 30 flights

Mumbai: The full-service carrier GoAir said it has expanded its fleet size to 30 aircraft with the induction of four more new A320neo aircraft to help it introduce 30 routes and 30 additional flights. GoAir said it would boost its market presence at Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kochi, Kolkata, Lucknow, Nagpur and Patna with the addition of these new flights, the airline said in a statement. PTI

GSTN to introduce edit option for GSTR-3B

Bengaluru: The GST network will introduce a facility for businesses to make changes to their August and September GST return forms beginning November 20, said Bihar cabinet minister Minister Sushil Kumar. The Group of Ministers (GoM) set up to look into GST glitches, also managed by infofsys chairman Nandan Nilekani, who assured them that GSTN will work smoothly, Mr. Modi said after the fourth meeting of the GoM here. PTI

Infosys's ₹13,000-crore buyback opens Nov. 30

New Delhi: Infosys said its ₹13,000-crore buyback program will open on November 30. In a December 1 outlining the buyback details, Infosys said the company will offer through a letter dated November 16, received observations from SEBI on the draft letter of offer for the buyback. The firm will buy back over 11.30 crore shares at ₹1,150 apiece. The buyback had been a long-standing demand by some founders and high-profile former executives. PTI

L&T wins ₹8,650 crore MTHL order

Mumbai: Engineering giant Larsen & Toubro has bagged an order worth ₹8,650 crore from the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) for the construction of Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL) packages O1 and O2. The project involves construction of a 21.8-km bridge connecting the Mumbai mainland with Navi Mumbai, said a company statement. "Being a city with a very large population, Mumbai requires important infrastructure to meet its ever-increasing needs and we are delighted to have bagged this crucial mandate that will significantly improve connectivity in and around Mumbai," said S. N. Subrahmanyam, CEO and MD, L&T.

'Shift to EVs won't eradicate pollution'

No material benefit unless renewable energy target of 175 GW is raised, says Purpose Climate Lab

TCA SHARAD RAGHAVAN
NEW DELHI

If India wants to move ahead with its target of all-electric vehicles by 2030, and also wants to truly help the environment while doing so, then it will need much more renewable energy than the 175 GW target set for 2022, according to Purpose Climate Lab, a global campaign group focused on climate and environmental issues in India.

Reduce oil imports

"The concept of electric transportation, especially public transportation, is a really good one because it will reduce India's imports of foreign oil, which is great, since those billions of dollars can then be spent to expand renewable energy programmes here," Reecha Upadhyay, Campaigns Director of Purpose Climate Lab, said in an interview.



Choking hazard: Urban areas are not entirely protected from power plant fumes, says Purpose Climate's Ms. Upadhyay.

"But on the other hand, you have to recognise that just because the cars aren't burning fossil fuels doesn't mean that it is an eradication of pollution," Ms. Upadhyay added. "Or that it will have a positive impact on climate change, if we continue to burn more coal to power

these electric vehicles." Apart from the environmental effect, Ms. Upadhyay also highlighted the social impact of simply shifting the fuel requirement from petrol and diesel to coal. "We cannot just shift the smoke from tailpipes to thermal power plants," she

said. "Coal power plants are away from cities, in communities that don't always have the power to challenge what happens to them. They are usually poor, and away from concentrations of politicians and elite classes of people. Every community in the country should have the right to be protected from air pollution."

She added that urban areas themselves were not entirely protected from the fumes from power plants. "While people might not always be exposed to the smoke that comes out of power plants, we know that those gases, especially SOx and NOx, travel hundreds of kilometres to urban centres," Ms. Upadhyay said. Erstwhile Power Minister Piyush Goyal spoke several times during his term about how the government was planning to move India to a situation where all vehicles

in the country would be electric. He was also at the helm of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy that has been trying to achieve the 175 GW target of renewable energy by 2022.

However, according to Ms. Upadhyay, unless the renewable energy target is significantly increased, the target of an entire fleet of electric vehicles will have no material benefit to the environment. "We did one calculation where, if we get one million new electric buses, which is a very conservative number for a country this size, we'll need at least another 100 GW of renewable energy to power them," she said. "And the fact that we are so focused on private vehicles, if all of them are also to be electric, the amount of energy needed to power a fleet this big is enormous."



Miles to go: Interest burden and subsidies take a big chunk of government spending, S&P had said. •GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

All eyes on S&P, Fitch after Moody's upgrade

Fiscal position likely under watch

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

After rating agency Moody's upgraded the country's sovereign rating after a gap of almost 14 years, all eyes are now on the other two global rating agencies, Standard & Poor's and Fitch Ratings.

Responding to a question from the media, on whether the government expects other agencies such as S&P and Fitch to upgrade, chief economic adviser Arvind Subramanian was reported as having said, "Let's hope they are not inconsistent amongst each other." Dr. Subramanian had earlier observed that rating agencies followed a consistent policy while upgrading India compared with the ratings for China.

According to analysts, the rating agencies may wait till the country's fiscal position improves before initiating action.

"The question now is whether or not S&P and Fitch will follow suit," Nomura wrote in a note to its clients. "Our bias is that they will likely wait for the government's fiscal position to actually improve before making any changes [on ratings], but directionally we believe India is headed

the right way," it added.

In October, S&P had said the country needed to improve its fiscal position for a rating upgrade. "For an upgrade, India would have to address its weak fiscal balance sheet and weak fiscal performance. India has one of the highest general government debt-to-GDP levels (68%) among emerging market sovereigns," S&P had said at the time while leaving the sovereign rating unchanged. The lowest investment grade with a stable outlook.

Year after year, the fiscal deficit remains relatively large with the interest burden and subsidies [taking] a big chunk of government spending. So, there's not a lot of room for the government to manoeuvre, despite pressing infrastructure needs. A potential rating upgrade is likely to come from improved fiscal performance," it had added.

S&P declined to comment whether the agency was now considering a rating revision. "As of now, we have no comment to make on it," a spokesperson said, responding to an email query. A query sent to Fitch Ratings remained unanswered.

'Complex GST process hitting e-com start-ups'

We can neither buy nor sell boodmo

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Online sales of auto components have been hit by complex GST model for e-commerce players, online marketplace boodmo said. Exclusion of e-commerce businesses from the composite scheme under tax rate of 28% for auto components and for logistics of spare parts as well, and a complex GST model has impacted adversely e-commerce start-ups, the co-founder of boodmo, Oleksandr Danylenko, said in a statement.

"Our new venture, which is emerging as a 'sunrise' business, is badly impacted due to GST's complex and



cumbersome model, especially for e-commerce businesses.

The 16-point invoice is not as per the marketplace requirement and, this way, businesses like boodmo, which is heavily dependent on suppliers, can neither buy nor sell its products," Danylenko said.

Cabinet panel may soon decide on coal allocation

Govt. plans to auction 5-6 blocks for commercial mining

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) may soon take a call on the methodology for allocation of coal mines for commercial mining, an official source said.

"The CCEA may soon take a decision on methodology for coal block allocation for commercial mining," the source said on the condition of anonymity.

Discussion paper

A discussion paper on the modalities for allocation of coal mines through auction route was earlier placed in the public domain for



Private firms can sell fuel to buyers across sectors.

comments. The government plans to put under the hammer 5-6 coal blocks for commercial mining by private players. Coal Minister Piyush

Goyal had earlier said that enabling provisions have been made in the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 for allocation of coal mines by way of auction and allotment for the sale of coal.

Commercial mines are allotted without specifying the end use and allow private entities to sell the fuel to buyers across sectors such as power, cement and steel.

India is in the process of throwing open commercial coal mining to private firms for the first time in four decades, with the aim of shifting the world's third-biggest coal importer towards energy self-sufficiency.

Moody's withdraws RCom ratings after firm misses interest payment

Any missed payment considered default, says rating agency

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Moody's Investors Service has withdrawn Reliance Communications Limited's (RCom) Ca corporate family rating (CFR) and its negative outlook after the company defaulted on interest payment to bondholders. The rating agency has also withdrawn the Ca rating on RCom's senior secured notes, Moody's said in a statement.

On November 6, RCom announced that pursuant to the invocation of Strategic Debt Restructuring (SDR) scheme by the lenders of the company as per the Reserve Bank of India guidelines agreed in June 2017, the company "is under a debt standstill period until December 2018, as it looks to complete an exercise in



Holding back: RCom is under a debt standstill till December, as it looks to restructure borrowings. •REUTERS

corporate and debt restructuring." A statement from RCom had added, "For the time being, no payment of interest and/or principal is being made to any RCom lenders or bondholders."

The semi-annual interest payment on its \$300 million senior secured bond was due on November 6. Accord-

ing to the indenture, the company had a seven-day grace period, after which an event of default would occur. Moody's has withdrawn the ratings as a missed scheduled payment of either interest or principal is considered a default under Moody's definitions, the rating agency added.

'Auto asset-backed loan losses low'

Loss rates in the sector in India average 1% and are likely to remain low: Moody's

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Moody's Investors Service on Saturday said losses in auto asset-backed loans are currently low on an average and the trend would continue in the medium term.

Southern States

Moody's also found that loans originating in the States of southern India exhibit lower loss rates than loans from other States, with 40% of total CV loans backing Indian auto ABS from southern states.

Its analysis is based on the performance of 70 Indian auto ABS backed by commercial vehicle (CV) loans originating between 2009 and 2016 by eight different financiers, and with a total initial pool principal amount of ₹11,500 crore.

A majority of auto asset-backed securities (ABS) in India are backed by CV loans. "Our analysis shows that



Smooth road: Economic conditions represent a key loss driver, says the rating agency. •GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

of key loss drivers. Economic conditions represent a key loss driver, and the performance of CV loans is highly correlated to it, Moody's said.

Higher rates

The U.S.-based rating agency also found that higher interest rate loans are associated with higher loss rates, and that lenders price auto loans according to their assessment of the riskiness of borrowers.

"Loans that are at least a year old show lower loss rates when compared with less seasoned loans.

And, loans with higher loan-to-value ratios typically demonstrate higher loss rates," it added.

Loans with shorter original tenures incur lower losses, because borrowers who can afford to repay loans over a short period are typically of higher quality, Moody's said.

Dipanshu Rustagi said. In a statement Moody's said auto ABS losses vary at different times and between loans with different characteristics, driven by a number

राष्ट्रीय स्वच्छ गंगा मिशन
नमामि गंगे

अपील

जल संसाधन, नदी विकास एवं गंगा संरक्षण मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार की अधिसूचना दिनांक 07 अक्टूबर 2016 के क्रम में दिनांक 7 अप्रैल 2017 को उत्तराखण्ड राज्य गंगा संरक्षण, सुरक्षा तथा प्रबन्धन समिति (उत्तराखण्ड गंगा समिति) का गठन किया गया है। अधिसूचना के तहत राज्य गंगा समिति को पर्यावरण (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1986 के प्रावधानों तथा उसके तहत बनाये गये नियमों अथवा उसके तहत जारी निर्देशों तथा अधिसूचना के प्रावधानों में निर्धारित नियमों के शर्ताधीन पैरा 6, 7 और 8 में उल्लिखित उपायों सहित ऐसे सभी उपायों जो वह गंगा नदी में प्रभावी प्रदूषण निवारण और नदी के संरक्षण हेतु तथा राष्ट्रीय गंगा परिषद तथा राष्ट्रीय स्वच्छ गंगा मिशन के निर्णयों को लागू करने हेतु आवश्यक अथवा अनिवार्य समझें, को करने का अधिकार दिया है। माननीय राष्ट्रीय हरित प्राधिकरण द्वारा अपने आदेश दिनांक 19.07.2016 के द्वारा निम्न निर्देश निर्गत किये गये हैं:-

WHEREAS, Hon'ble National Green Tribunal issued order in the matter of O.A. No. 200/2014 MC Mehta Vs Union of India & Ors on 19.07.2016 for compliance:

- All the Hotel, Dharmshalas and Ashrams which have capacity of more than 20 rooms shall have their own bio-digesters and/or STP.
- Any Building Hotel, Dharmshalas and Ashram which is more than 20 rooms and or has a built up area of more than 10,000 sq feet shall have its own STP/Biodigester.
- Projects which require Environmental clearance under the EIA Notification of 2006 shall essentially have its own STP and concerned authorities shall ensure the same.

WHEREAS, Hon'ble High Court of Uttarakhand at Nainital in the matter of Lalit Miglani Vs State of Uttarakhand & Ors WP(PIL) No. 140/2015 dated 12.02.2016 has passed the following directions:

"After three months, no industry/hotel/commercial establishment/ educational institution shall discharge untreated sewage/industrial effluent in river Ganga without its treatment. In case of failure, the competent authority is directed to take stern action against these establishments. All the drains opening into the river Ganga shall be sealed and closed after three months.

There shall also be a direction not to permit new industries based on water like Sugarcane, Pulp/Paper Industries, Distilleries, Textile Industries etc. within a radius of two kilometre from the banks of river Ganga. No new commercial establishment employing more than 50 persons including the hotels, having capacity of more than 50 guests, shall be permitted to operate henceforth, without setting up Effluent Treatment Plant or Sewage Treatment Plant. This direction shall also be applicable for big Ashrams housing more than 100 devotees."

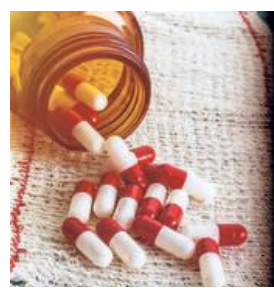
अतः समस्त ऐसे व्यवसायिक परिसर/शैक्षणिक प्रतिष्ठान/होटल/धर्मशाला/आश्रम इत्यादि को पुनः सचेत किया जाता है कि माननीय राष्ट्रीय हरित प्राधिकरण तथा माननीय उच्च न्यायालय उत्तराखण्ड द्वारा गंगा सफाई एवं संरक्षण हेतु पारित विभिन्न आदेशों के अनुपालन में अपने परिसरों से निकलने वाले उत्स्रवाह का समुचित शोधन करना सुनिश्चित करें।

उक्त के सन्दर्भ में जन समुदाय से अनुरोध किया जाता है कि गढ़वाल मण्डल में यदि किसी व्यवसायिक परिसर/शैक्षणिक प्रतिष्ठान/होटल/धर्मशाला/आश्रम इत्यादि द्वारा उपरोक्त इंगित के उल्लंघन में अपने गन्दे पानी का निस्तारण गंगा या उसकी सहायक नदियों में किया जा रहा है तो उक्त की शिकायत फोन/ई-मेल/पत्र के माध्यम से समस्त विवरण सहित निम्नलिखित पते पर भेजकर गंगा संरक्षण में अपना सहयोग दें ताकि सम्बन्धित के विरुद्ध उचित कार्यवाही की जा सके।

कार्यक्रम निदेशक
राज्य परियोजना प्रबन्धन ग्रुप, नमामि गंगे
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पत्रांक : 1939/सू. एवं लो.सचि.विभाग दिनांक : 18 नवम्बर, 2017

IN BRIEF



Eris to buy Strides Shashun's business

NEW DELHI
Ahmedabad-based drug major Eris Lifesciences has entered into a definitive pact with Bengaluru-based Strides Shashun to acquire the latter's India-based generics business for a cash consideration of ₹1,000 crore. "The transaction is subject to customary closing conditions and parties intend to close the transaction by November 30, 2017," the companies said in a joint statement. PTI

Zydus Cadila gets USFDA nod for swelling drug

NEW DELHI
Zydus Cadila has received final approval from the U.S. health regulator to market Ethacrynic acid sodium for injection, used to reduce swelling caused by various diseases. The company has received final approval from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to market the drug with a strength of 50 mg/vial, Zydus Cadila said in a filing. The company will produce the drug at its factory in Ahmedabad. PTI

Punjab National Bank to finance farm machinery

NEW DELHI
Public sector lender Punjab National Bank and the National Construction Equipment and Tractors Dealers Association (NCEAT) have tied up to finance of farm machinery through the bank's branches across the country. "The tie-up between the two largest players in their respective fields will enable PNB to facilitate the availability of quality farm machinery equipment to its huge farmer base at very low rate of interest i.e., at present 9.20%," the bank said in a statement. PTI

Centre fixes gold bond rate at ₹2,964 per gram

NEW DELHI
The price of the new series of sovereign gold bonds (SGBs) opening on Monday has been fixed at ₹2,964 per gram, the government, in consultation with RBI, has decided to offer a discount of ₹50 per gram to investors applying online and making payments digitally. "For the next subscription period (November 20-22, 2017)... the issue price shall be ₹2,964 per gram with settlement on November 27, 2017," the Finance Ministry said in a statement. PTI

'Assisted travel', a boon for the wheel-chair bound in India

Trend picking up, says service provider, which facilitates trips for elderly as well

LALATENDU MISHRA
MUMBAI

Assisted travel, a concept that is popular in the West, has started catching up in India as more elderly and physically challenged people prefer to travel abroad.

Enable Travel, an entity of Cox and Kings, has started offering assisted travel service in India and reported encouraging response from such groups who need special assistance through out the journey. "We have enabled over 100 physically challenged customers to travel abroad in the last eight months. The trend is growing in India," said Debolin Sen, head, Enable Travel.

Target groups

The company's main target are the four disability types - wheelchair users, visual, speech and hearing impaired. It also caters to the senior citizen segment. This market has huge potential. "We find that the senior citizens have huge disposable incomes. However, due to age, their movements are restricted but they have the urge to travel. We facilitate



Pals on wheels: Enable Travel, an entity of Cox and Kings, has deployed wheelchair accessible vehicles in three big cities.

this type of travel," Mr. Sen added. This segment of travel is growing at 15% year-on-year, said analysts.

The total inbound market for travel for people with disabilities is worth several million dollars. The domestic market remains untapped.

According to the United Nations World Travel Organisation (UNWTO), more than 12% of the people from the U.K., who travel, had a disability or a long-term health problem. About 11% of Australian tourists who travel have some form of disability

and American adults with disabilities or reduced mobility spend an average of \$13.6 billion annually on travel. With 12 million disabled living in the U.K., with a spending power of £249 billion a year, it is the largest untapped consumer market which travel firms have started eyeing.

In India, data from the 2011 census shows that people with disabilities has increased 2% per year in the decade since 2001 and is estimated at about 26.8 million. This is 2.1% of the country's population. According to the census, 20.3% of the Indian population are wheelchair worthy, 18.8% cannot see, 18.9% cannot hear and 7.5% have speech problems.

So, to cater to this huge market, Enable Travel has invested in transportation in the form of WAVs - wheelchair accessible vehicles, aids and accessories among other support systems, including investment in specially trained staff (caregivers and sign language specialists). "Most of these important accessories are specialised in nature and aren't available in India" Mr. Sen said. The company has deployed vans which are WAVs (wheelchair accessible vehicles) in Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru.

Tata Global gets a boost as branded business grows

Beverage major's business climbed 50% over a year

INDRANI DUTTA
KOLKATA

Good volume growth in the branded business segment and improved performance in some of its associates has boosted the prospects of Tata Global Beverages (TGB) during the second quarter of 2017-18. TGB has interests in tea, coffee and water.

The company's branded business comprises packet tea, coffee, tea-based beverages and health beverages. Its non-branded business is from subsidiaries like Tata Coffee, associates such as Amalgamated Plantations Pvt. Ltd., Kanan Devan Hills Plantation Co. Pvt. Ltd. and its instant tea business.

Incubatory businesses

This aside, the company also has some incubatory businesses including joint ventures - Tata Starbucks and Nourishco Beverages Ltd., which markets TGB's water products.



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

The parent company, Tata Global Beverages Ltd., has 40 subsidiaries, six joint ventures and four associate companies. During the quarter ended September 30, 2017, branded business increased to ₹1,507.4 crore from ₹1,434.7 crore a year earlier, even as the non-branded business slid marginally to ₹197.4 crore from ₹204.1 crore.

The profitability of the branded business too increased during this quarter against a drop in the profits

Trigyn Tech to focus on Indian market

Reduces share capital post NCLT nod

N. ANAND
CHENNAI

Having wiped out accumulated losses of ₹525 crore, Trigyn Technologies Ltd. is now focusing on the Indian market, said a top executive.

"Recently, we received the National Company Law Tribunal approval to reduce our share capital to reflect the true financial position," said R. Ganapathi, chairman and executive director, Trigyn Technologies. "Now, the company moves into a zone where shareholders can receive dividend."

Trigyn Technologies currently serves 35 clients across staffing, managed services and cybersecurity. It had posted a revenue of \$101 million.

"We want to increase revenues earned in rupees. From a meagre level now, we would like rupee-denominated revenues to contribute to about 30-35% of the total by 2020. By then, we aim to reach total in-

Abu Dhabi woos Indians with a cruise

Special Correspondent

The Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi is wooing travellers from India with a sail through cruise and an art museum.

"We are offering two new attractions. Sail by Celebrity cruises to Abu Dhabi and the recently openedouvre Art Museum," said Bejan Dinshaw, country manager-India, Department of Culture and Tourism, Abu Dhabi. "The maiden cruise will sail out of Mumbai shores on December 12 and the museum will open soon."

For a while now, road shows have been held in different parts of the country to create awareness and attract Indian travellers to look west instead of towards the east."

For Abu Dhabi, India has been the number one source market for tourists. Recently, China replaced India by a few thousands, the officials said. Last year, Abu Dhabi received 3.5 lakh Indians. This year, till date, there has been a 7% increase. The target market comprised the youth, IT professionals and business visitors, Mr. Dinshaw said.



Yarns tell a tale: The yarn bank scheme has taken off in Malegaon, Bhiwandi and Ichalkaranji, say sources.

'Powerloom schemes need ₹100 crore more'

30% capital subsidy also mooted

M. SOUNDARIYA PREETHA
COIMBATORE

The Union Ministry of Textiles has sought additional funds to be disbursed to powerloom weavers under the PowerTex India Scheme, said a senior official in the ministry.

The three-year programme, which comprises several schemes, was started in April this year with an outlay of ₹487 crore, working out to approximately 160 crore a year.

The official said the In-Situ (assistance given to weavers to attachements to powerloom yarn bank, and group workshed schemes have had good response and ₹72 crore was disbursed since April under the PowerTex programme. The Textiles Ministry has sought about ₹100 crore more for this financial year for this project.

'70 proposals pending'

About 10 proposals were sanctioned under the yarn bank and group workshed schemes and another 70 applications are pending, the official said.

The Ministry has also recommended an increase in

capital subsidy for the powerloom sector from the current 10% to 30%.

According to Prashantam K. Vanga, chairman of Powerloom Development and Export Promotion Council, the In-Situ scheme had good response in clusters such as Bhiwandi where weavers produce

powerloom fabric. The yarn bank scheme has taken off well in places such as Malegaon, Bhiwandi, and Ichalkaranji. However, fabric exports have come down and the council has sought a special package for the powerloom sector similar to the ones given for the apparel and made-ups sectors.

It had also demanded increase in capital subsidy to 30% to encourage powerloom units to modernise, he said.

The increase in capital subsidy has been a long-standing demand of the powerloom sector. Schemes such as those for the yarn bank and group worksheds have had lukewarm response in the south due to several inherent reasons, according to several industry sources here.

INTERVIEW | T. T. RAM MOHAN

'Any government borrowing will impact fiscal deficit'

But, recapitalisation bonds will spur credit growth; higher RoE will compensate for interest cost, says IIM-A professor

K. BHARAT KUMAR

Prof. T. T. Ram Mohan, a professor of finance and accounting at the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, has welcomed the government's initiative to infuse funds into banks through the use of recapitalisation bonds. Opining that the NDA administration was remiss in not opting for recapitalisation as soon as it came to power, he has earlier written that infusing funds into banks was not tantamount to money 'going down the drain' but that it allowed for banks to use capital for lending, which would improve their profitability. The higher return on equity should more than compensate for the government's interest cost, he said. Excerpts from an email interview:

Should the government opt for perpetual bonds or should there be a tenure?

Perpetual bonds would saddle the government with a permanent debt obligation. A fixed tenure bond would impose a certain fiscal discipline on the government. Moreover, we do expect the growth outlook will improve in the coming years and hence repayment should not pose a problem. As to tenure, a 10-year bond should be okay.

What lessons should be taken from the recap exercise undertaken in 1993-95?

The amount involved then was much smaller. Following the recap, PSBs started improving their performance. Partly, this was because of improved growth but also it was because of a better focus on commercial performance

all around. The government can take an optimistic view based on the earlier experience. When larger banks fail, government tend to recapitalise as quick as possible to avoid disruption to the economy.

The Government of India should, of course, seek to improve governance and management at PSBs so as to minimise the probability of recurrence of large NPAs or losses.

Why haven't governments used it more often? How does it work elsewhere?

Well, it involves use of tax payer money, so you have to be careful. Governments the world over have used recapitalisation to cope with banking failures and crises - an IMF study has documented 140 episodes of banking crises in 115 economies in the period 1970-2011, which involved substantial use of tax

payer money for recapitalisation of banks.

You have said that factors such as the 2008 crisis contributed to bank NPAs rising. What steps are needed to prevent high NPAs, low capital adequacy and banks returning with a begging bowl?

Not just the 2008 financial crisis and the attendant global slowdown but events such as the glut in steel created by China and adverse court judgments in 2G, coal block allocation, iron ore mining etc. have contributed to the problem.

The fact that it's not just a PSB problem is borne out by the high NPA level at ICICI Bank.

Gross NPA at ICICI Bank is 8% - not very different from SBI's 10%. ICICI Bank has all the talent and credit risk appraisal skills you can think of, management has incentives and the bank has an independent board!

It's hard to argue, therefore, that public ownership is the crucial factor in the high level of NPAs at public sector banks.

We do need better risk management at banks in general, including limiting exposures to long-term finance such as infrastructure. We also need to be more rigorous in selecting CEOs at PSBs and focus on the nuts and



Banks need to limit exposures to long-term finance such as infrastructure

bolts of HR such as succession planning. Is ₹9,000 crore in annual interest, which is banded about, all that the government would be faced with?

Yes

Opinions differ on whether there would be an impact on fiscal deficit.

Any government borrowing means an impact on the fiscal deficit. It's a different matter that the IMF allows an

recapitalisation exercise?

We need to get credit flows going so that private production and investment pick up. The need for a fiscal stimulus is recognised by many but economists don't think that government consumption spending or public investment is the best answer. I would argue that bank recap is the right stimulus at the present time.

What else must the government be committed to?

We could certainly use better boards and the finance ministry must express its views through its board representatives instead of giving instructions "offline". This would strengthen the functioning of PSB boards.

The government must bring quality professionals on to the boards of Public Sector Banks - this would require government to improve compensation for independent directors.

However, talk of political interference coming in the way of PSB performance is overblown.

Most PSB CEOs will tell you that in recent years, they have faced little interference on the whole.

RBI must provide a guiding hand when it comes to risk management. Their draft for Large Exposure Framework is a good one and should be pursued.

RajCOMP Info Services Limited (RISL)
C-Block, 1st Floor, Neelam Bhawan, Tlak Nagar, C Scheme, Jaipur

Corrigendum

With reference to NIS issued vide no. F3/3(2017)/RISL/Pur/2017/6272 Dated :- 17/10/2017 (UBN No. - R51718JGR00096) For "Rate Contract for Supply, Installation and Maintenance of IT Equipment's for GIS Project", the last date of submission of bids is hereby extended up to 07/12/2017 upto 02:00 PM.

Details can be seen on the websites <http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://ditc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://risl.rajasthan.gov.in>

Raj.Samwad/C/17/5548

Office of the Executive Engineer
Water Resources Division 1st, Ajmer

No.- 2534-47 Date: 13-11-2017

E-NIT No. 14/2017-18

On behalf of Government of Rajasthan e-NIT- 14 year 2017-18 are invited from eligible contractors for one work under RWSPIL scheme in District Ajmer. Estimated Cost of Work is Rs. 2.61 Crore. The details of works can be seen on the following site and may be downloaded.

(UBN WRD 1718WSOB01158)

- www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in
- www.diprrajasthan.gov.in
- www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in
- www.water.rajasthan.gov.in/wrd

(D.S. Beniwal)
Executive Engineer
Water Resources Division 1st, Ajmer

DIPRIC/13087

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
SOUTHERN (R&B) CIRCLE, BERHAMPUR

Phone: 0680-2281582, FAX: 0680-2281582, e-mail: scspcwdd@yahoo.co.in

INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB) [e-Procurement]

Bid Identification No. S.E., S.C (R&B)-BAM-10/2017-18

468-B : No.3736 // Dated : 07.11.2017

- The Superintending Engineer, Southern (R&B) Circle, Berhampur on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for construction of Building / Road works as detailed in the table below:
- Nature of work : Building (Composite) and Road works
- No. of work : 3 Nos.
- Tender Cost : Rs. 10,000/-
- Class of Contractor : 'B', 'A' & Special Class
- Availability of Bid document : From 22.11.2017 10.00 AM to 08.12.2017 4.00 PM in the website.
- Date of Opening of Bid : 14.12.2017 at 11.30 A.M.
- The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website <https://tendersorissa.gov.in>.
- Any Corrigendum/Addendum/Cancellation of will be displayed in the e-tender website only.

Superintending Engineer,
Southern (R&B) Circle, Berhampur.

34163/11/0010/1718

E-Mail - senrcwngul@yahoo.co.in; ☎ 06764-236404

Government of Odisha
Office of the Superintending Engineer,
Northern Circle, Rural Works, Angul.

e-Procurement Notice for Road work in Odisha

Bid Identification No. Road Online AGL-12/2017-18

No. 1595 // Dt. 09.11.2017 //

- Name of the work : Road Work
- Total No. of work : 3 No.
- Estimated Cost : Rs. 108.00 Lakhs to Rs. 391.00 Lakhs
- Class of Contractor : 'B', 'A' & Special Class
- Period of Completion : 12 (Twelve) months.
- Other details :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding	Last Date & Time of opening of tender	Date & Time of opening of tender
1	2	3	4	5
Superintending Engineer, Northern Circle, Rural Works, Angul	Road Online AGL-12	22.11.2017 11:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.	11.12.2017 upto 1:00 P.M.	08.12.2017 at 11:00 A.M. to 21.12.2017 at 11:00 A.M.

(1) For detailed Notice Inviting Tenders, Please visit to the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in

893-0: 25648/11/0010/1718

Superintending Engineer,
N.C., Rural Works, Angul.

IN BRIEF



J.B. Hunt, Wal-Mart board Tesla's truck

Tesla Inc. got high-profile orders from Wal-Mart Stores Inc. and fleet operator J.B. Hunt for its future electric truck, but the would-be customers indicated they are giving the big rig a try, not buying in volume. Wal-Mart said it plans to order a total of 15 Tesla trucks. J.B. Hunt was the first major U.S. trucking company to announce an order for Tesla's new "Semi" electric trucks. **REUTERS**



Apple delays HomePod smart speaker roll-out

Apple has pushed the introduction of HomePod smart speaker to early next year from December missing the shopping season as the market for such devices becomes highly competitive. The speaker, which can make music suggestions and adjust home temperatures, targets Amazon's Alexa feature and Echo devices. **REUTERS**



Oil prices show first weekly fall in six

Oil rebounded more than 2% on Friday as a major U.S. crude pipeline was shut and traders anticipated an OPEC deal to extend production curbs. Prices, however, fell for the first week in six, pressured by rising U.S. output data and doubts that Russia would support an extension of the OPEC output cut deal. **REUTERS**



Buyers circle U.S. media firms including Fox unit

All of a sudden, everybody wants to own a U.S. media firm. In the last few weeks, several telecommunications and media firms have started circling Twenty First Century Fox Inc. Potential suitors include Comcast Corp., Verizon Communications and Walt Disney Co. Meanwhile, Meredith Corp. is mulling a bid for Time Inc. **REUTERS**

Oil giants unlikely to share coal's fate, at least for now

Norwegian fund mulls dropping oil, gas holdings; but demand to last for decades

REUTERS
LONDON

The Norwegian sovereign wealth fund's proposal to ditch its oil and gas shares, though hugely symbolic in the battle against climate change, is unlikely to cause a rush to the exit by major investors in the sector in the short term.

The move by the \$1 trillion fund, the world's largest, rattled stock markets, exposing what is seen as one of the biggest threats to companies such as Royal Dutch Shell, Exxon Mobil and BP as the world shifts towards renewable energy such as wind and solar.

But in the meantime, expectations of growing global demand for oil and gas for decades to come mean reliance on these companies is likely to continue.

Low-carbon economy

And although the Norwegian initiative will encourage those seeking to hasten the move to a low-carbon economy, the degree to which other investors can follow the fund's example, at least in the short term, is less clear.

The European oil and gas index fell on Friday to its lowest since late September, extending declines following the Norwegian fund's announcement.

For some, it was seen as an opening shot in the decline of the 150-year-old sector in the battle to slow global warming and reduce carbon emissions, reminiscent of the demise of coal.

"The investor exit from oil and gas as a fuel source will be slower than coal, but the emissions reduction maths is clear and so this inevitable transition has started," said



Turning tides: The fund's plan is seen by some as an opening shot in the decline of the 150-year-old sector. **AFP**

Nathan Fabian, director of policy at Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI), a UN-backed group that represents asset managers with holdings of over \$60 trillion.

But other investors do not draw the same parallels.

Gas for power

"I do not see this as the start of a broader trend among major investors," said Rohan Murphy, energy analyst at Allianz, which holds shares in several oil majors.

There is a more obvious SRI (sustainable responsible investment) sell; compared to oil and gas, coal is dirtier."

"Gas, which is a big part of all the big oil businesses today, is the answer for the medium-term energy transition to gas from coal for power generation," Mr. Murphy said.

Petroleum companies see natural gas as a cleaner alternative to coal for power generation in the effort to wean the world off fossil

fuels at the end of the century.

Many wish for a quick and revolutionary role reversal between the oil and gas industry, and the renewable and new electric industry. But undue haste and an overly ideological approach could bring great economic and social damage," Total CEO Patrick Pouyanné said last month.

Also, demand for oil in transportation and plastics is not expected to decline significantly until 2050, according to many forecasts.

The Norwegian announcement came as more than 195 nations met in Bonn, Germany, to decide how to comply with climate targets agreed in Paris in 2015 to limit a rise in global temperatures.

But beyond our dependence on oil and gas, the size of the world's top oil companies would make mass divestment a huge challenge. The top five publicly traded

companies – Exxon, Chevron, Shell, BP and Total – together have a market value of over \$1 trillion.

Coal companies, on the other hand, have always been smaller.

For now, there is no viable alternative to oil and gas to meet the world's demand, several investors said.

"My guess is that after the initial market adjustment ... the move may not damage the sector's long-term performance significantly," said Kevin Gardiner, global investment strategist at Rothschild Wealth Management.

The Norwegian wealth fund's move, echoing Saudi Arabia's plan to list part of its national oil company, was aimed at making Norway less exposed to volatile oil prices and less reliant on revenue from fossil fuels.

If approved, it would most likely take years for the Norwegian fund to unwind its large investments in the sector and find new homes for the money.

And while there is also growing demand from retail investors to invest in 'responsible' or 'sustainable' funds, oil and gas companies are not commonly excluded and any change here would be gradual.

In absolute terms, the number of oil and gas companies in leading stock indices varies, with 14 in the STOXX 600 index of leading European companies, or 2.3%; and 26 in the S&P 500, or 5.2%. The size of some of the largest can have a disproportionate impact on returns relative to their index peers. While there are just two companies in Britain's blue-chip FTSE 100 index, for example, they make up 14% of the index's value.

WEEK AHEAD IN MARKETS

Despite Amazon, brick stores are not dead yet

Investors can bet on the decline of traditional retail

REUTERS
NEW YORK

Just in time for the Black Friday kick-off to holiday season shopping, stock market investors have been handed tools to bet on the decline of brick-and-mortar retail.

As of Friday, these tools were not yet for sale on Amazon. An exchange-traded fund launched Thursday allows investors to bet on the decline of traditional retail and a second one doubles down by betting at the same time on the rise to supremacy of online sales.

The Decline of Retail Stores ETF and the Long Online Short Stores ETF are self-explanatory. The main index they track inversely, the equal-weighted Solactive ProShares Bricks and Mortar Retail Store Index, is composed of 64 retailers including Barnes & Noble, Sears, Office Depot, Macy's and Walmart, which have chains of physical stores as well as online presence.

They are not the only or the first planning for a decimation of the retail sector at the hands of Amazon and other online retailers. Research firm Bespoke introduced its Death by Amazon Index, currently with 54 components, in 2012.

The trend to online shopping is not new, but with online taking only a fraction of all retail sales, the ETFs expect to capitalise on the long-term trend.

"Online penetration is about 10% right now so there is a long way ahead



For and against: A new ETF allows wagers on the rise of online sales. **AP**

"The retailing industry is going to be an apocalypse," he said, without identifying which retailers will go down in flames. "Anyone working in the consumer retailing industry ... should be training for a new job."

Click and mortar

Reports of the death of brick and mortar retail could be mildly exaggerated, however.

Retail and food service sales in the U.S. during the first three quarters of 2017 totalled \$484.4 billion in September a monthly record high, according to U.S. government data.

About 164 million Americans plan to shop in the coming Thanksgiving weekend, including on Black Friday and Cyber Monday, according to the National Retail Federation.

Recent results show the battle for consumers is far from lost at physical stores. Walmart, for instance, said third-quarter U.S. sales growth online and in-store was the strongest since 2009.

A combination of online presence and easy access for consumers known as "click and mortar" will allow some names to survive by letting their customers browse all their options online while offering the convenience of a quick pickup of the product on their drive home. Shares of Walmart touched a record high on Friday, as did those of Home Depot, which raised its full-year profit and sales forecasts.

Boxed and ready



Move over Santa: Staff at an Amazon fulfilment centre in Peterborough, England, process purchased items. A report in the U.S. has suggested that more than half of all online purchases this Christmas would be made with Amazon. **GETTY IMAGES**

Fox hunt gives Murdoch a rare chance to play defence

TOM BUERKLE
NEW YORK

The hunter has become the hunted. Rupert Murdoch, who once successfully put Dow Jones into play, finds himself in the crosshairs of rivals Comcast, Verizon and Walt Disney. They want to buy big chunks of Twenty-First Century Fox's film and cable television businesses. The acquisitive media mogul will have to show whether he is capable of playing defence and may need some help.

All three suitors and Mr. Murdoch are scrambling for solid footing in a rapidly changing media landscape. Cord-cutting led by younger viewers and the rise of streaming services such as Netflix have eaten into growth for the likes of Disney. Comcast has been suffering erosion in subscribers, too. Competitive lines are also blurring as mobile services, cable operators and broadcasters in-

creasing in strength. That means all of them have an interest in owning more programming and reaching larger audiences overseas, or at least ensuring their competitors don't steal a march. Given the interest, Mr. Murdoch seems willing to entertain offers for big chunks of the global media empire he has spent some three decades building.

COMMENT

A sale could include the group's film studio, cable networks like FX and its 39% stake in European satellite broadcaster Sky. As Mr. Murdoch knows all too well, though, it can be difficult to stop these processes once they start. Fox turned tail on Time Warner in 2014 after making an \$80 billion unsolicited offer, but AT&T agreed to swallow it up just two years later.

That deal, oddly enough, may play a big part in all the

test manoeuvring. News of the Comcast and Verizon approaches to Fox surfaced on the same day the U.S. Justice Department's new antitrust chief publicly raised the bar for clearing big takeovers. Makan Delrahim said that divestitures are the best way to address competition issues rather than other so-called behavioural remedies, or pledges from companies to take steps to avoid consolidating too much market power.

Mr. Delrahim's agency is expected to try and block AT&T's \$85 billion acquisition of Time Warner unless it is willing to sell significant assets. That makes it harder to see how Fox's suitors could manage to win over U.S. trustbusters.

Mr. Murdoch, in his role as prey, may have some formidable protection.

(The author is a Reuters Breakingviews columnist. The opinions expressed are his own)

Business jets risk U.S. pilot shortage on competition from commercial airlines

U.S. legacy carriers are recruiting employees to fly new aircraft and replace retiring staff, with American Airlines expected to hire 900 mainline pilots in 2018

REUTERS
MONTREAL

Business jet operators, already offering double digit raises to attract pilots, could face a labour shortfall in North America as they compete with U.S. airlines for talent, executives and analysts said.

Competition is intensifying from airlines, which generally offer higher salaries and better benefits and are taking delivery of new aircraft at a fast pace, aviation consultant Roland Vincent said. Boeing Co. and Airbus SE left the Dubai Air Show with about 700 provisional orders for narrow-body commercial jets, potentially adding to already hefty backlogs.

It is expected that the world's rapidly growing commercial aviation industry will need an additional 2,55,000

pilots by 2027, according to training specialist CAE Inc.

'Buyers' market

U.S. legacy carriers are recruiting employees to fly new aircraft and replace retiring staff, with American Airlines expected to hire 900 mainline pilots in 2018, up from just over 500 in 2017, said Dennis Tajer, a spokesman for the Allied Pilots' Association (APA), which represents American Airlines' pilots. "It's really a buyers' market and the buyer is the pilot now," Mr. Tajer said in a telephone interview. "If you don't pay pilots the market rate you're going to lose them."

By contrast, in Europe corporate jet operators did not lose many pilots this year to commercial aviation because carriers had an adequate supply of pilots after

Air Berlin and Britain's Monarch Airlines ceased operations, said Adam Twidell, CEO of PrivateFly, a global private jet charter broker.

According to the 2017 pilot salary survey from the National Business Aviation Association (NBAA), a captain flying a mid-sized corporate plane like the Bombardier Challenger 350 made about \$130,000 on average. In 2017, an American Airlines captain flying the B737 or A320 narrow-body earned just more than \$268,000, according to an APA compensation document.

Don Haloburdo, VP and general manager of flight services for business aircraft management and charter company Jet Aviation, a division of General Dynamics Corp., said corporate pilots' salaries rose 20% this year.

Mr. Haloburdo expects the

higher salaries to slightly increase operating costs for business jet companies, but that could be absorbed. He does not think they would hurt sales since owners' largest expense, fuel, is relatively low.

Although business jet sales are flat, Mr. Haloburdo expects demand for corporate pilots and maintenance technicians to pick up after 2018 as airlines boost recruiting efforts and popular new planes hit the market from Bombardier and Gulfstream, also a division of General Dynamics.

"When Bombardier starts delivering the Global 7000 in significant numbers, Gulfstream starts delivering their G500 and G600 in significant numbers, that's where our industry is going to have a very significant challenge finding qualified crew mem-

bers," he said.

Most buyers of the Global 7000, which lists for about \$73 million, already own corporate jets and have their own pilot crews, said Steve Business Aircraft President David Cole.

But new jets could attract well-paid corporate pilots who work on contract.

It can already be difficult for companies without full time crews to schedule last-minute flights, said Warren Peck, president of Phoenix Rising Aviation, a maintenance and repair operation.

A former U.S. military pilot, Mr. Peck offers to fly at a discounted rate for his maintenance customers who cannot find a pilot. "A lot of my customers, operators don't have full-time, in-house pilots," he said. "For them, it's very helpful."



Size matters: A captain of a corporate jet like the Bombardier Challenger 350 made about \$130,000 on average, while an American Airlines A320 captain earned over \$268,000. **AFP**

Recipe for that perfect moment

The ingredients are not really complicated: it just comes when it comes

SHIVANGI RAI

Three of us were sitting on the last rock down at the end of the jagged Dalmatian cliff-side. It wasn't such a difficult trek down, to be honest. The rock terraces snaking down this absolutely precious hole-in-the-wall bar called Buza bar, were dangerous only for the truly inebriated.

We were almost at that stage but not entirely. A giggle here and a snort there and almost a tumble later, we were at the desired spot. The rock was wet from the constant assault of waves and promised a cold throne.

But we had not risked our lives and limbs and made it so far down (it was barely five steps now that I think of it) to be dissuaded by the possibility of wet posteriors. Sitting down led to a bit of an argument as it was a curved rock and nobody wanted to sit on the pointy bit.

But as is the way of the world, the smallest of us size-wise had to make the sacrifice and occupy the decidedly uncomfortable peak. That settled, not to everyone's satisfaction of course, we finally did what we had planned to do the moment we had spied that tiny rock from the terracotta cliff side balcony of Buza Bar. We took our shoes off, rolled our trousers up and dipped our feet in the liquid emerald called the Adriatic. Three of us hissed in unison as it was December and no amount of glittering Dubrovnik sun could have warmed the seas.

But after a while the water felt just the right degree of cold. Maybe it was the locally brewed concoction that we had had by the buckets at Buza earlier that kind of took the edge off. Whatever be the case, the cold waves swinging our feet under the water back and forth in a hypnotic rhythm, soothed in



ILLUSTRATION: SATWICK GADE

many unexplainable ways.

I am not sure how long we sat there. It could have been an hour or four. All I remember is that we still had much of the city left to see. It was a spot that wasn't on our list. We had stumbled upon it while walking in the old town along the old city castle walls. There was this sign board that pointed right and read "cold beer and a beautiful view". We were tempted by the first promise a tad bit more than the latter. So we followed the sign and suddenly came upon this innocuous looking garage carved into the walls. It looked like a pass to the gallows, to be honest. But then, past those dubious looking gates something shiny caught the eye. It was our first glimpse of the glorious Adriatic seducing us with its thousands shades of blue and green.

As if that was not enough, the sun was at the perfect angle in a cloudless sky, catching every rising wave and making a momentary jewel out of each of them. Three of us had 'awestruck' written on our faces in different ways - mouth hanging open to eyes bugged out to "Oh (read profanity of your choice)!" And that gate was what led us to the Buza Bar, whose stocks we went through like thirsty fish, clicked quintessential pictures for social media and then finally settled on the pointy wet rock.

Surreal feeling

Our feet in the water, the sun on our faces and an endless blue-green sea for view, it felt surreal. It was a truly perfect moment. Time had slowed down but at the same time it was flying away too

fast. I was breathing slow and blinking less to seize all I could, to feel all I could. I felt this weight in the proximity of my heart - the weight of a perfect moment. I knew I was in it but I feared what if I don't experience this again. It was a strange limbo of an emotion. That deep contentment accompanied by the foreboding of its loss.

I couldn't take it any longer so I expressed my fears to my companions. What if this is it? What if I never experience this ever again and only get to relive it in memories? At first both of them scoffed at my whimsies as all true friends would, and wondered if I was more plastered than they had thought. But I guess I looked seriously worried so one of them said reassuringly: "Don't worry about it. Three of us are going to have mil-

lion such moments in the future. But more importantly, the next time we will ensure that you are stone cold sober and not ruining this for us with your whining."

My alleged best friends snickered and I curbed my impulse to push both of them into the freezing sea for mocking such a profound train of thought. But it wasn't long before I was laughing with them at my own 'corniness'.

And it slowly dawned on me that I was wrong. This wasn't my first perfect moment. I have had several before. And with these very same disloyal friends who were now busy amusing themselves at my expense.

Sitting on a bench in Connaught Place eating *bhel*, soaking up the national capital's winter sun and laughing at all the overressed Delhi aunties. Ordering 'sub of the day' at Subway because we never had enough money at that time to buy the sandwich of our choice. Doing an all-nighter, just talking for straight 12 hours and sleeping only because we wanted to pretend we weren't crazy.

I guess the recipe for a perfect moment is not very complicated, after all. First, it almost always catches you unawares when you least expect it. It is unencumbered by weight of expectations.

Second, the setting may or may not matter. It does help if one is near a beach or a mountain but this is not an essential requisite.

But the most important ingredient, without which no moment can even come close to perfection, is having goofy, up-to-no-good old friends who know you in and out and are always ready to ruin that perfect moment with the most imperfectly timed sniggers.

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Let go, and let them fly

How to build in your children the confidence they need

LAKSHMI MITTER

We heard some noise outside our door this morning. It sounded like an angry cat. The noise just got louder. We had to look to find out what was happening.

In a corner there was a cute kitten who was obviously feeling very lazy to move. On the other side was her mother, trying to get her to move and find her breakfast. It all started with gentle coaxing and gradually moved on to a 'raised' voice, clearly indicating that the mother was not going to fetch food today. If the kitten wanted to eat, she would have to learn to fetch on her own. The mother wanted to teach how to hunt that morning, but the kitten would not move. Obviously she liked to laze and did not want to get out of her mommy's protective hug.

As a parent you want not only the best things for your child but you also want to bring her up as a good, caring and smart human being. To achieve that, the general parenting advice I have heard is to 'let go'. In other words, letting her to figure out things for herself instead of hovering on the side and constantly telling her what to do and how to do.

But what is a good age to let go? When your child is an adult? Or much before? I guess much before, so that the child grows into a confident adult and not just dropped off a cliff soon after reaching adulthood, to figure out things for herself. If that is true, what is "much before adulthood?" What is a good age to let them figure out things for themselves?

You don't give it much thought until your child is out on her own, amid her friends. Initially you are watching her as she is too young to be left by herself. Slowly you move away, giv-



ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH R KUMAR

ing her the space and the confidence, by conveying that you know she can manage on her own. If she is a cautious child, she will take more time to let you go away from sight, but it is bound to happen and it happens one way or the other.

Giving space

You worry when she is out of sight. You feel your parental protective instinct digging you inside, forcing you to go and look out for her the way you always did. But then you know you must give her space, she is growing up and it is imperative that you let the confidence build at its own pace over time. By hovering around, you make it harder for you as well as her to let go and learn to become independent. But at the same time, it is important to let her know that the home base exists and she can come back to it to talk about happy experiences as well as the sad ones that trouble her deeply.

When my son was around four, I used to watch him get bullied many times. I used to hold myself thinking I must let him deal with it and if the situation gets worse, only then must I intervene. There was this day when I was sitting on the side trying hard to stop myself from rushing

to the boy bullying my son, intervene and say something that would scare off the boy, another parent sat down next to me. As if she read my mind, she said to me, "They must learn to resolve issues on their own. We cannot all the time do it for them."

I found myself confused for a while, trying to decide what would be the best course of action. After a while, I realised I must listen to my motherly instinct telling me to make myself available should my son need my help. I must help him build confidence to face adversities. That does not happen by disappearing from the picture, but being available if the need arises.

Several years have passed since then and he is more adept at dealing with bullies now. Even then my husband and I let him know from time to time that we must know if the situation gets out of hand, so we can act upon it. Of course he is no longer a baby, but in our hearts he is still the same baby we saw the day he was born. But he is growing up. We must let him make mistakes, learn from them and figure out things on his own, while we wait on the side, should he need us for something.

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User-friendly, or is it user-hostile?

T.S. SURYANARAYANAN

User-friendly is a term used to convey the idea that something is easy to use, especially in matters relating to computers. When we say a website is user-friendly, it means it is clear, uncomplicated and easy to use.

Though the primary aim of engineers, software programmers and website designers is to make life easy by producing user-friendly products, this does not always happen. Take the case of drawing money from an ATM. You push in your card and the ATM says, 'welcome, enter your PIN'. You do that and then it goes, 'do you want cash...?' When you punch 'yes', the screen asks for the type of account. You indicate the choice and it asks for the quantum of money. You enter the digits and wait, expecting the money to roll out. But the screen says: 'Sorry, no cash. Try elsewhere'. Why can't they program it to say so even before you start the whole exercise? Maybe it's my imagination, but everytime this happens, I hear the sound of someone laughing his head off.

Similarly, only after you click 'pay', which the last option before booking your train ticket online, the screen sneers, 'your session has expired'.

But the best form of taunting a user is through Capcha. A Capcha is for identifying if the user is a human or a computer. But Capchas at some portals are so complicated it could be used to differentiate a normal human from an abnormal genius.

Elsewhere, only wrestlers can flush the toilet or open the door or window of a train compartment. Airport trolleys are designed so the wheels move in different directions.

I propose the term 'user-hostile' to describe such experiences.

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Into the hospital labyrinths of these times

Here is an ecosystem that marries cures and commerce, and it is all so different from the past

NITASHA DEVASAR

A sudden illness took me into the relatively new world of the modern private hospital recently. The whole experience was disconcerting, even unsettling, in a way that had little to do with my medical problem. In fact, that problem soon took a back seat to my conscious and avid absorption in the social economy of this modern health arena.

The first thing that hit me was the atmosphere. Cabs and private cars queued up to enter the portico, ushered by arm-waving private guards, and disgorged their passengers who immediately swept through the revolving glass doors to the welcoming smiles of the door-keepers. It seemed more like the entry to a hotel rather than a hospital. Notwithstanding the plethora of wheelchairs and assorted humans with patches, bandaged appendages and hovering escorts that were around.

Once inside, a wide open lobby with a reception sign and the smell of brewing coffee, so different from the hospitals of my childhood that smelt of disinfectant and despair, reinforced the five-star hotel feel. The air was purposeful and upbeat as you got directions to the relevant department via the billing counter, your next stop. Here is where you may get the first inkling that things are more serious than they seem.

The snaking lines

The multiple straggly queues remain horizontal, as several people queue up for one billing, and grow vertically too, moving at the same unhurried pace of most Indian lines. The ethnic mix is eclectic: Afghans, Arabs and East Africans mixed with the city's upwardly mobile and upcountry imports from Jharkhand and Bihar. The billing amounts run to several thousands each, handled in smoothly sign-

posted transactions (OPD billing, zero billing, follow-up billing, and so on) that imply progression, by uniformed millennials at the counters.

Next, you head to the arena of the specialists. This is an open space with seating like an airport boarding gate, surrounded by cabins with the name plates of the presiding doctors optimistically labelled, "Dr Abc wants you to get better", in flowery script. Another nursing station, run by a bunch of confident young women, gather receipts and move patients and their attendants towards the waiting area seamlessly and efficiently. In an inspiring display of female multitasking abilities, blood pressure and weights are checked, multiple questions fielded and the doctor's appointment queue kept running.

Now comes the waiting. In many ways this is the one part of the hospitals of old that I remember as being similar. However, here too



Surenvra

the changing times are visible. The crowd is multi-ethnic though largely Third World: the burkha-clad Somali woman and her squiggly haired progeny alongside the Pathans and their families of fair, beautiful women; the fashionable South Delhi elite, their flamboyant fashions on full display; and the more traditionally sari-clad outsiders

from small town India, so obviously dressed in their best. The fashion quotient of the waiting area is thus quite high and helps pass the time quite pleasantly if one is able to escape the feeling of falling below the average.

The other thing that is similar, actually exactly the same as in the past, is the rampant, almost morbid, curiosity of strangers. Al-

most as soon as you settle down for the wait, several eyes are upon you. The one nearest, strikes up a conversation with your companion if you don't make eye contact. 'So have you come to see the xyz specialist? What's wrong? Oh, is that your daughter? Dr So and So is very good, you know; my husband has been coming to him since 2015.'

Medical histories

A continuous stream pours forth, fuelled probably by both anxiety and curiosity. My companion, in the same mode, starts on my medical history, in spite of my elbow in her side.

The wait, even thus beguiled, seems endless but is in fact an hour or so, in spite of an appointment, which I learn later just gets you a slot. The latter is pretty elastic too, as relatives/VIPs/other doctors jump the queue with impunity and entitlement.

The doctor is the next port

of call: hearty and accessible, exuding goodwill and competence in equal measure. Quick to quell any flights of fancy or Internet-based knowledge with polite firmness while steering the patient and his entourage towards the battery of inevitable tests and pricey medication. Much like a tasting menu at exclusive restaurants they seem fraught with possibilities.

As with such meals, one leaves feeling both satiated with the feast and concerned about both the costs and the side-effects on one's longer term well-being.

Yet, one is back in a few weeks eager for the next dose, in both cases. So a whole new fashionable, cosmopolitan, feel-good ecosystem that marries cures and commerce, curtesy and service at a price, has, I discover, replaced my traditional hospital experience for ever.

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Extricated from an unusual arrangement

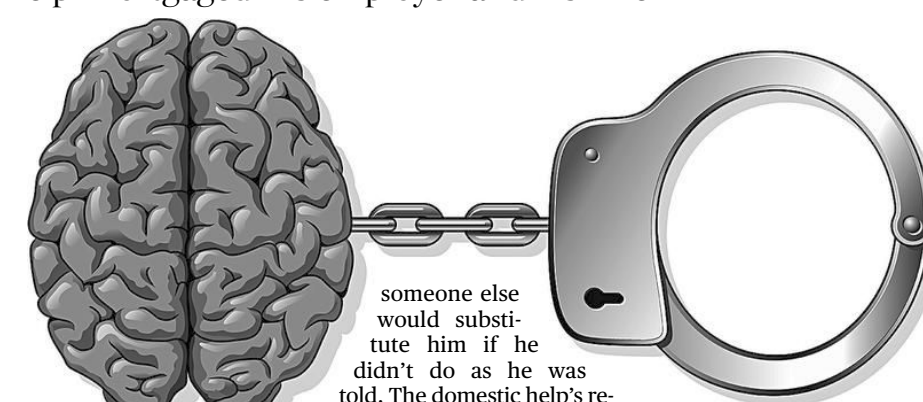
When the domestic help 'mortgaged' his employer and his wife

MARUTHY GULVADY

In the 1950s, as a doctor working in rural Rajasthan, there were several socio-cultural experiences I encountered while interacting with the local members of the community. During my service, my wife and I were staying in a village bereft of water supply and electricity. In order to make our stay more comfortable, we hired a domestic help who would assist my wife with the daily household chores.

As time passed, he requested leave of absence for 10 days. To ensure we are not inconvenienced, he got us a substitute.

A few days later, my wife mentioned that she wasn't pleased with the substitute domestic help's cleaning



someone else would substitute him if he didn't do as he was told. The domestic help's reaction to my threat took me by surprise.

He stated that we would not be able to hire anyone else in place of him, as our regular domestic help would make those decisions! Upon questioning his audacity in making such a statement, here's what he said, "Your regular domestic help has taken a loan and offered to

mortgage you and your wife for Rs. 25 as collateral security. Thus, nobody will come and work here until the loan is repaid."

I was stunned. How could my wife and I be under a mortgage of Rs. 25? Was this even possible? I immediately took out my wallet and gave our domestic help Rs. 25. However, since he hadn't

taken the loan in the first place, he refused to accept the money. While his honesty was commendable, I decided to bring an end to this matter immediately. Leveraging my position as the doctor of the village, I called the police and ensured that our regular domestic help repaid the money. With this, we were released from the mortgage and free to decide who would work at our home!

In hindsight, I am taken aback by the mentality of the villagers I encountered during my service.

I firmly believe that understanding their psyche and getting an insight into their belief system proved to be as rewarding as providing health care services with limited resources!

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IN BRIEF



Trump and Melania's wedding cake up for sale
WASHINGTON
A souvenir cake given at U.S. President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania Trump's wedding is up for auction with the minimum bid at \$250. The duo cut a seven-tier cake worth \$50,000 at their wedding in 2005. Julien's Auctions is expecting bids between \$1,000 and \$10,000 for the souvenir cake. PTI



Azedine Alaïa, master fashion designer, is dead
PARIS
French-Tunisian designer Azedine Alaïa, who made countless dresses, including former U.S. first lady Michelle Obama's, died at the age of 77, France's fashion federation said on Saturday. AFP



Dog owners face lower risk of death
BERLIN
Owning a dog is associated with a 11% reduction in risk of cardiovascular disease and 33% cut in risk of death, a *Scientific Reports* paper claims. Dog owners may have higher levels of physical activity that boosts their health, the study says. PTI



NASA launches advanced weather satellite
LOS ANGELES
NASA on Saturday launched a next-generation satellite into space designed to monitor weather and help improve forecasts. The Joint Polar Satellite System-1 is a joint venture between NASA and the NOAA, which provides weather forecasts. AFP

Charting *Guernica's* turbulent history

Online exhibition shows hidden depths of Pablo Picasso's political masterpiece

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MADRID

Spray-painted in murals, welded on anti-war banners, and even once hung as a tapestry at the United Nations, Pablo Picasso's *Guernica* might be the world's most famous political artwork.

Now organisers of a new initiative are inviting art lovers to revisit the iconic black-and-white painting, using the latest imaging technology and releasing a trove of previously unseen documents to chart its turbulent history.

"*Guernica* is a source of never-ending artistic material and it's a privilege to be with as an art historian," says Rosario Peiro, head of collections at Madrid's Reina Sofia modern art museum.

She is part of the team behind 'Rethinking *Guernica*', an interactive website launched this week about the work.

"Putting all of this together allows you to rethink the history of the painting," said Ms. Peiro.

Tells a story
Guernica, conceived in the depths of Spain's devastating civil war, shows the bombing



Howl of pain: A man looks at Pablo Picasso's *Guernica* at Reina Sofia museum in Madrid. •AFP

of a Basque town on April 26, 1937, by German and Italian air forces under the orders of future Spanish dictator Francisco Franco.

Hundreds died in an aerial attack on civilians that shocked the world and set precedent repeated often by German and allied forces in the Second World War.

Picasso, then living in France, was commissioned by the struggling Spanish Republic government to produce a work depicting the bombing for the 1937 World Fair in Paris.

That commission and hundreds of other docu-

ments concerning *Guernica* are now available online for the first time.

They tell the story of a huge, well-travelled work, which stops in Scandinavia, Britain and the United States, where it spent decades on loan at New York's Museum of Modern Art (MoMA).

There are papers relating to its trip to Venezuela in 1948 that was cut short due to a coup d'etat, and a frantic telegram sent by MoMA collections director Alfred H. Barr Jr informing the artist that his works were safe after a fire tore through the mu-

seums in 1958. "Clearly it is a political painting because it was requested by the government for a propaganda purpose," says Ms. Peiro.

"The truth is during all these years of travel and being in different places, the work was depoliticised."

Researchers took thousands of images using visible and ultraviolet light as well as infrared reflectography and high-definition x-rays to create a Gigapixel rendering that allows users to browse a 436-gigabyte composite of the work.

Details of its restoration, individual paint strokes and

even rogue hairs from Picasso's brushes can be seen still stuck to the original canvas. Residue from a 1974 act of vandalism is visible in the form of barely perceptible reddish discoloration across central areas.

"For me what is interesting to see is the geography of the painting, its surface, as if it's a kind of history map," says Ms. Peiro.

New perspectives

The Reina Sofia currently displays dozens of black-and-white war images alongside *Guernica*, many captured by legendary Catalan conflict photographer Agusti Centelles.

Some critics credit the photos for Picasso's decision to eschew his usual vivid colours in the piece.

As Catalonia's independence crisis exposes Spain to its deepest political turbulence since returning to democracy in 1978, Ms. Peiro, however, insists the current installation isn't about politics.

"We do show a lot of Barcelona photographs but that's because the best Spanish photojournalist of the time was Catalan," she said.

India's Manushi Chhillar crowned Miss World

The 21-year-old hails from Haryana

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
SANYA

India's Manushi Chhillar won the coveted Miss World 2017 title here, 16 years after Priyanka Chopra won the title in 2000.

The 21-year-old from Haryana had taken the Miss India title in June. Ms. Chhillar competed against 108 contestants from various countries at a glittering event held at Sanya, China, Miss World 2016 winner Purno Rico's Stephanie Del Valle gave her the crown to her.

Born to doctor parents, Ms. Chhillar studied in St. Thomas School in New Delhi and later enrolled at the Bhagat Phool Singh Government Medical College for Women in Sonapat.

Her parents, brother and sister were present at the event and they waited with bated breath as she made it to the top five spots.

Mom is the word

In the question and answer round, Ms. Chhillar was asked: "Which profession deserves the highest salary and why?" She replied: "I



Manushi Chhillar. •AFP

think a mother deserves the highest respect. I don't think it's just about cash but love and respect she gives to someone. She is the biggest inspiration in my life. Mother should get the highest respect."

Andrea Meza of Mexico was first runner-up and Stephanie Hill of England second runner-up. Aurore Kichenin of France and Magline Jeruto Kenya also made it to the top five.

Reita Faria was the first Indian to win the Miss World crown in 1966.

For it is written



Word of God: A Gutenberg press on display at the Museum of the Bible in Washington, DC. The museum, spanning an area of 4,30,000 sq.ft, was opened to the public on Friday. •AFP

Elizabeth II, Prince Philip to mark 70 years of marriage

The royal couple will spend Nov. 20 with family members

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

He accepted living in her shadow. She forgave periodic gaffes.

Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip will celebrate their platinum wedding anniversary on November 20, marking 70 years since they married in the splendour of Westminster Abbey.

Despite three of their four children (Charles, Anne and Andrew) having divorced, this royal union has endured through the decades without any public hint of marital strife. No events are planned to celebrate their landmark, but the bells of Westminster Abbey will ring at 1300 GMT in tribute. Elizabeth and Philip will spend the day with other members of the royal family, a Buckingham Palace spokesman said.

After 70 years of marriage



Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip. •AP

painting. The Queen, 91, is slowly passing over some of her official duties to her son Prince Charles, now 69.

Love at first sight

It was a version of love at first sight. Elizabeth was aged just 13 when she first laid eyes on her future husband Philip, then a dashing 18-year-old blond army officer.

Prior to the wedding, the Queen Mother asked her future son-in-law if he would cherish her daughter. "Cherish Lilibet [Elizabeth's childhood nickname]? I wonder if that word is enough to express what is in me," he had replied.

On his 90th birthday in 2011, she surprised him by making him Lord High Admiral. It was reported to be a show of gratitude for his unstinting support for her.

Dating 101 for lovelorn Chinese men

Coaches offer tips on how to dress, take unique selfies for social media and approach women

SUI-LEE WEE
JINAN

Zhang Zhenxiao is 27 years old. He has never been in a relationship. He has never kissed a woman.

Now, Mr. Zhang is ready for love – but like many men in China, he doesn't know where to begin.

So he turned to a dating coach. The Fall in Love Emotional Education school has taught him how to groom himself, approach a woman and flirt his way into her smartphone contacts.

"There are many people who lack the ability to have a relationship," said Mr. Zhang, who enrolled in a three-day course during a week-long holiday in October. "Many times, it's not that there's something wrong with us. It's that we don't know what details to pay attention to."

While dating is hard everywhere, it is arguably worse for Chinese men. China's now-ended one-child policy, carried out in a country with a strong cultural preference for boys, prompted many couples to abort female foetuses. In 2016, there were about 33.6 million more men than women in China, according to the government.

"They are caught in a very difficult situation, especially for those with no money," said Li Yinhe, a prominent scholar of sexuality in China.

Mass speed dating
China worries about its lonely hearts. Newspapers warn that a surplus of unhappy, single men in China could lead to an increase in



Modern courtship: Zhang Mindong discusses finding dates through social media sites at the Fall in Love Emotional Education School in Jinan, China. •NVT

human trafficking, sex crimes and social instability. So the government is playing matchmaker.

In June, the Communist Youth League, a training ground for many top officials, organised a mass speed dating event for 2,000 young singles in the eastern province of Zhejiang.

The same month, the All-China Women's Federation in northwestern Gansu province helped organize a similar event for "leftover men and women," a term used in China to refer to unmarried people in their late 20s or older.

For decades, Chinese marriages were arranged through matchmakers or families. In some places, parents still post the résumés of their single children on trees and lampposts.

Marriage was utilitarian, done so people could start a family. Even when the notion of "freedom to love" became popular after 1950, there

were few social venues for people to snuggle and mingle. Until the late 1990s, sex outside marriage was illegal.

Mr. Zhang's dating coach, Zhang Mindong, said he was once like the men he teaches. A self-professed diashi, or loser, the coach said he suffered a painful breakup in 2012. He turned to the internet to find solutions and discovered the term "pickup artist".

From amateur to pro
He went on to start his own school, which he now runs with Cui Yihao, 25, and Fan Long, 29, in the eastern city of Jinan in 2014. The cost for their services ranges from \$45 for an online course to about \$3,000 for one-on-one coaching. Similar schools have opened in several Chinese cities.

The number of students who take offline courses at Fall in Love Emotional Education has grown from one in

2014, to more than 300 now, according to Zhang Mindong. About 90% of graduates end up with girlfriends, he said.

At the October session, there was Yu Ruitong, a 23-year-old software developer who had three previous relationships; Ye Chaoqun, a 27-year-old small-business owner who is hoping to make the woman of his dreams; and Jiang Zhen, a 21-year-old oncologist looking to expand the number of women he knows. Both Mr. Ye and Jiang's Zhang had tried to polish what they learned earlier.

To show his students what they were up against, Zhang Mindong held up a profile of an attractive woman on a dating app that had garnered "likes" from 7,000 men. "This is the environment in China," he said.

Most of the first day was devoted to improving dress. ("Narrow collars, sleeves should be folded up above the elbow and trousers should be fitted.") They bought clothes and got haircuts.

"After getting into a relationship with a woman, many Chinese men let themselves go," said the coach, who was wearing stylish glasses and a fitted white shirt. "They don't wash their hair, change their clothes and become really dirty."

"But that's not the case for women, and this is why so many Chinese men can't have a long-term relationship."

The makeovers are followed by the students posing

for photos – reading Stephen Hawking's *A Brief History of Time*, sipping tea and nibbling canapés, looking pensively out a window.

The photos are designed for dating in the digital era. In China, where mobile Internet has revolutionised social life, getting to know a person takes place almost exclusively on WeChat, a popular social media tool that is used by nearly 1 billion people.

Let's sao

Most social interactions here start or end with people scanning each other's WeChat QR codes – a practice known as saojing – or adding each other's WeChat IDs. Many women form their impressions of men based on photographs on WeChat.

One evening outside a busy shopping mall in Jinan, the students got their first challenge: approach women and ask for their WeChat contacts.

Zhang Zhenxiao rushed up to two women, who paused but continued walking. He chased after them and stopped them again. After a minute, they walked away.

"I didn't succeed," the dejected young man said, returning to the group.

"No, the fact that you approached them means you did," said the coach.

By the end of the night, all the students had obtained at least one WeChat contact.

"I think there are many single women who are just like me," said Zhang Zhenxiao, "all longing for love." NY TIMES

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A French artist gives Hindu deities a very outré look with help from gold chocolate paper

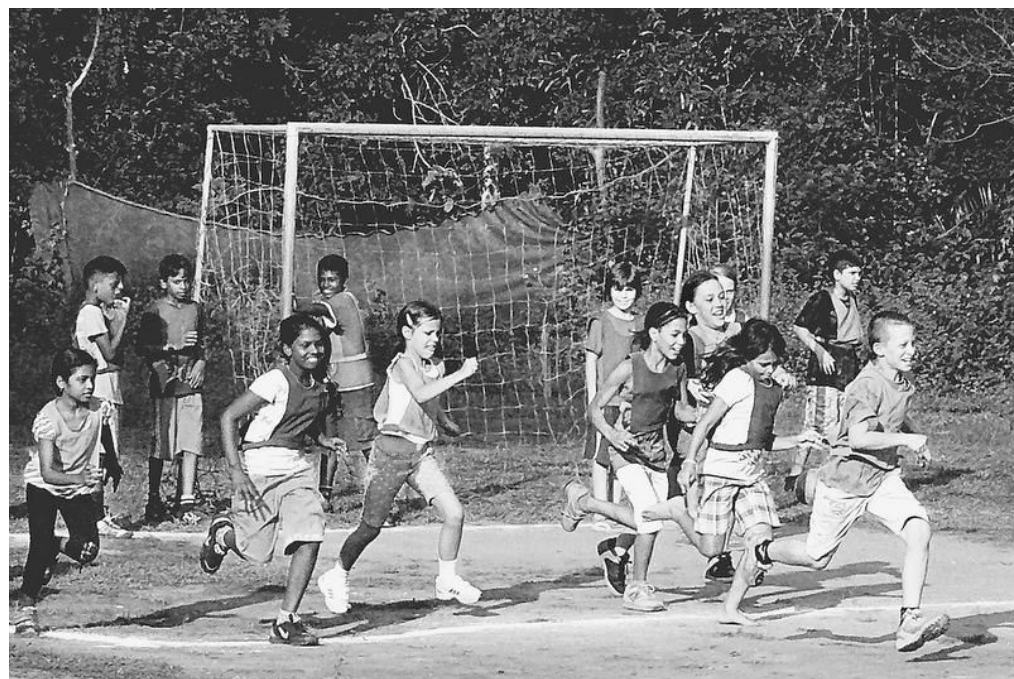
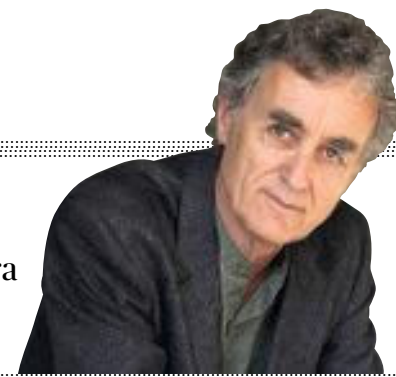
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By Shah Jahan's time every sliver of food was suspect and every drink bled the fear of poison

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Unfortunately, religion often ossifies, and teachings are expressed as dogma: Fritjof Capra

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COVER STORY

The city beneath a banyan tree

Auroville at 50 might not be the 'city of the future' as once envisaged but it is still a vibrant community



Altering perceptions Auroville was born despite several challenging years, uncertainties, court cases, refused visas, funds cut and sometimes no food. WIKI COMMONS, T. SINGARAVELU, GIORGIO MOLINARI

BY ANU MAJUMDAR

Some 50 years ago, on a vast, barren plateau north of Pondicherry, a lone, young banyan tree stood guard. It seemed to be waiting for something. Then one day, someone hammered a nail into its trunk to hang up an advertisement. Lore has it that the banyan tree sent out an SOS – and it was received by the Mother in Sri Aurobindo Ashram. She immediately sent someone to check, and the place she had been looking for was found – soon she would start a city near that banyan tree.

It was the culmination of a task she had carried forward after Sri Aurobindo had passed away. When All India Radio had asked Sri Aurobindo on August 15, 1947 to deliver a message for the newborn nation, he had outlined roles for India, Asia and the world in a text called the Five Dreams, where he spoke of a next step in evolution that would raise man to a higher consciousness.

Mirra Alfassa (born Blanche Rachel Mirra Alfassa), known to her followers as The Mother, was the spiritual partner of Aurobindo, philosopher, yogi, guru and a leader of the independence movement.

Throughout, their work together had been to uplift humanity to a further level of consciousness. For this, they envisaged the setting up of an ideal town. The 'universal town' would not be just a development project, but an evolutionary experiment.

Atop a dusty plateau

The Mother was 90 when she started work with architect Roger Anger to chalk out a city plan for 50,000 people. It came to be called the Galaxy Plan and looked quite unlike most modern cities and had very different priorities. The

With the Charter and a city plan, an adventure began – one that would be both spiritual and material

idea began to inspire people worldwide. The Mother noted: "Scores of people have come for Auroville... They've already begun discussing what the city's political situation will be... Auroville must be at the service of the Truth, beyond all social, political and religious convictions. But above all, I insisted that it would be better to build the city first! And that we would see afterwards."

Finally, on February 28, 1968, over 5,000 people from across the world clambered up the dusty plateau and gathered in an open amphitheatre next to the banyan tree. The Mother read from *The Auroville Charter* and the city of the future was born.

The charter said:

● Auroville belongs to nobody in particular. Auroville belongs to humanity as a whole. But to live in Auroville one must be a willing servant of the Divine Consciousness.

● Auroville will be the place of an unending education, of constant progress, a youth that never ages.

● Auroville wants to be the bridge between the past and the future. Taking advantage of all discoveries from without and from within, Auroville will boldly spring towards future realisations.

● Auroville will be a site of material and spiritual researches for a living embodiment of an actual Human Unity.

Earth from 114 countries was poured

into an urn in the amphitheatre and the charter was read in several languages of the world. The banyan was no longer alone. Thousands of people passed under the blue canopy floating between its branches where an exhibition on Auroville and its city plan was displayed. An adventure began – one that would be both spiritual and material.

Tapas Bhatt, who now works as a coordinator at Pavilion of India, recalls how as a 14-year-old student at the Ashram school, she was struck by an incredible feeling of togetherness as thousands of people were united in their common aspiration for the world. "It was all so simple, really, so splendid," another visitor recalls.

Hippies and horticulturists

People came from everywhere. There were engineers, architects, technicians, doctors, dancers, artists, writers, corporate types, plumbers, horticulturists, researchers, hippies, students and teachers. Some came by chance, some were eager to get started, some were still searching, and for some who met the Mother, their destiny had changed.

It was a young, vibrant place. New ideas were in the air. Huts were coming up, wells being dug, trees planted, bread baked, electricity organised, schools set up. There were basketball courts, music and theatre. At night, some read Aurobindo or meditated in their huts while others discussed the Mother's last message at the community dining table.

Soon, the construction of the Matrimandir would begin at the heart of Auroville. About 20 people with crowbars started digging at the site but the scale was huge and they were joined by a local workforce from the village. The Matrimandir would become the soul of

Auroville, a building for the invisible.

In those early pioneering years, there were only about 300 people. But the Mother was already initiating large projects. After Matrimandir, she started plans for Bharat Nivas (Pavilion of India) in Auroville's International Zone: The city of Universal Culture had to get off the ground. But Auroville already had several designations to live up to: City of the Future, City of Dawn, City at the Service of Truth, City the Earth Needs.

And what did the earth need? According to the Mother, "Earth needs a place where men can live away from all national rivalries, social conventions, self-contradictory moralities and contending religions; a place where human beings, freed from all slavery to the past, can devote themselves wholly to the discovery and practice of the Divine Consciousness that is seeking to manifest. Auroville wants to be this place."

It was heady stuff. Meanwhile, work at the Matrimandir began, the foundation was laid and the four base support pillars built. On November 17, 1973, just as the construction of the fourth pillar was completed, news arrived that the Mother had passed away.

It was the beginning of several challenging years, with uncertainties, court cases, visas refused, funds cut and sometimes no food.

Too ambitious?

The ground realities were grim. With architect Roger Anger leaving Auroville for a few years, doubts crept in: was the city plan too ambitious? Was it a big mistake?

Despite the doubts and the tough times, when I first came to Auroville in 1979 I did not sense any inordinate panic. There was so much to be done. The best attitude seemed to be to pool

in all our resources and get on with the work. Now, regenerating the severely eroded land had become the priority. Alternative farms with wholly organic systems were established. We would think of the city again, but for now the focus was firmly on environment and sustainability, which fine-tuned our collective awareness and attitudes.

Admirable work was accomplished over the next years with research and projects initiated in earth, wind, solar and water technologies. However, this also brought with it a certain downsizing of the dream.

The City of the Future was now called a community. This shrinking of the spirit and vision has led to a certain stasis, and Auroville's intended avatar as a 'model town' still remains to be harnessed. Auroville is a place where many preconceptions alter.

Its collective body cannot be formed by relying on established democratic or institutional formats alone. New forms might evolve as the collective emerges.

To school on a pony

My only regret is that I could not start out in Auroville as a child. "And just look at the names listed for the Auroville schools," laughs Deepti Tewari, who teaches at Last School. "There is Last School, After School, Super School and No School! Auroville is a place of an unending education, for the constant progress we need to make here."

There is Last School, After School, Super School and No School! Auroville is a place of unending education

Kripa Borg-Pion remembers walking though empty fields to get to school and the monsoon mud fights. Often, when times got tough, there was no school to go to. Children grew up with very little structure, roaming around, riding *vandis* (bullock carts) or ponies to school; they were typically comfortable in at least three languages, if not five. It made them resilient and flexible but gradually some began to demand structure, more discipline and even grades for their work.

Now a mother of two growing boys, Kripa stands at a midpoint between three generations. "My children are growing up differently, in a very different Auroville. Their education is very structured, and life is much more organised and stable." Auroville's education now offers hybrid possibilities between experimental and standard education, community experiments and extracurricular activities.

In 1968 Auroville was planned as a unified, self-sustaining town, ideas that are now in vogue. It was planned with overlapping, multi-use zones, with solar energy and non-polluting, non-motorised traffic. It balanced high and low density areas to integrate green zones in city spaces.

But above all, it planned to be necessarily artistic with an emphasis on beauty. All this, in one place.

Talking to a host of people, young and old, as I worked on my book, I realised how much of Auroville is still invisible, how much has been achieved and how much is yet to be done. As Auroville approaches its 50th year, this is a chance we cannot miss.

The writer is an Auroville 'old timer' waiting for the city to happen. *Auroville: A City for the Future* is her ninth book.

60 MINUTES: WITH FRITJOF CAPRA

The world according to Fritjof Capra

The physicist-philosopher talks about his journey towards balancing science and spirituality

BY DARRYL D'MONTE

A 78-year-old physicist who is now Director of the Centre for Ecoliteracy in Berkeley, California, Fritjof Capra is best known for his first book, *The Tao of Physics: An Exploration of the Parallels between Modern Physics and Eastern Mysticism* (1975), which has sold over a million copies worldwide. He had his epiphany while he was sitting by the ocean one afternoon and felt the cascading waves and sand forming a cosmic dance, which he intuitively likened to the dance of Shiva, that he had been reading about. This started a long inquiry into Eastern religions and more particularly Hinduism and Zen Buddhism. In 1972, he drew the parallel between Shiva's dance and the dance of subatomic particles in an article titled 'The Dance of Shiva: The Hindu View of Matter in the Light of Modern Physics'. I spoke to him on the sidelines of a recent meeting of the Greenaccord international environmental journalists in Florence, Italy.

How did you, as a practising physicist, get interested in Hindu philosophy?

■ It started actually in my childhood. My mother was a poet and my father a lawyer, but also an amateur philosopher. He had a German translation of the *Upanishads*. I had also heard about Buddhism from my father. I really got interested in Indian philosophy in the 1960s; it came through the beat poets in San Francisco.

In the 1960s, I became part of the counter-culture. I began to practise yoga and Zen meditation, before finally settling on Taoist tai-chi, which I still practise today. I also experimented with psychedelics, which exposed me to alternative visions of reality through books, through classical texts. The *Bhagavad Gita* was an eye-opener for me, a profound experience. This was the first original source that I read and it was and is the best. Then I read a lot of books about Buddhism by D.T. Suzuki.

In 1969, I met Jiddu Krishnamurti who became a big influence on my thinking. I was never a devotee, but he was a very interesting independent thinker. He gave a lecture at the University of California, where I was teaching and doing physics research. I had read his books before and one of his collections of writings is called *Freedom from the Known*. I was very puzzled by it: I was a young post-doc physicist, just beginning a career: here was this Indian sage telling me that I must forget about knowledge, about language, I must free myself from all that. I managed to have an audience with him through various machinations. He was very impressive at that time; he had that impeccably coiffed hair, immaculate clothes; his whole demeanour was sage-like. I had

read Carlos Castaneda on Don Juan: here was a Don Juan right before my eyes!

I asked him: 'How do I free myself from the known as a budding physicist embarking on a career?' He immediately responded: 'First you are a human being. Only then are you a physicist. You have to liberate yourself as a human being and that you cannot do through thinking; you can only do through meditation. Once you have achieved that liberation, then go back and do physics. I love science.' He showed me that you can combine different states of consciousness and use them when they are appropriate.

You must know that in India we have moved from Hinduism to Hindutva, with ultra right-wing ideologies taking root. There are throwbacks to claims of Indians possessing scientific knowledge like, for instance, the god Ganesha being a case of Indians knowing about plastic surgery. Does it disappoint you to learn that we in India have turned our backs on our own spiritual traditions?

■ It does disappoint me as an example of religion taking over from spiritual-

- Fluent in German, French, Italian and English
- Contributed to the screenplay of the 1990 Hollywood movie *Mindwalk*
- Dr. Capra was the first subject of BBC's *Beautiful Minds* documentary series
- Awarded the Medal of the Presidency of the Italian Republic

ity. In my 2014 book *The Systems View of Life*, which is a synthesis of my work, my co-author Pier Luigi Luisi and I have a chapter on science and spirituality. We make a strong point of the distinction. Spirituality is a perception of reality in a special state of consciousness and the characteristics of this experience of belonging to a larger whole, connected with everything, are independent of historical and cultural context. The organised expression of spirituality is religion, which always depends on cultural and historical context. Unfortunately, religion often ossifies and the teachings are expressed as dogma; experience is replaced by faith.

I first went to India in 1980, after *The Tao of Physics* had been published five years earlier; I was a fringe author in the U.S. and Europe. Quantum physics and Zen Buddhism weren't things that people would easily accept. The book was very successful but it wasn't taken seriously by the establishment. I was asked to give a

series of lectures at the University of Bombay; I was received by the University Vice-Chancellor, and met leading politicians, including Indira Gandhi in Delhi. My work was totally embraced by the Indian establishment. I was very puzzled but then I realised that the mystical core of Hinduism was part of the establishment, not the fringe.

Are you disappointed that the idealism of the 60s and 70s on economic and ecological issues has been negated today?

■ I see this as a cycle, which is very consistent with Indian thinking. Let me take you through my personal experience from the 60s to the 90s. In the 60s, as part of the counter-culture, we were protesting against the conventional way of life with ideas of com-

munity, spirituality, sensuality, of a different ethic and so on. And we didn't have an alternative. In the 70s, two movements emerged which were the pillars of an alternative: ecology and feminism. In the 80s, these movements coalesced into a political manifestation: the Green parties.

The Green movement became international and by the end of the 80s, there were many parties, in parliaments. By this time, 10 years after I published my second book, *The Turning Point*, I really believed that we were at this turning point.

What happened then was something that no one foresaw: the information technology revolution. The rise of computing power and telecommunications, e-mail and the Internet operated against the alternative view of the world and brought in a new materialism.

In theory, it would suggest just the opposite: the surge in communications should have made us more interdependent?

■ The IT revolution was critical for establishing global capitalism. These networks of financial flows didn't happen from one day to another: there were many stops and starts, with people trying to impose economic restrictions.

There was Reaganomics in the U.S. and Thatcherism in the U.K. Finally, what emerged was this global network of financial flows which dominated society, destroyed communities. It is very powerful and was designed explicitly without any ethics. So when you invest your money, you have machines which do it for you; you have a computerised network of investment consultants and so on and they only apply one

rule: what makes the most money.

Despite the global community you mention, hasn't the rise of financial capitalism smothered it?

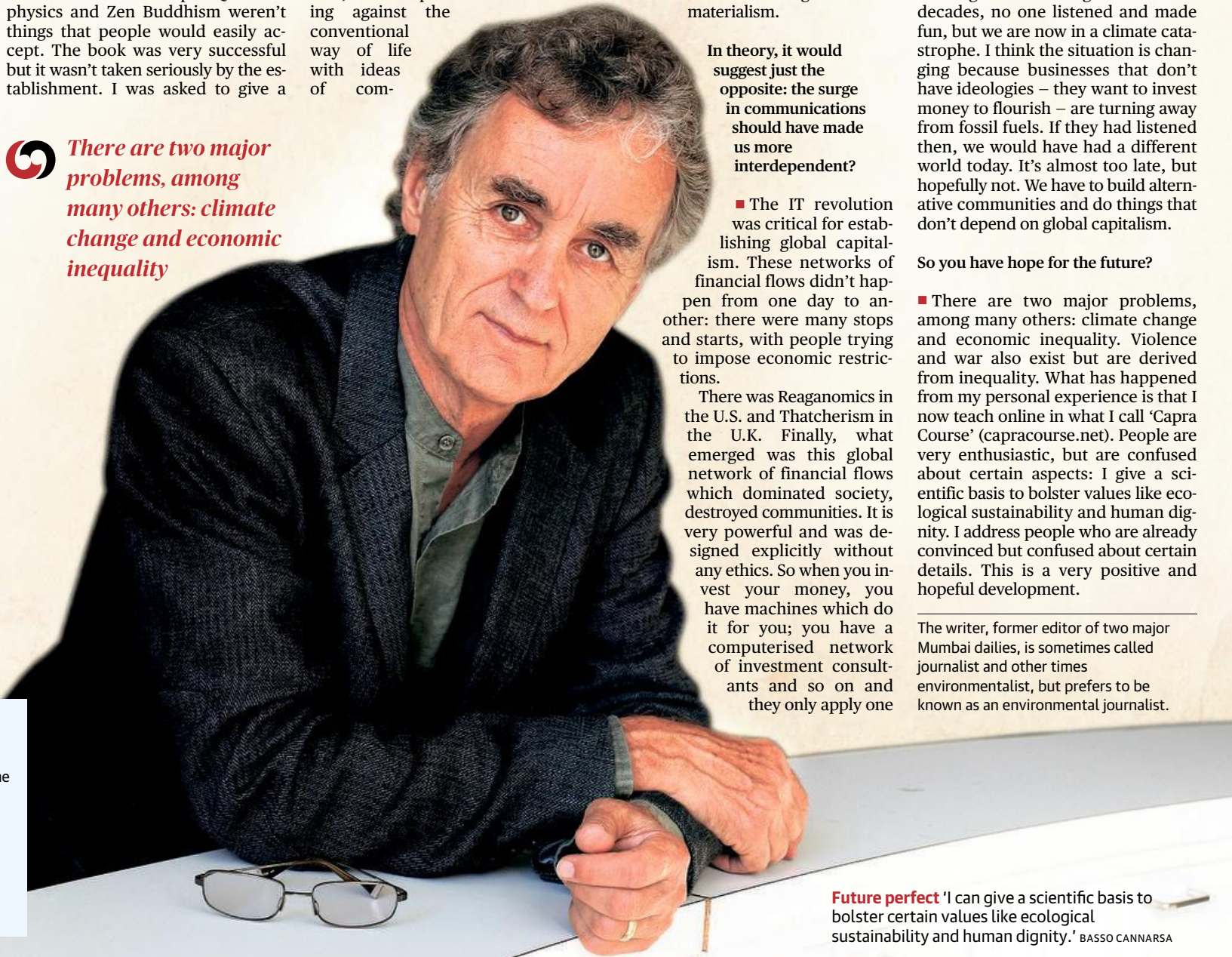
■ Yes it has. But we are also very strong because of our numbers. With the Internet, you see demonstrations. See the current struggle in Spain with Catalonia: they can get a hundred thousand people on the street in two days because communication is so fast. We've had demonstrations against Monsanto, for instance; there have been various causes that bring people to the streets. We have scholars, institutes of research and it is global. What we've been writing about for decades is happening: climate change, for instance. I wrote about global warming in 1989. For decades, no one listened and made fun, but we are now in a climate catastrophe. I think the situation is changing because businesses that don't have ideologies – they want to invest money to flourish – are turning away from fossil fuels. If they had listened then, we would have had a different world today. It's almost too late, but hopefully not. We have to build alternative communities and do things that don't depend on global capitalism.

So you have hope for the future?

■ There are two major problems, among many others: climate change and economic inequality. Violence and war also exist but are derived from inequality. What has happened from my personal experience is that I now teach online in what I call 'Capra Course' (capracourse.net). People are very enthusiastic, but are confused about certain aspects: I give a scientific basis to bolster values like ecological sustainability and human dignity. I address people who are already convinced but confused about certain details. This is a very positive and hopeful development.

The writer, former editor of two major Mumbai dailies, is sometimes called journalist and other times environmentalist, but prefers to be known as an environmental journalist.

There are two major problems, among many others: climate change and economic inequality

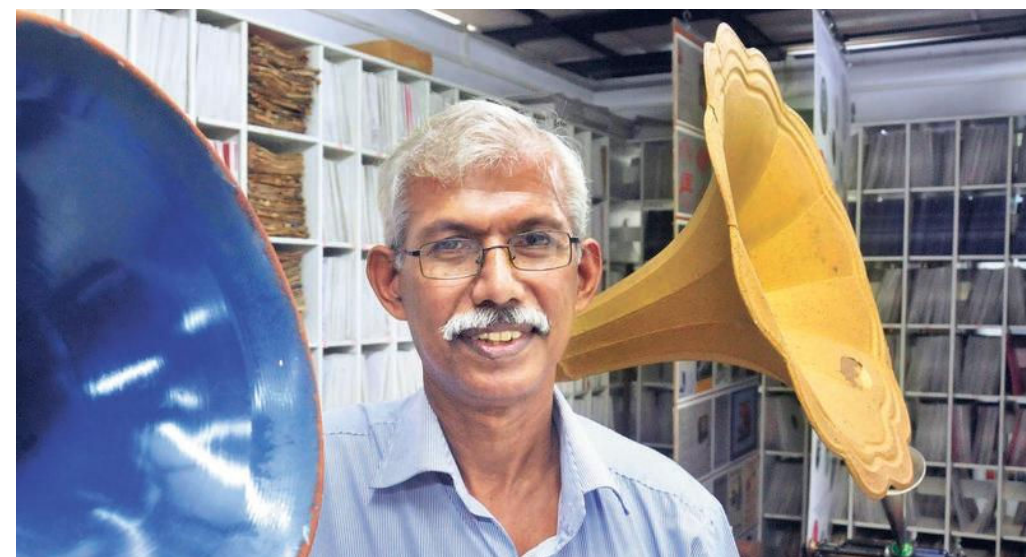


Future perfect 'I can give a scientific basis to bolster certain values like ecological sustainability and human dignity.' BASSO CANNARSA

INSIDE INDIA

Inside the temple of sound

A remarkable private museum of old gramophone records and players tucked away in a place called Pala



BY SARASWATHY NAGARAJAN

With great care Sunny Mathew extricates a shellac record from a faded sleeve, wipes it gently and almost reverentially places it on the turntable of a vintage gramophone. Selecting a needle from a dusty box, he fixes it on the head of the player and gently drops it on the record. Sunny's face breaks into a wide smile as the hushed whirring of the turntable gives way to a scratchy, high-pitched song from another era.

"That is 14-year-old Soshi Mukhi, a nautch girl from Classic Theatre, creating history in a studio in Calcutta on November 8, 1902, for Frederick Gaisberg of The Gramophone Company. The first recorded music in India was this teenager's because none of the reputed musicians in Calcutta agreed to have their voices recorded – they considered it beneath them. But when they heard Soshi's recording, they quickly changed their minds and

Gauhar Jaan consented to sing," says Sunny.

As the record winds to a stop, Sunny takes it out, places it back in its sleeve and keeps it on a shelf next to several such records. Next comes a quaint morality play set in a classroom in rural Kerala. Sunny chooses records, one after the other, to showcase the range and diversity of his collection. Drama and film songs in Tamil, gospel music in Malayalam, snatches of Carnatic songs sung by legends, speeches of great leaders, Tagore reciting the national anthem, many versions of Vande Mataram...

Mint records

In lush and green Pala, in the heart of plantation country in Kerala's Kottayam district, is Discs & Machines – Sunny's Gramophone Museum and Records Archive, a remarkable collection of vintage records housed in a double-storeyed, air-conditioned building with an atrium. It is a treasure trove with more than a lakh gramophone discs, of

which around 75% are 78 rpm shellac records, cylinder records and wire records; there are also more than 260 gramophones.

The gramophones include external floral horn models, table models, cabinet models, Decca models (suitcase), pocket types, children's toy gramophones, phonographs for playing cylinder records, electrical players and wire recorders. The earliest in his collection dates to 1897.

Floor-to-ceiling metal shelves cover the first floor, stacked with records of different kinds, neatly categorised and arranged. Sunny has also documented the history of capturing and preserving sound and its many milestones in India on long flex boards that are hung on racks, all of them designed by Sunny himself.

Photographs of inventors, scientists, industrialists and musicians, people who enriched the recording scene, have pride of place in the museum. Even Francis Barraud's painting of Nipper the dog listening to a record, which later went on to become the logo of record label HMV, finds a place. On the second floor are gramophones as well as musical instruments, household implements, cameras and sewing machines.

Sunny's fascination for records began in childhood. "My father had a small collection: Tamil, Hindi and Malayalam songs, Biblical plays and dramas that we used to listen to on HMV's Model 102 suitcase gramophone. Those records were part of my growing up.

Years later, serendipity took me to a flea market near Madurai where I chanced upon a floral external horn-type gramophone and some shellac records. I bought them for a song, cleaned them and found that they were in good condition. I also took the records from my ancestral home and that's how my collection was born," he says.

Gradually, his collection grew and he began to haunt flea markets across Kerala and in Bengaluru and Chennai. "I found old Tamil and Kannada songs and drama sets in second-hand shops in Madurai. Some of my oldest records –

musical dramas such as *Sita Swayamvaram*, *Prahalada*, *Kovalan* and *Shankuntala* – are from there," he says. The oldest is an 1898 record of an English song, while a shellac record from 1911 is perhaps the oldest Malayalam one.

"Not even the descendants of these old-time musicians took the trouble to preserve their records. Some of them heard about my museum and came to Pala to find out if I had recordings. A couple of years ago, an elderly gentleman visited and became emotional when he heard a record cut by his mother," recalls Sunny.

Scratches and termites

He is always on the lookout. Whenever he hears of an old house being demolished, he visits and invariably returns with rich pickings. "I have found vintage records in attics, cellars, discarded suitcases and cardboard boxes. Recently, I got a precious collection of recordings, old cameras and recorders from an industrialist's home in Thiruvananthapuram.

He learnt through trial and error to clean dusty records and restore, even if partially, those with scratches and termites. Becoming a member of

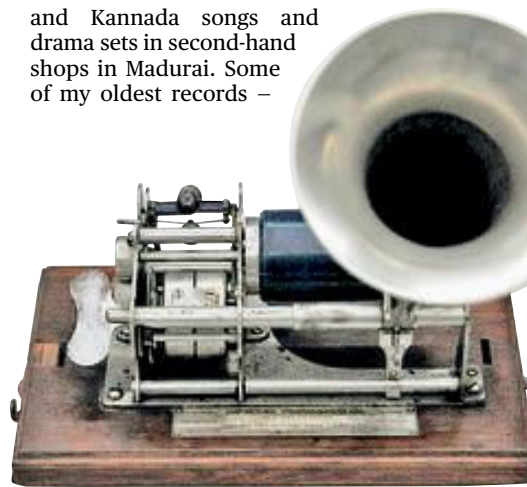
I have found vintage records in attics, cellars, discarded suitcases and cardboard boxes

Mumbai-based The Society of Indian Record Collectors helped him understand the value of his collection. The society's founder put him in touch with other collectors. "Till then, collecting records had been just a passion. But then I realised their archival value. I got in touch with Vienna-based Gesellschaft für Historische Tonträger and that is how I became a researcher," he says.

In 2013, after he retired from the Kerala Forest Development Corporation, he decided to build a museum next to his house. In 2015, he sunk his pension money into the building and the museum was inaugurated on January 25. Every anniversary of the museum is observed with a seminar on recording that is attended by well-known names from India and abroad. Sunny has been presenting papers in national and international fora.

To share the enviable collection with enthusiasts, he has been uploading some of the records on YouTube (sunny78rpmusic) and also digitising a part of his collection. "It is a painstaking task but I am not complaining. These cartons are all filled with spools, tapes and records that I have to sort out," he says, pointing to half-opened boxes spilling out everywhere in his house.

"I am now busy with the digitisation of early period recordings made in India from 1902 to 1927 for British Library's Endangered Archives Programme," he says. "My wife and son assist me in this mega project to digitise 3,000 recordings. Once the work is over, the recordings will be uploaded by British Library and made available to the public."



A spin on it Sunny Mathew has been uploading some of the records on YouTube and is digitising a part of his collection. H.VIBHU

FIELD NOTES



Testing the waters Once surrounded by marigold and tomato fields, Assi Ghat now bustles with cafés, boutique hotels and tourists. RAJEEV BHATT, PRASHANT NAKWE & PTI



By the grace of the pizzeria purohit

Tourism at Assi Ghat has made life a little easier for young people like Anmol, but they remain vulnerable

BY MANINI SHEKER

At a pizzeria owned by the family of a tirth purohit, with its leafy veranda overlooking Varanasi's famous Assi Ghat, tourists settle down over wood-fired pizza and apple pie to view the Ganga.

Anmol, a 17-year-old guide, slips a ₹500 note into his pocket as he swaggers down the stairs; he has just escorted a couple of American tourists to the pizzeria. Anmol reads faces to survive. If a tourist has a 'good face', he approaches and tests the waters in his broken English or Italian. If they click over a chat, he buys them a cup of chai and tells them he works to support his family, something that always impresses them — they see him as a 'nice guy', someone they can trust, says Anmol. "Trust is most important."

Sunrise money

Once a quiet corner for scholars, ascetics and pilgrims, surrounded by marigold and tomato fields, Assi Ghat — one of 80 ghats on the banks of the Ganga — now bustles with cafés, boutique hotels and tourists.

Most of the local people depend on the tourism industry for a living. According to the Uttar Pradesh (U.P.) tourism department, over 300,000 foreign tourists and 5 million domestic visitors came to Varanasi in 2015. During the peak season between October and March, Anmol earns between ₹2,000

and ₹7,000; but in the off season, he earns little or nothing at all.

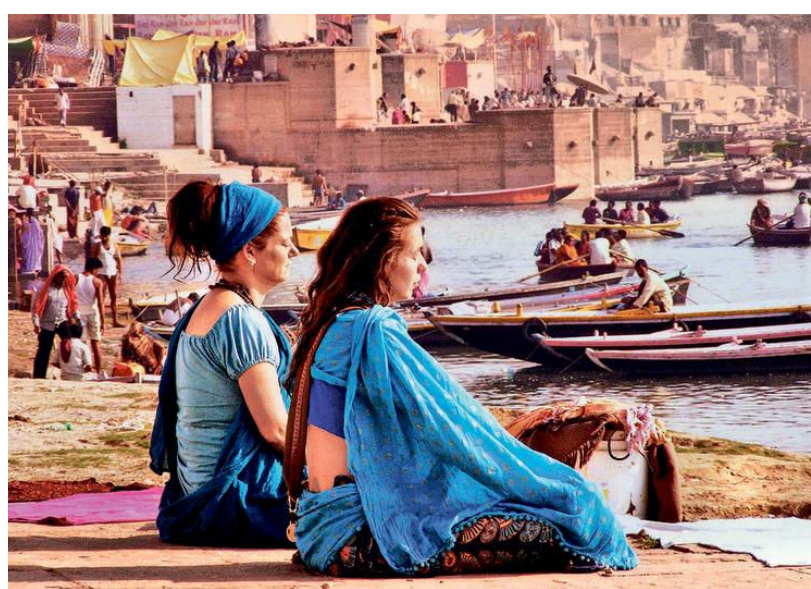
"I also know how to perform rituals," says Anmol, pulling out his smartphone to show me stylised shots of himself in a dhoti, lamp in hand before a Kali idol. For a few hours every day, he helps his father, a priest, at a shrine on the main ghat, earning ₹50 to ₹100 a day. He has also hatched a plan — with advice from his 46-year-old Peruvian friend on Facebook — to learn the tabla so he can make a little extra money teaching tourists. And if all else fails, he plans to get a driving licence when he is 18. "I will keep learning, I can do any work, I have many options to survive."

Like others his age, Anmol is struggling to claw his way out of poverty. His monthly income is just above the World Bank's poverty line of \$1.90 or approximately ₹130 a day. He may not be part of the 'abject poor', but he remains vulnerable. When Anmol moved to Varanasi nine years ago from Bihar, his family often had to choose between education and food.

The Banarasis have a cautionary saying about Biharis like him: *ek bihari sau pe bari* — one Bihari is shrewder than hundred local people. Often derided by the locals for 'corrupting' Banarasi culture, most Bihari migrants in Assi work in the informal sector.

Soft skills

I ask Anmol who he thinks has benefited most from development here.



Anmol has hatched a plan — with advice from his Peruvian Facebook friend — to learn tabla so that he can make money teaching tourists

"Everybody benefits from tourists, but especially so the hotel-wallah, restaurant-wallah, boat-wallah," he says. Those who own prime real estate like the pizzeria purohitis, or are directly tied to the tourist industry, such as the boatmen who ferry visitors to watch the sunrise, have gained the most.

Tourism accounts for nearly 10% of

India's GDP and is the third largest foreign exchange earner. One advantage of the industry is that it can absorb even unskilled workers, says Avinash Mishra, Joint Director, U.P. Tourism.

However, some experts are more critical, arguing that tourism's role in poverty alleviation is overstated: that it creates menial, seasonal jobs and

mainly benefits the skilled elite. Inclusive 'pro-poor' tourism that creates employment is listed as a priority in the U.P. Tourism Policy of 2016. However, Mishra says that the 2016 policy document has currently been put on hold.

What is 'pro-poor' tourism? According to Mishra, it means building skills for workers in the sector. Some researchers argue that development is only 'pro-poor' if it reduces absolute poverty, while others believe it must also decrease inequality.

Though the government has mainly focused on expanding the tourism sector, a new World Bank-funded project in U.P. will try to tackle its distributional impact more directly.

While 60% of the project budget will focus on infrastructure development in the Buddhist circuit, Braj-Mathura and Agra-Taj Mahal regions, 40% will build soft skills of peripheral communities, training artisans, for example, to make and sell better products. In phase two, the plan is to expand to Sarnath and Varanasi.

A world beyond Assi

One problem is that the government does not rigorously map how money from tourism goes to the poor, or what the bottlenecks are that prevent them from earning a greater share. Research by the Overseas Development Institute in the U.K. suggests many strategies: for instance, encouraging tourists to spend more on local products rather than only

on accommodation so that the poor benefit; encouraging tourism establishments to buy supplies locally; or creating jobs in sectors with higher wage levels. Enforcing a minimum wage can also be an important way to ensure that the impact is more 'pro-poor'.

Mishra points out that in Varanasi close to 50% of foreign tourists come through package tours run by travel agencies like Thomas Cook, and it is the independent foreign traveller who is more likely to be helpful to the local economy. One of the problems with private-sector led development is that it is hard to regulate, says Mishra.

"But once the government comes in, there is also corruption. So it is really about the survival of the fittest." A family of purohitis owning land would clearly qualify as among the fittest. Young people like Anmol, meanwhile, must fall upon their ingenuity and resilience to survive.

For them, globalisation, television, the Internet and tourism have opened a window to a world beyond Assi — to life in Italy and the U.S. and Peru. Many of them, who do not have the connections to get a job, loiter on the ghats. Anmol wants to go to Australia. "I've heard the weather is good there," he says. "They play cricket. I can swim. I can survive there."

The author is a Ph.D candidate at University of Sussex trying to understand how to be good in the 21st century.

FOCUS

A hawk around your neck

Traditional Assamese jewellery doesn't gleam; it gets slightly dull with time and that is its beauty

BY RINI BARMAN

Pratul Bordoloi meticulously chisels out reddish-maroon lac, set with semi-precious stones, at his desk. He lives and works in Tarajan Sonari Gaon in Assam's Jorhat city. It's a nondescript locality except for its rich legacy as the hub of traditional handcrafted jewellery or Axomiya *gohona*. From a distance, one can hear the sounds of Bordoloi's handmade *naranis*, delicate tools, each serving a unique purpose in jewellery-making.

His *xaal* or workshop is situated 3-4 km from Baruah Chariali, a crowded market town where the raw materials for the jewellery are bought and sold. Since the 1990s, Bordoloi has taught his 300-year-old skill to more than 35 craftsmen. His 90-year-old guru Lakshminath Bordoloi did a fine job of training almost the entire village and is the oldest teacher of the craft.

Betel leaf with gold

The Bordoloi people were goldsmiths under the Ahom rulers — they were assigned the task of making jewellery for the queens as well as gold coins for the realm. Trade with Burma made it possible to procure stones like ruby (*dalim bakhor*, so called because of its resemblance to pomegranate seeds) and emerald (*panna*).

Unlike jewellers in Bengal, Assamese jewellers use *lah* (lac) to fill the frame, *paat-xun* (gold leaf) to embed stones and a unique stone, called *kosoti khil*, to test the purity of gold. Traditional Assamese jewellery doesn't gleam; it gets slightly dull with time and that, precisely, is its beauty.

The designs have magnificent names, such as Loka-paro (twin pigeons placed side to side), Xensorai (the hawk), Bena (moon-shape with alligator ends) and Gajera (boat-shape). Today, these designs are also made on silver and other alloys and then gold-plated in parts of Lower Assam like Barpeta and Rontholi (in Nagaon tehsil). This shift has attracted



Gold standard Handcrafted jewellery with has names matching the designs.

RITU RAJ KONWAR

The Bordoloi people were goldsmiths under the Ahom rulers — they were assigned the task of making jewellery and gold coins

many new entrepreneurs and led to a tussle over who owns the cultural capital of handcrafted jewellery. Today, enamel (*mina*) and other stones are traded by a generation of Khans from Rajasthan, who came into this industry some decades ago and speak fluent Assamese.

F.C. Henniker's book *The Gold and Silver Wares of Assam* (1905) notes that in colonial times, jewellers from Jorhat resided in present-day Sibsaigar district and belonged to the 'sunar' caste. They worked on pure gold and did some enamelling too, and the business func-

tioned as a thriving native industry. "Gold was a part of our day-to-day lives," says Pratul Bordoloi. So much so that on Sunday mornings, their *koka-deuta* or ancestors would crush bits of gold leaf (*paat-xun*) with betel nut for eating. "They believed in the nutritive value of gold and other minerals," explains Pratul.

Glittering imitations

The jeweller has been working to preserve traditional motifs and the stories associated with them. People tend to remake ancestral gold jewellery in modern styles. Because of this tendency, the specimens worn by Ahom rulers are hard to get these days. Of course, some have been kept in museums and some locked up to be worn at festivals and weddings, but they are no longer a part of daily life. Axomiya *gohona*, naturally, faces tre-



mendous competition in today's market, but there have been some small signs of revival in the last 15 years. Customers are looking for traditional *jatiya* or regional handcrafted jewellery again. The government has pitched in with loan schemes, but much more is needed.

I examine Pratul Bordoloi's century-old wooden tool box as he takes out a few charcoal embers from the foundry to finish some pieces of jewellery. The *lah-mari* or wooden-blocks upon which stones are studded lie near him. I think of how this image — the labour behind the scenes — is seldom seen when we buy an earring or bangle from a shop or website. It will take a lot to bring the artisan back to the forefront.

CREDITS



Kew's Forgotten Queen
BBC Four, 1 hour
Directed by Irene Antoniadis

At a time when most women were happy playing the angel of the hearth in Victorian households, Marianne North (1830-1890) was travelling the world, collecting biological specimens, documenting them in her paintings, and creating a gallery at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew. She had been one of the first to raise an alarm over ecological damage when she drew attention to the destruction of the redwoods in California. Actor Emilia Fox tells the story of this Victorian rebel who gained the admiration of Charles Darwin and Queen Victoria. In her passion for specimens, North had circled the world twice over. Fox retraces North's footsteps, reliving her extraordinary life through her memoirs, letters and paintings.

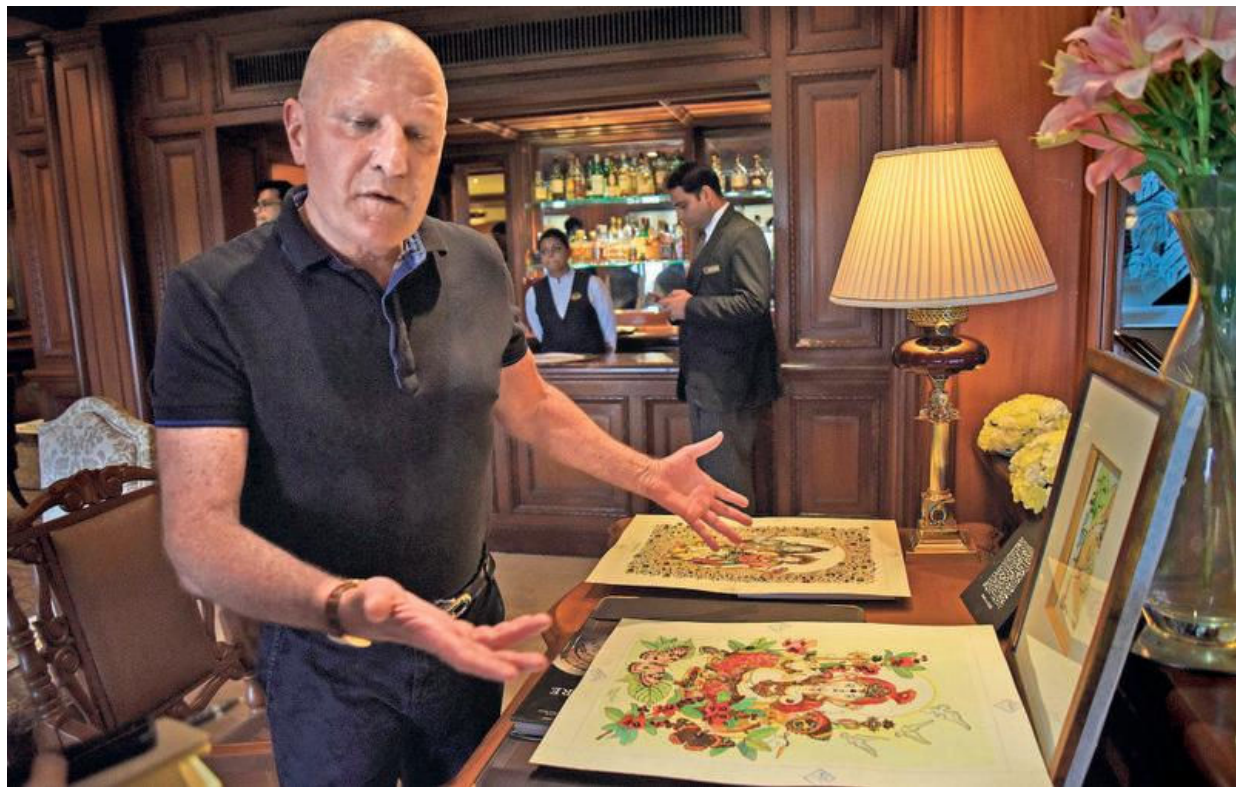


Joan Didion: The Center Will Not Hold
Netflix, 1 hour 34 minutes
Directed by Griffin Dunne

Joan Didion's most celebrated works are dissections of grief in the event of the deaths of her husband, the writer John Gregory Dunne, and her daughter, Quintana Roo. Actor and director Griffin Dunne, Didion's nephew, uses his special access to archival footage and to the writer herself to chronicle Didion's influential career. Didion, now 82, comments on the tides of American politics and on the ups-and-downs of her personal life.

A curation of some of the most interesting news films and videos from around the world.

SPOTLIGHT

Ganesha with birds,
Murugan with butterflies

BY SOUMITRA DAS

Way back in 1952, when the Tata Group launched the incredible line of cosmetics named Lakmé meant for dusky Indian beauties, few of us were aware that the beauty products borrowed their names from Léo Delibes's three-act opera of the same title, which was the French version of the name of the Hindu goddess of wealth, Lakshmi.

In Delibes's opera, she was the daughter of the temple priest and, of course, it was India as seen through the eyes of a Frenchman. Not really India the country we struggle to survive in. The brilliant brand name was the brainwave of Simone Tata, the Swiss-born businesswoman who married into the Tata family. Delibes wrote the score in 1881-82, when exotic India and the Orient in general were all the rage in France.

The Paris-based artist, Olaf Van Cleef, who first visited India in 1964 with his grandmother Magda when he was a teenager, and Kolkata in December 1989 when Taj Bengal hotel had just opened, held an exhibition of his paintings at Taj Bengal Kolkata, November 3 to 5.

As an artist, he was appropriating Indian calendar art and giving it a very personal touch that is certainly *outré*.

Rarely have Hindu deities been given such treatment.

Chiffon colours

Ganesha is traditional enough with his elephant head, overhanging belly and his four arms in gestures of benediction, as in countless calendars. But Van Cleef delineates his image with the finest nib of a pen and paints the deity with soft pastels instead of the familiar loud colours, and installs him in a flowery bower that is also part-aviary, with flamingos, peacocks, parrots, cockatoos, hornbills and song birds squawking and squeaking as they wing around. Butterflies flutter around like colourful confetti.

To top it all, he pastes snippets of gold chocolate paper on the painted surface of the paper and multi-coloured Swarovski crystals of all sizes as well so that the paintings begin to resemble Cartier's famous India-inspired Tutti-Frutti bracelet made of rubies, sapphires and emeralds carved into leaves and fluted beads.

Rama and Sita, Krishna, Murugan and the three-headed Airavata of Thailand are all there but in soft colours one associates with chiffon heavily embroidered with gold threads and beads fashioned out of gems.

It is unmistakably Indian, but with a

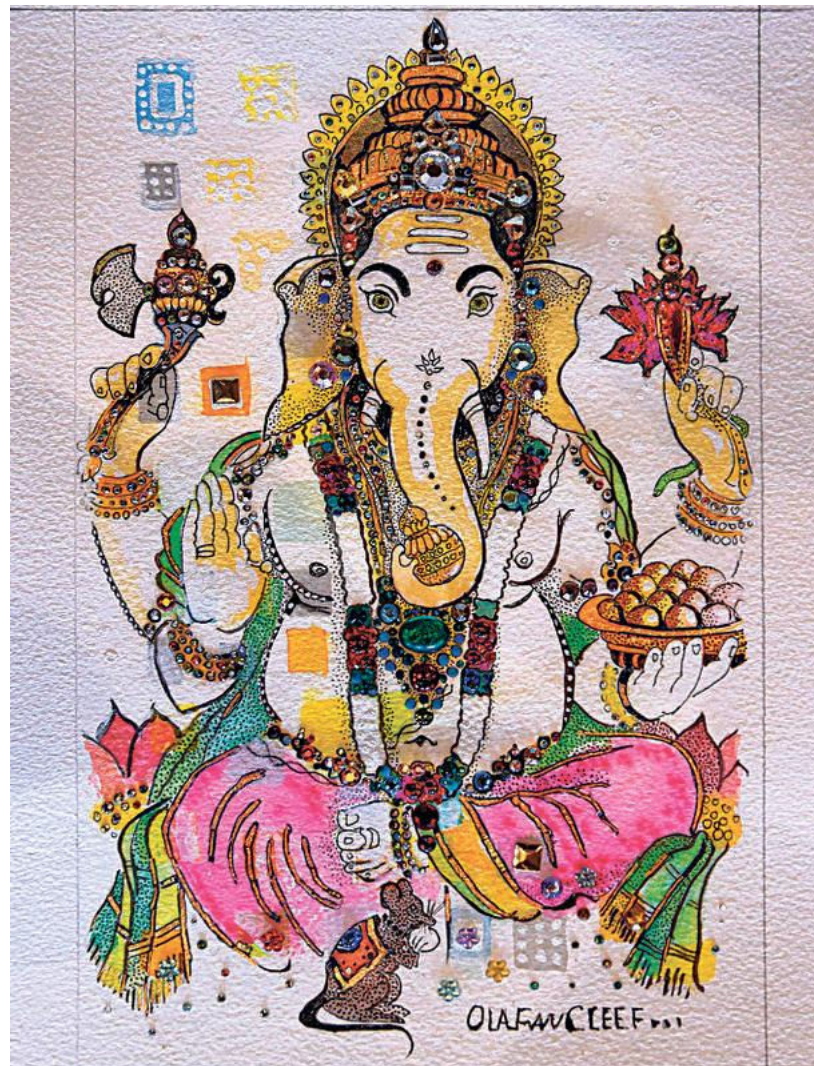
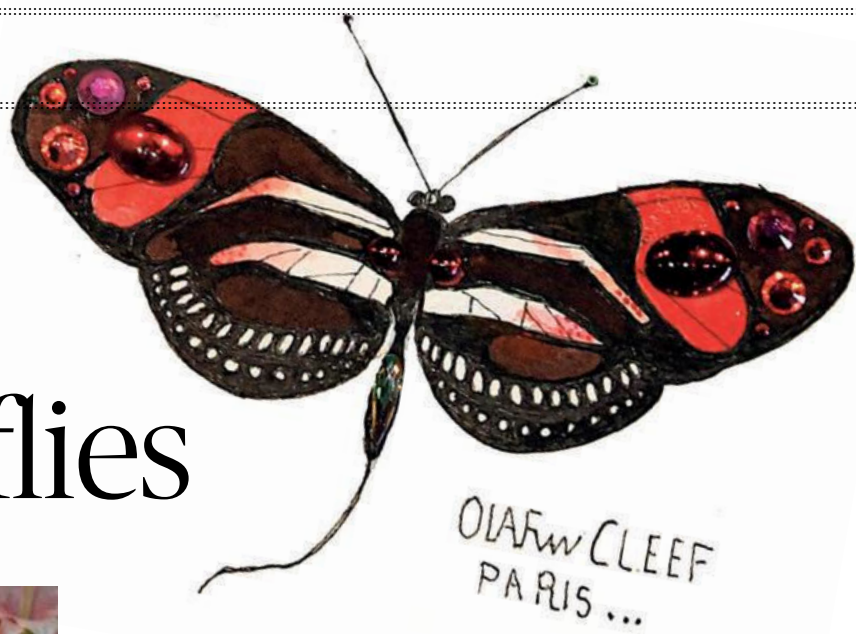
subtle French touch. The viewer feels the frisson of recognition, and along with it surprise at how Van Cleef has twisted tradition. It is a flamboyant gesture.

But Van Cleef is following in the footsteps of his predecessors and contemporaries from Europe who pinched the mystique of India and bent it their way. Porcelain Indian gods and goddesses with Caucasian visages were once worshipped in many an Indian home. These used to be imported from Belgium and Germany. Lladró of Valencia in Spain still makes them.

Incredible India

The bright colours, the mammoth elephant house, perch of the courtesan Satine, and the blue Vishnu in Baz Luhrmann's *Moulin Rouge* were all confections with their origins in "incredible" India. It must be added in all fairness

The paintings resemble Cartier's India-inspired Tutti-Frutti bracelet with gems carved into leaves and beads



Flamboyant ease Feel a frisson of recognition, along with surprise. AMIT DATTA

that unlike these money-spinning ventures, Van Cleef ploughs the sales proceeds of his exhibitions into his Puducherry gallery meant for artists who cannot afford their own shows.

His first visit to India with his grandmother made a strong impression on his young mind. Speaking in his Gallic-tinged English, the ebullient man in black tees and jeans, flaunting a belt with a huge buckle in the shape of a silver lizard to show off his recently-acquired gym-honed frame, Van Cleef says they stayed at Taj Mahal Mumbai in the Bella Vista suite facing the Gateway of India and the sea.

His grandmother insisted on displaying a huge bird cage on the terrace and

they bought two large, colourful and noisy parrots from Crawford Market for it. This was the first time Van Cleef experienced the colour and chaos of India. Never mind what Edward Said would say, but a man who has sold rocks for Cartier for 33 years can't help being the way he is.

His destiny is in his name itself. Let us hear this Cahn/ Duke number of the early 1960s: "For good little girls go to heaven/ And smart little girls go to Van Cleef & Arpels, to Tiffany's and to Cartier."

Besides being Cartier's counsellor in high jewellery, he is related to Van Cleef & Arpels, whose pieces were worn by fashion icons such as Elizabeth Taylor,

Olaf Van Cleef has given Indian calendar art a subtle French twist in his Swarovski-studded paintings of gods and goddesses

the Duchess of Windsor and Grace Kelly. The trinket shop also designed the crown of Farah Pahlavi of Iran for her coronation ceremony in 1967. It is another matter that the Shah of Iran was dethroned not many years later as an elderly priest swept to victory.

Light touch

Before the Taj Bengal show, Van Cleef held a three-day exhibition from October 26 of these paintings at the Institute De Chandernagore in the former French colony – now a grubby small town – of the same name to coincide with the famous Jagadhatri Puja carnival which draws crowds from far and near every year.

Marketing genius that Van Cleef is – he was hired in 1982 to decorate the windows of the Cartier boutique in Nice, and soon climbed the corporate ladder and was brought to the Paris shop, which he calls the "temple of high jewellery" – he had realised that his show would be a crowd-puller. Of course, no question of sales here.

At Chandernagore, his exhibition, which drew droves of puja tourists, was inseparable from the other installations sparkling with lights where giant images of the goddess sat calmly on a lion. Van Cleef is equally at home in the palaces of Indian princes and the mansions of industrialists in Kolkata.

He came for the Scindia wedding at Gwalior in 1994, "the most important jewellery experience" when he says he was "was devastated. I had never seen (anything) so beautiful" – meaning the jewellery of the Baroda and Scindia families. There, he realised that the relatively small Cartier jewellery would get overwhelmed by the gorgeous saris. India's needs were different.

If one forgets the dazzle of gems, perhaps Van Cleef derives the greatest aesthetic pleasure from painting those black-and-white works that, in contrast, have the starkness of monochrome photographs. Complex of design, these have a striking resemblance to the circuits of computers with their maze of interconnecting lines. But these Olaf Van Cleef rarely displays. Or discreetly, when he does. They may have no takers.

The writer is particularly fond of Old Buildings. His latest book, *Calcutta: 1940-1970 In the Photographs of Jayant Patel*, will be out soon.

SCANNER

On the list again

Riyas Komu and Bose Krishnamachari, the founders of the Kochi-Muziris Biennale (KMB), have been named among the 100 most influential people in the global contemporary art scene for the third consecutive year. The 'Power

100' is an annual ranking of contemporary artists and influencers compiled by the *Art Review* magazine. Komu and Krishnamachari have been placed 84th in a list that includes China's Ai Weiwei, who participated in the first edition of the KMB in 2012; Germany's Wolfgang Tillman; French conceptual artist Pierre Huyghe; Italian fashion designer Miuccia Prada. Komu and Krishnamachari first made it to the list in 2015 after the second KMB ended in March. The Kerala-born artists were the only Indians in the rankings that year. The fourth edition of the KMB, which begins in December 2018, will be curated by Anita Dube.

Art for all

The second edition of the Serendipity Arts Festival is to be held in Panaji, Goa, from December 15 to 22. Featuring music, dance, theatre, photography, crafts, visual and culinary arts, the festival will be held across eight venues. Participation of the youth is meant to be one of its strong points. The venues will ensure access for the differently-abled with audio devices, descriptions in Braille and other facilities. Seventy art projects, of which 40 were commissioned especially for the festival, will be displayed. The festival's curators are a galaxy of the most well-known personalities from their respective fields. Music will be curated by Shubha Mudgal and Ranjit Barot, theatre by Lillete Dubey and Anuradha Kapur, and the culinary arts by Odette Mascarenhas and Manu Chandra. Entry is free for all.

Hear, hear

A play, *Taayavva* (Mother), written and directed by thespian and activist Prasanna, will be presented at the ADA theatre in Bengaluru on November 21. About a mother (a take on Mother India) who loses her cobbler son and the source of livelihood, this play is a plea for the removal of the GST on handmade goods. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Finance Minister Arun Jaitley have been invited to the play. The invite to Modi reads: "You are

the Prime Minister of our welfare state. Unfortunately, our state is unable to tap the enterprise of 70% of its predominantly rural population in our Gross Domestic Production. Instead, our state is doling out alms. The mother in the play is suggesting a better solution. She wants you to treat the vast population as a group of entrepreneurs producing handmade products."

FRAMED

A prince, a potter and a triangle of love

The restored silent-era movie *Shiraz* says a lot about Indic Orientalism in the 1920s and 30s



GAYATRI SINHA is an art critic and curator who is preoccupied with her art website, www.criticalcollective.in, while also contemplating a book

The history of the Taj Mahal has a serendipitous echo in our times. Should the mausoleum be thrown open to puja or denied namaaz? As the debate around its cultural location heats up, the appearing of the film *Shiraz* casts a light on the monument as a beacon of love.

Recent interest in the silent film has been a boon to film archives languishing in different parts of the world. After the stupendous success of *Napoléon* (1927), the five and a half hour magnum opus by Abel Gance that was meticulously restored and set to music by Carl Davis, interest in the silent era has revived.

The grand historical

Screened for a single evening at New Delhi's Siri Fort auditorium, *Shiraz* is another marvel of cinematic resurrection, where the restoration of the film actually took longer than the making of the original. From our vantage point, the film demonstrates a transnational scope and ambition seldom seen today.

Twenty-eight-year-old Himanshu Rai was a law student at Inner Temple, London, when he met playwright Niranjan Pal. Son of freedom fighter Bipin Chandra Pal, Niranjan wrote *The Light of Asia* and *Shiraz*, both of which were performed on stage in England.

Rai invited both Pal and Franz Osten to India, seeking a collaboration with the UFA Studios in Germany. Until his international co-productions were halted by the rise of Hitler, Rai worked with Osten and German cameraman Josef Wirsching, in a transnational, multilingual co-operation.

Osten entered the Indian film industry through the grand historical – his first three films were the *Light of Asia* on Gautam Buddha (1925), *Shiraz* (1928) and *Prapancha Pasha* or *A Throw of Dice*

(1929). After the landmark *Achhut Kannya* (1936), he was to slip into the Bombay commercial film, with *Bhabhi*, *Nirmala*, *Kangan*, his last films in 1938-39.

What is perhaps of lasting interest in *Shiraz* is not so much the authenticity of the story of a simple potter, Shiraz, as the 'designer' of the Taj, as the "Indic Orientalism" that the film represents. The converging of European and Indian aesthetics in the period between the World Wars had manifold sources, and drew on talented émigrés in the fields of cinema, writing, publishing and art.

Walter Kaufmann, émigré musicologist and composer who gave All India Radio its signature tune, lived in Bombay for 12 years and composed the musical score for Indian films like *Prem Nagar* (1940). Osten, who didn't know a word of Hindi, compensated with the detailing and scope of his grand canvas. Much of *Shiraz* is shot outdoors, lending it a contemporary verisimilitude, say, in the presentation of the Indian potter's hut, the interiors of the Agra Fort, or the death by elephant scene – a spectacular vision of 17th century India.

In 1929, Himanshu Rai was to make *A Throw of Dice*, billed as a 'Romance of India', which shares many characteristics with *Shiraz*, especially in its dramatic editing and mix of Indian and Western orchestration. Anoushka Shankar, who has written the score for *Shiraz* and performs live with eight musicians, fulfils this requirement impeccably.

Shankar's score has the flair and energy of her own times. She threads together a score for the keyboards, allowing for a colonial flavour, as well as a joyous, energetic rendition of Raag Desh, especially apt for the shared vision of the Taj between Emperor Shah Jahan and artisan Shiraz.

Kismet connection

Even at the risk of packing in more verve than the somewhat enervated Khurram (Charu Roy) on screen inspires, or indeed the somewhat limp romance between Khurram and Selima (Mumtaz Mahal played by Enakshi Rama Rao), the vigour of Sanju Srivastava's tabla does much to complement Osten's racy editing. *Shiraz* is fascinating not only as one of the few

Indian films of the silent era to have been meticulously restored (the number of such surviving films is only 1% of the films produced until 1930), but also because it seems to stand in the triad of aesthetic and technological concerns between the budding nationalism, and the colonial and European constructions of India.

Viewing *Shiraz* and *The Throw of Dice*, which came two years later, from the prism of a cross-cultural Orientalism fostered by Osten and Himanshu Rai lends the film an entirely different genealogy. Travelling extensively in cosmopolitan Europe and America, Rai would have been well aware of Hollywood extravaganzas led by Cecil B. DeMille's productions, the Ballet Russes under Sergei Diaghilev, and their elaborate engagement with Orientalism.

The precursors to these spectacles were the immensely popular Orientalist paintings of Jean-Léon Gérôme, Frederick Goodall and Lawrence Alma-Tadema that featured intricate scenes of apparent lassitude in over-decorated interiors.

The spate of Orient-inspired Hollywood films that precedes *Shiraz* include *Kismet* (1920), *The Sheik* (1921), which catapulted Rudolf Valentino to fame, followed by *Salomé* (1923), as well as the more India-specific *The Indian Tomb* (1921). *Shiraz*, with its fast pace, ease of narrative and mode of storytelling, fosters a kind of Orientalist view that was already acceptable in the West.

The costumes of the women characters, for instance, owe much to the harems in the paintings of Alma Tadema or *Salomé*.

"The Orient... seems to be, not an unlimited extension beyond the familiar European world, but rather a closed field, a theatrical stage affixed to Europe," Edward Said wrote in *Orientalism*. Himanshu Rai's *Shiraz*, with its staging of a fiction around the making of the Taj, brings India squarely into this discourse.

Nearly a hundred years later, it invites an understanding of how we see and represent ourselves, in which past and present gain a mutual valence.

The costumes of the women characters in Shiraz owe much to the harems in the paintings of Alma Tadema or Salomé



Revived splendour A scene from *Shiraz A Romance of India* (1928)

SPOTLIGHT

A few of our favourite film things

Perfume bottles from *Earth*, remnants from Jason Bourne's Goa house, a board saying 'Airport' – an exhibition that pays tribute to the little objects that make a film

BY RUPLEENA BOSE

For years, a Nandi bull replica from the sets of *Kama Sutra: A Tale of Love* (1996) sat in silent company to the bustling evenings that gathered in my friend Annie Mathews' home. The statue, part of the art of the same film that Annie had worked on, was one of the many remnants from shoots that were preserved and given a home by her.

These objects – created for the film shoot – had lived their limited tenure on the sets but, when preserved, they acquired associations and memories of their own. Nandi's second role was just as exciting, and over time, it had firmly contributed to the identity of the space where it lived with other similar carefully preserved objects.

There were other things my friend had, like her carefully prepared Excel sheet of a film production that could take over the large queen-sized dining table and then be folded in James Bondish fashion into the smallest piece of paper to be carried in the pocket.

Story of survival

Objects from a film shoot tell the story of the processes and labour that go into creating cinema, the semblance of reality on screen. Sometimes they move houses and change cities with their collectors and take on different identities in different spaces. Sometimes, as their ideal situation should be, they live on in an archive that gives the exact history of their origin and the story of their being.

This story of survival of objects from film sets came back to me when I visited well-known production designer and artiste Aradhana Seth's unique exhibition Set Reset last month in Saligao, Goa. A

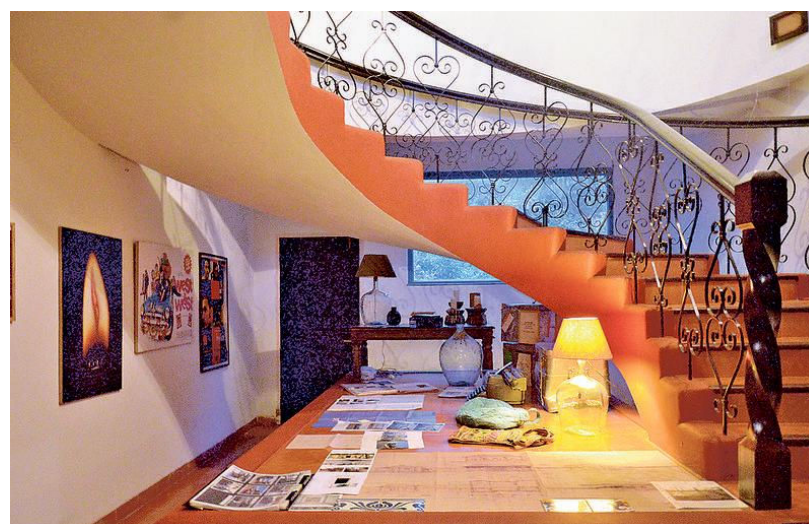
Portuguese house that was converted into an exhibition space brought forth every tiny detail that goes into the creation of the magic that is cinema.

The life and soul of a film is made up of the smallest things. Like in Deepa Mehta's *Earth* (1998), Lenny's mother Bunty has a dressing table with glass bottles of lotions and perfumes. In one corner of Seth's little museum of film set memories, the perfume bottles used in *Earth* were placed along with the original script and notes marked with corrections. There was a dedicated space for every such film she has designed and gathered objects from.

Trunks full of handwritten design notes by Arundhati Roy made up the section that documented the production of Pradip Krishen's *In Which Annie Gives it Those Ones* (1989). Alongside were photographs and production documents from Farhan Akhtar's *Don* (2006). The train in Wes Anderson's *The Darjeeling Limited* (2007) was not a regular Indian train.

Every detail, from the interior of the train to the dinner plates and the fabric used in a scene, had a story tucked away in it. The process of using the works of miniature artistes, truck lettering, and

The train in Wes Anderson's *The Darjeeling Limited* was not a regular train. Every detail, from interiors to dinner plates, had a story tucked away



Back to life A Portuguese house in Goa converted into an exhibition space for objects from film shoots tells the story of the processes and labour that go into creating cinema. PHOTOS COURTESY ARADHANA SETH FROM THE EXHIBITION SET/RESET

indigenous styles, for instance. A table had all the stationery with The Darjeeling Limited signage that was a part of the film. A dinner table set in another room was reminiscent of another scene in the film. There were photographs from Deepa Mehta's *Water* (2005). A section titled 'Fragments' was about the archival materials representing the three elements in Mehta's *Fire* (1996), *Earth* and *Water* and the diverse social universe created by these films.

The objects bear witness to the intricate work and processes that go into the art direction of films. As you walk into the kitchen, a board saying 'Airport' on the tiled roof created a surreal effect. In another room, an intricately designed 'Juice Centre' board showed up. Each object had history behind it.

There were residues of street scenes,

of villages in Rajasthan, of Jason Bourne's house in Goa (from the *Bourne* series), of pre-Partition Lahore, Delhi, bits of London from *West is West* (2010), remnants of the wedding in *Monsoon Wedding* (2001), pieces of rooms and images that became almost characters in the films they existed in.

Relating to a scene

Seth, in a conversation with me, spoke of how she realised that things needed to be archived. Her years as a production designer and art director meant that she had a personal relationship with the many things that go into the making of a scene.

The archive keeps the objects alive, even if some of the films themselves disappear from public memory.

The exhibition was produced and put

together by Seth through a collaboration with Srishti Institute of Art, Design and Technology. An installation by the students responding to Seth's archive was also a part of the exhibition. A zoetrope, a device used to animate still images before the invention of film, was displayed alongside images of the closing scene of *The Darjeeling Limited*.

A large space belonged to *The Bourne Supremacy* (2004) files. Memos and confidential correspondence between the crew and teams as well as a blueprint of the bridge from where the car plunges into the river gave a sense of the tedious processes that go into even a single frame.

I had my exhibition favourites in that section: an article that gives this write-up a meta-narrative. Pinned among many letters was one from a former ed-

itor of *The Hindu*, a response to a letter sent by the film team seeking permission to place a copy of the newspaper in a scene in the film. The scene may or may not have featured in the film, but the letter remains a reminder of the process of creation of a film's *mise-en-scène*.

My other favourite was another letter, a stern one, from the production controller of a film unit, and my friend Annie, who I began this story with. The letter was to a film crew on the need to maintain discretion about the details of shooting a film like *The Bourne Supremacy*. And just like the objects from a film set, such letters too carry the history of a film within them.

The author teaches English literature at Delhi University. She also writes screenplays and obsesses about her cats.

FILMI DIALOGUE

What women don't want

Why three films, *Padmavati*, *S Durga* and *Nude*, are under siege



NAMRATA JOSHI is Associate Editor-Cinema with The Hindu in Mumbai

Nothing can be more cinematically more divergent than *Padmavati*, *S Durga* and *Nude*. If *Padmavati* is a mash-up of history, mythology, fable and fantasy, *S Durga* and *Nude* are slices of contemporary lives. One is larger than life in scale, the others are intimate. One boasts of Bollywood biggies, the others are small, in the realm of language cinema – Malayalam and Marathi – with a largely lesser-hyped cast.

Padmavati seems to have lush colours, costumes and sets, much drama, song 'n' dance, flamboyance and flourish. *Nude* looks lyrical, riding on quietude and fluid imagery, and *S Durga* is spartan, independent and experimental. All three are, however, also curiously united – as I write this column they are all under siege.

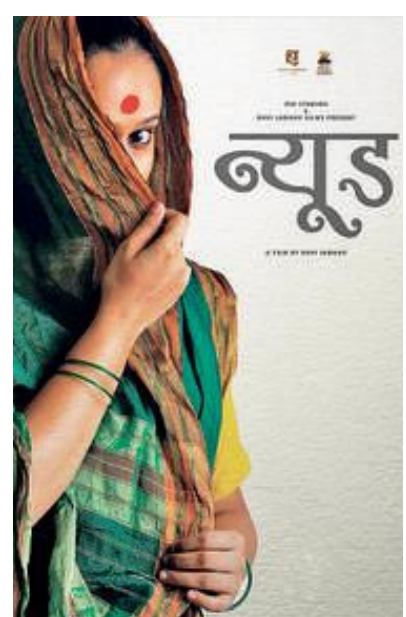
Padmavati has been in the eye of the storm right from the start with Shri Rajput Karni Sena vandalising the sets and assaulting the director Sanjay Leela Bhansali. It is now calling for a ban, threatening to burn down theatres, and invoking a countrywide bandh on December 1, the day of the film's planned release.

The fringe group claims the film distorts facts and hurts their sentiments, without having seen the film or read its script. It has now got institutional support, with Rajasthan Cabinet Minister Kiran Maheshwari joining the protests and U.P. government officials warning about law-and-order issues.

Too much at stake

Nude and *S Durga* have been summarily removed by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting from the screening list of the 48th International Film Festival of India (IFFI), 2017, scheduled to begin tomorrow. The technical reasons offered for their non-inclusion have been contested vehemently by the filmmakers.

The narratives of their battles are as varied as the films themselves. *Padmavati* is vulnerable due to its budget – there is big money riding on it, running



Her story Why are we controlling narratives about women?

into hundreds of crores, not to speak of the livelihoods of many. No wonder the makers have been swinging between pacification and confrontation, defensiveness and aggression, when dealing with the mobs. There is too much at stake, the reason why various industry bodies have chosen to make a show of solidarity.

Fighting for space

On the other hand, Sanal Kumar Sasidharan (director of *S Durga*) has decided to take the bull by the horns, all on his own, and has filed a writ petition against the government in the Kerala High Court.

He has no option but to be defiant and fight for the limited spaces – one of

A film that supposedly dishonours a goddess and, in turn, women at large with its title is actually all about how women are routinely degraded in real life

them being film festivals – available for his kind of cinema, made on a minuscule budget.

At the root of it is the issue of freedom of expression. But one senses another overarching concern – gender representation in cinema and, in turn, our hypocritical attitude towards it.

Death of irony

We get easily offended seeing a Rajput queen dancing, without a *ghoonghat*, in a film. But in attempting to save the honour of the character, we threaten to chop off the nose of the actor (Deepika Padukone) portraying the role. Can we not see irony die a thousand deaths here?

I have seen *S Durga* and will stick my neck out for it, in how it holds a mirror to what we have reduced women to – deified in temples but subjected to trauma (physical and mental) in day-to-day life.

It implicates the viewers in a woman's suffocation, making them deservedly uncomfortable. A film that supposedly dishonours a goddess and, in turn, women at large with its title is actually all about how women are routinely degraded in real life. It's a film society should be encouraged to watch, yet the moral police prefers to not go beyond its name.

Nude might be about nude modelling but it is not titillatory or exploitative, filmmaker Ravi Jadhav assures me. It's about the dilemmas nude models face when caught between economic needs and societal censure. "It is an emotional film in which we have handled the subject artistically, with a lot of dignity," says Jadhav. The finger is not pointed at women but at society.

However, instead of introspection there seems to be this righteous desire in both society and state to control narratives about women – how they should be portrayed, what is appropriate womanly behaviour on screen, what is fit for an audience to watch and what is not.

All of this is based on some obsolete patriarchal notion about a woman's honour. In other words, an infantilisation of both creation and consumption of cinema in the hands of rampant conservatism. That's certainly not what women want.

DOCU DRAMA

The highs and lows

About recovery, relationships and other realities of de-addiction

BY NEHA BHATT

How much can you rebuild your life after years of drug and alcohol abuse? *Taala Te Kunjee* (Lock and Key), a new feature-length documentary by Shilpi Gulati, delves into this complex subject with a fresh perspective, through a highly immersive and intimate lens.

The film opens as Jasbir Singh, 57, goes about his morning ritual – yoga, watering plants – with a spring in his step. "I feel like I have drunk a whole bottle... Doesn't it seem like I am drunk?" he grins from ear to ear.

Singh is being facetious, given his history as someone who spent 13 years constantly high on drugs, often stumbling out of his home in the middle of the night in search of alcohol. Today, he is a Baba Ramdev *bhakt* who spends his time helping others recover from similar addictions. Over the course of the 82-minute *Lock and Key* (which won the Jury Special Mention at Film Southasia 2017 in Kathmandu), we meet four other recovering addicts. What binds them is 'The Hermitage De-addiction Home' in Amritsar, where they now serve as counsellors.

Bittersweet moments

The bumpy journey, from addiction to sanity, is tinged with humour, bittersweet moments, relief, and regret. There is sadness, but also hope.

There was a time when Nitin Gupta's liver was barely functioning. Today, the intensely determined 40-something has put 20 years of addiction behind him to counsel patients and their families along with Namrata, his wife. More than a decade ago, the strapping Gurpratap Singh or GPS, as he is fondly called, now 31, took his first dose of smack at a local cricket ground. We then see him playing cricket on the lush lawns of The Hermitage.

It feels like a different life. Somewhere in the middle of the film, Amandeep Pannu, 35, who's clean and wise after kicking opium, unlocks the mystery behind the title of the film at a counselling session at the centre.



A new life Stills from Shilpi Gulati's *Taala Te Kunjee*.

When Gulati was halfway through the shoot, *Uda Punjab* hit the theatres. But *Lock and Key* speaks a different language. It spends only a few moments decoding the psychology of Punjab and the connection between large-scale violence and substance abuse.

"The film was not going to be a macro analysis of the drug problem in Punjab but about the intimate experience of recovery, about relationships and the everyday labour that goes into it," says Gulati.

The documentary also challenges common perceptions and stereo-

types around addicts, acknowledging that while families go through great trauma, the addict suffers and struggles as well.

Suffering women

"I began to humanise the addict for myself, and in turn, tried to do so for my audience," says Gulati.

The women in the documentary are almost as crucial to the narrative as their recovering husbands. Satpal Kaur, who battled serious financial strain, her own illness, and deep emotional trauma while coping with her husband's alcoholism, talks about what she went through when her husband would lie in a corner of a room, covered in his blood, urine and vomit.

"One day, when he was vomiting blood, my daughter asked me what I wanted to do. I said, what can I do now, I am fed up, if he dies, let him die. My second thought was, where would I go with three daughters?"

The film was not going to be a macro analysis of the drug problem in Punjab but about the intimate experience of recovery

Girls are independent nowadays, but it was not the same in our time..." she says, while peeling potatoes and watching over her grandchildren.

The nuanced and almost poetic documentary joins the dots and takes you close to the heart of its subjects. As Satbir Kaur and Namrata Gupta flip through their wedding albums, reliving their days as young brides, the charming GPS, prepares for his own wedding. We catch a glimpse of the bride and groom in a gurdwara, a picture of health and happiness in matching bright pink outfits. His worst is hopefully behind them.

The writer is a freelance journalist, lover of cakes, chai, bookshops and good yarns.

RUBRIC

The city's beautiful curves

A 100-odd buildings, 200 years of architectural history. Can Mumbai's flamboyant Art Deco be saved from salty winds and ugly alterations?

BY P. KRISHNA GOPINATH

A shaft of late-afternoon sunlight falls on a deep, grey sea and bounces off the water's surface. The effect is an artificial-looking, molten silver pool that makes the ocean seem more welcoming than it really is. The wind carries a fine, salty spray over the promenade skirting the frothy waters. It is low tide. Traffic bustles. Across the busy street, in the milkiness of a post-rain September, the features of Marine Drive's Art Deco buildings are distinctive.

Art Deco studs other cities too, popping up here and there in Ahmedabad, Pune, Chennai, Bengaluru, Kolkata or Vadodara. But in South Mumbai, it makes an exuberant, idiosyncratic statement, a bold aesthetic of an era gone by that sits right next to the welter of high-rise modernity.

Besides Marine Drive, there's the Oval Maidan, where Art Deco juxtaposes cosily with Neo-Gothic buildings. There's possibly no other place in the world where two contrasting styles of architecture exist in such close proximity. To the east of the maidan, the Victorian structures soar skyward, full of certitude, monumental. To its west, on Maharshi Karve Marg, Deco apartment blocks stand tall.

A mixed bag

On Sir Pherozeshah Mehta Road and Mahatma Gandhi Road, Deco office buildings abound. Then there are the famous Deco movie halls. Regal, in 1933, and then Plaza, New Empire, Central, Eros, Metro and Liberty used to once look like fairylands. Today, much of the original style is lost or hidden by alterations, signages and hoardings.

Mumbai has Neo-Gothic structures in the Mumbai University building and the High Court. It has the Neo-Classical style in the Town Hall that houses the Asiatic Society. Then there is the Indo-Saracenic in the Mumbai GPO. To this

mix was added Art Deco in the years between the two World Wars.

In place of the distant formalism of Gothic and the Classical, it ushered in an exhilarating sense of freedom and boundless creativity. The new architecture was less about structure and more about elevation and façades.

Bewildering style

The contrast with Neo-Gothic couldn't have been sharper. Flower petals, leaves, and figures from mythology like Lakshmi and Ganesha were used to adorn building fronts. The eclecticism of the new style was bewildering. But by using Indian motifs and myths, Art Deco constructions became more acceptable.

Backbay Reclamation had pushed the sea back, westward. More land was at hand. Mumbai city was creating wealth. Business boomed, trade flourished, industries sprung up. There was a spirit of entrepreneurship and optimism. New home owners wanted their houses to reflect their opulent gaiety. Art Deco's flamboyance fitted right in. Suddenly architectural style was an experience everyone could savour.

Even the building names announced this. Initially they were very British, with Queen's Court, Empress Court, Belvedere Court, and even a Windsor House. Then they became very Indian: Shiv Shakti Bhavan, Deepak Mahal, Rajesh Mahal, Soona Mahal.

The first Art Deco buildings were designed by Indians trained in Sir J.J. School of Art but with a global outlook.

The exteriors are standard Art Deco but windows, doorways and sunshades are often designed with Indian motifs



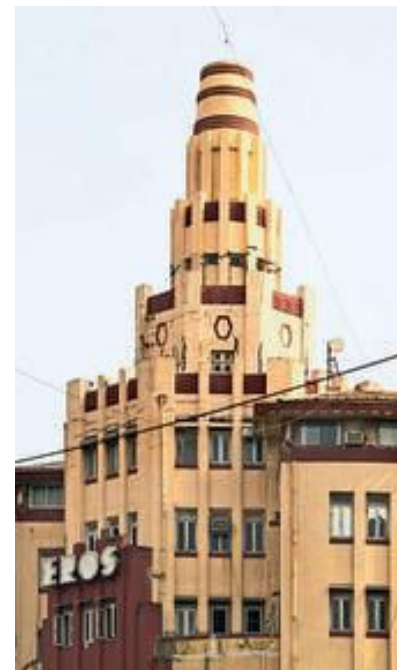
Concrete had come in, allowing flexibility in designs. Technology reduced time and building costs. Stylistically, the architects were looking to the U.S. for inspiration.

Look at the buildings on Marine Drive and Oval Maidan for classic Art Deco examples. They have flat roofs with prominent stairwells. The balconies are rounded or boxed with sun shades. The entrances are conspicuous. The buildings are rounded or curvy, giving them a feeling of lightness and fluidity.

While the smooth, liquid finish of the exteriors and the boxed balconies are standard Art Deco, windows, doorways,

stairways and sunshades were often designed freely. But their most eye-catching facet was the use of colours creating different shades and hues on the same street. This was possible by the use of Colourcrete, a finishing material popular at the time. By the time WWII ended, the Art Deco movement had lost momentum. Isolated structures still came up from time to time, but it was no longer the preferred style.

After the war, aesthetics changed. In Europe, the optimism of the past gave way to gloom. Architecture was now marked by functionalism. Modernism replaced Art Deco.



Distinct style (Clockwise from above) Marine Drive's Art Deco facade; Eros Cinema; an apartment building in South Mumbai; and Oval Maidan where Art Deco Bombay Stock Exchange building sits cosily with Neo-Gothic Rajabai Clock Tower. VIVEK BENDRE & SANDRA COHEN-ROSE AND COLIN ROSE/FLICR.COM

ugly. In some buildings, stone bas reliefs have been removed.

Buildings have added on more floors in totally different styles. The famous cinemas have been turned into multiplexes. If anything remains in fair shape, it's the residential buildings on Oval Maidan and Marine Drive.

I am at the office of Pankaj Joshi, a leading architect and conservationist, who is the executive director of Urban Design Research Institute and a member of the Mumbai Heritage Conservation Committee.

Joshi has been vocal on the need to preserve this precious heritage bequeathed to Mumbai. He and other activists have been able to persuade the government to urge Unesco to accord World Heritage status to the Marine Drive and Oval Maidan buildings.

The Centre submitted a proposal to Unesco in May 2012 to demarcate these two separate locations as The Victorian and Art Deco Ensemble of Mumbai. Joshi hopes the proposal will come through. If it does, it would be a unique project that could save 100 iconic buildings spanning two centuries of the city's history.

The writer spends time pretending to read and write. His other interests are photography and Western classical music.

PLACE, WORK, FOLK

Building a city, one house at a time

The secret behind the transformation of one of São Paulo's largest slums into a nice neighbourhood

BY RAHUL SRIVASTAVA & MATIAS ECHANOVE

Ataide, a self-taught mason and home-builder, lives and works in Paraisópolis ('paradise city'), one of São Paulo's largest favelas (slum), where he grew up and developed his skills. Paraisópolis has been visually integrated into this magnificent city's imagination, thanks to several photographs circulated by urbanists and enthusiasts.

The contrast of its low-rise, high-density, raw-brick structures against the dizzying residential skyscrapers makes for an epic, even if a bit stereotypical, cityscape. This image has been used countless number of times to illustrate the deepening inequality between an ever more opulent minority and a majority which crowds the city's interstitial spaces.

From within, the story isn't as dramatic, thanks to the efforts of people like Ataire who have built and consolidated the settlement in piecemeal fashion for decades. Paraisópolis is one of the oldest and best-settled favelas in the city, with some of its streets lined with shops and freshly built houses. Sometimes referred to as a postcard favela, it showcases the better face of the city's history of unplanned urbanisation.

Whenever such a settlement grows on its own energy, using local labour and skills, it generates confused responses. Should its improvement be encouraged or discouraged? By encouraging, does one risk celebrating small incremental moves at the cost of ignoring the bigger story of illegitimacy and inequity that it is trapped in?

Seesawing economy

Should we instead promote its redevelopment into modern-looking affordable housing blocks? But then aren't we reproducing the extremely dysfunctional monolithic suburban landscape that has become ubiquitous in cities around the world? And in a seesawing economy like Brazil's, how can we rely on public investments or real estate speculation to promote development?

While the debate goes on, Ataire builds and repairs homes, along with dozens of other builders in Paraisópolis.



Urban conundrum This contrasting view of low-rise, high-density, raw-brick structures against dizzying residential skyscrapers has been used countless times to illustrate the deepening inequality in Brazilian society. Seen here is Favela da Rocinha, Brazil's largest slum. MARK PEGRUM/FLICR.COM

There was a time when international agencies had tremendous faith in the ability of neighbourhoods to develop on their own. From the 1960s onwards, Latin American architects, social workers and academics recognised the importance of "autoconstruction" and "self-built" neighbourhoods. Some of the most progressive policies on slum

improvement and land tenure came from Peru, Colombia and Brazil, before World Bank popularised them further elsewhere. 'Site and services' projects that provided families plots with basic infrastructure, in places such as Arumbakkam in Chennai, Charkop in North Mumbai, or Aranya near Indore, were in essence Latin American imports.

Initially, some believed they were failures, resulting in the scheme being abandoned in the 1990s. Distance from city centres, and slow endorsement by target groups were major obstacles. Often the infrastructure wasn't functioning properly (which seems to be more of a generalised problem in certain parts of the world). In reality, the schemes

were unfairly expected to produce instant results, when their core principle was incrementality – the idea that it sometimes takes a generation – for a neighbourhood to grow.

It took time for Paraisópolis to get where it is now. Other 'site and services' settlements built in Latin America and India between the 1970s and 1990s have

Some of the most progressive policies on slum improvement and land tenure came from Peru, Colombia and Brazil

now become hugely successful neighbourhoods, with diverse populations and mixed residential and economic activities.

Local ecosystem

These incremental neighbourhoods rely on the development of a local construction ecosystem, with masons, plumbers, bricklayers, welders and carpenters. They are key to the process. Like Ataire, who, over the course of an adult lifetime, has built nearly 100 homes in Paraisópolis and continues to do so.

Along with the home owner, he designs, constructs, builds and finishes a structure right down to its smallest details. A house may take a few months to build, but each structure is a beautiful testimony to his talent. In the past few years, documenting his style and getting students to work and learn from him, has virtually started a small school/studio of learning in his neighbourhood. Students from some of the best architectural schools in São Paulo come and exchange ideas and learn from him.

The 'site and services' projects, which were implemented in 27 Indian cities, are a living testimony of what can happen when the government trusts people's ability to self-develop. They need more support to develop and improve. But first, we must change our perception of artisans who, like Ataire, build entire neighbourhoods one house at a time. As an aggregated citywide presence, they constitute a formidable force for sustainable urban and economic development and must be valued for this.

The writers are co-founders of urbz.net, an urban network that's active in Mumbai, Goa and beyond.

Death by dum pukht

How the first betrayal through poisoned food changed the Mughals' dynamics with food and drink for generations

BY IRA MUKHOTY

Italy is a country that teeters under the weight of the art it carries. Milan, city of commerce and fashion, is an aberration, dismissed by the Romans as an uncivilised, uncultured place. But there is a museum in Milan that has a painting by Peter Paul Rubens titled *The Last Supper*.

In the painting Jesus is blessing the bread and the wine he is preparing to offer the apostles, having told the appalled and disbelieving men that he is about to be betrayed by one of them. Only Judas stares out of the painting, his eyes filled with a dark, haunted knowledge that is deeply unsettling for the viewer.

The food is exactly in the centre of the painting and it is impossible not to conflate the idea of betrayal and treason with that of sustenance and nurture. This is an ancient conundrum and it is one that tormented the great Mughals of Hindustan through the 200 years of their reign.

When Babur, of the Turkic Timurid dynasty, rode into India in 1526, he first sent a polite request to the Afghan Sultan of Delhi, Ibrahim Lodi. He dispatched a hawk with a message, asking that the Sultan give back "the country which from old had depended on the Turks." Not surprisingly, Lodi demurred, and so a battle was fought at Panipat. Lodi was killed and Delhi changed hands, once again. Lodi's mother and family were taken into Babur's care.

Mother's murder plan

But Lodi's mother, Dilawar Begum, had murder on her mind. With the help of the Hindustani Chashnigir, the food taster, she smuggled poison into Babur's meal of fried hen, carrots and bread. Babur was violently sick, but survived the poisoning and after a few swift acts of retribution, wrote to his anxious family waiting in Kabul; "Thank God," he wrote, "I have lived to see another day." He survived to found an empire, one of the greatest the world had ever seen, but he was deeply troubled by Dilawar Begum, that "ill-omened" old lady's attempt to kill him despite what he considered his own exemplary behaviour in giving sanctuary to Lodi's household.

This first betrayal through tainted food would corrupt the Mughals' dynamics with food and drink far into the future generations.

Babur's son Humayun, having cava-



Feasting, fearing Humayun with Shah Tahmasp at the latter's court in Persia. WIKI COMMONS

lierly lost his kingdom somewhat precipitously, spent years in exile in Persia, living on the unpredictable and precarious hospitality of the brilliant but eccentric Shah Tahmasp.

The Shah meticulously oversaw the food on offer for his Hindustani guests himself; he ordered sherbets of lemon and rosewater, cooled with snow. Fresh jams made from watermelons and grapes. Soft white bread and 500 types of meats. But there was a price to pay for the extravagance of this feasting. Shah Tahmasp wanted the Sunni Humayun to convert to Shia Islam and when Humayun diplomatically prevaricated, there were arbitrary displays of violence and blood-letting. Humayun fi-

nally rode back into Hindustan with 12,000 Persian soldiers and 500 crimsontents and re-claimed the throne of Hindustan. But the Mughal Padshahs would increasingly have an abiding fear of being poisoned, even as their cuisine developed into one of the most celebrated and sumptuous the world had ever seen.

Pampered chickens

Under the long reign of Akbar the Great, Mughlai cuisine became a refined art of exquisite and sometimes baffling details. The best produce from all the corners of the empire were brought to the imperial kitchens – rice, butter, duck, and waterfowl. The chickens of

the palace were 'fed by hand with pellets flavoured with saffron and rosewater, and massaged daily with musk oil and sandalwood' to improve the flavour of their meat.

Dishes were created, blending Central Asian techniques with Hindustani spices, which travelled around the globe and spread the fame of the Mughal empire: naan, poultry cooked with finely ground onions known as 'dopyaza', a Turkic dish called the 'sanbusa', later samosa, dum pukht and harissa.

But the Mughal empire had also become an immensely wealthy one by the end of Akbar's reign. The stakes had changed and now the Mughal throne

was one worth killing for, and food and drink became increasingly suspect.

Alcohol, opium and intoxicants had long been consumed by the Mughals of Hindustan. By the time of Jahangir's reign, rampant alcoholism was the leading cause of death within the nobility, followed by stomach ailments.

Two of Jahangir's brothers died of alcoholism, and Jahangir himself struggled to control his drinking habit, writing of his attempts to bring down his consumption from "twenty cups of doubly-distilled spirits, fourteen during the daytime and the remainder at night," to six cups of a "wine and spirit mixture" with the help of Nur Jahan.

As the empire grew richer, brothers

A favourite mode of eliminating noble competitors was by poisoning through 'poust,' a drink of raw opium

and cousins were killed to secure the throne, old notions of brotherhood and family were scuffed by the impossible allure of this glittering throne.

The emperor's food

A favourite mode of eliminating noble competitors was by poisoning through 'poust,' a drink of raw opium made from soaking poppy seeds overnight in water. A famous victim was the unfortunate Suleiman Mirza, the charismatic and popular son of Dara Shikoh. Aurangzeb imprisoned him at Gwalior fortress and force-fed him poust for a year, at the end of which he died debilitated, trembling and demented.

By the time Shah Jahan became Padshah Ghazi, every sliver of food was suspect and every drink bled the fear of poison. It was always women who guarded the most precious things of the empire; the lives of the young princes, the jewels of the Mughals, women's safety, and the emperor's food.

Two women in particular were entrusted with the supremely dangerous task of safe-guarding Shah Jahan's food – his daughter Jahanara Begum, and the Sadr-e-Anas of the zenana, Sati al-Nisa Begum. These two women supervised every dish brought before the emperor from the kitchens, where they were sealed before being presented to Shah Jahan.

Each meal was then begun by the recitation of the Bismillah-e-Rahman-e-Rahim, with Sati al-Nisa standing quietly by, and was ended by loud, thankful exclamations of Shukr Allah as another meal had been successfully survived.

In the end Shah Jahan was undone not by poison, but by the ambition of his own son Aurangzeb, with Jahanara faithfully by his side till the end. Perhaps, the Last Supper and its fateful consequences might have had a different outcome had there been a woman among the 12 disciples.

The author, an amateur kitchen gardener and professional collector of words, is in a love-hate relationship with Delhi.

Notes from Heggodu

BY BASAV BIRADAR

I was the last passenger to get off the bus. We had arrived at Heggodu, a small village in Shivamogga district in Karnataka. As I started walking, I realised that the driver, the conductor and I were headed in the same direction. And I discovered that, most unusually, we were all going to the same place, Ninasam. I learned later that this is the only state transport bus that plies between Bengaluru and Heggodu, and the crew always rested in the premises of Ninasam till their return journey the same night. It was 7 am, still very early for Heggodu. It was drizzling and there was a slight nip in the air.

Every time I travel out of the city, the initial hour is full of withdrawal symptoms – time suddenly seems to have stopped, the phone network is patchy, I start worrying about boredom. But a quick nap and a relaxing hot water bath later, my mind stilled and found its place in the quiet of the little village. A few idlis and a hot cup of coffee helped even more.

Ninasam is an acronym for Neelakanteswara Natyaseva Samgha, a theatre training institute and a theatre repertory dedicated to enriching the knowledge and practice of arts in the village community. Its inception was deeply influenced by socialist ideals.

Creative spaces

I was taken on a guided tour by B.R. Venkataramana Aital, the principal. As I listened to him, I secretly marvelled at the performance spaces, seminar halls and reading rooms he led me through. Then we reached the library and I suddenly discovered the memoirs of Leni Riefenstahl. The excitement of finding it in this remote village got the better of me and I spent the next hour in the library exploring all its shelves scrupulously.

I fantasised about how lovely it would be to sit every day for hours in this quiet room, on the small wooden chair, and read the many books without worrying about peak-hour traffic and ordering food online.

I was awoken from my fantasy by Aital inviting me to see the Shivaram Karanth theatre. The 500+ seater proscenium theatre is a performer's delight

with all its facilities and is better equipped than many in the city. I was particularly impressed by the signage – contextual, artistic and handmade. One warned people against spitting betel juice on the floors while another asked visitors to not use cellphones. Visual art was abundantly present everywhere.

Curious glances

After a delightful lunch in the canteen, I decided to take a stroll. As I reached the village square, I realised that my alien status was betrayed by my missing umbrella, which seemed to be a mandatory part of the daily village attire and I attracted many curious stares.

The Malnad region is known for its areca nut farming, and agriculture thrives here. Shiva is the local deity and the Neelkanteshwara temple here has lent its name to the theatre troupe and the cultural organisation. In the afternoon, the village melted away as everyone went off for a siesta. I resisted the temptation and went back to the reading room.

Late in the afternoon, I was invited for tea by a friend's family in the next village. I gladly accepted and enjoyed the upma and coffee they served. By 6 p.m., I realised that this was the most I had achieved in a single day in a long time. I guess that is what villages are about – they allow you the time and space to live each day to its fulfilment.

My film screening was scheduled for later that evening and when I reached the theatre, I found a sudden surge in the number of people in the audience. This was the first time I had seen more than five people together in the whole day. The discussion after the screening was enthusiastic and I was fascinated by the insights the people of Heggodu provided. It was proof that Ninasam has nurtured a culture of critical thinking and arts appreciation in the community.

That night, when I returned to the bus for my trip home I found a window seat and as I sat down, my first thought was of the traffic I would face the next morning.

The Bengaluru-based writer is a theatre artist, documentary filmmaker and freelance writer whose earlier life was in the technology world.

Do you cry at the movies?

'If I didn't, I could not dream of being part of the movie-making process'

BY PREETHA JAYARAMAN

When I decided to join the Film and Television Institute of India I must have been 17. I went to meet Suhasini Mani Ratnam at her home. She is one of the first women cinematographers in India – a lesser known fact because she had gone on to become a prolific actor and director. We sat down to talk and when I told her I wanted to be a cinematographer, she asked me a question: "Do you cry at the movies?"

I said yes. Our family was famous for recording emotional scenes from our favourite Tamil movies on VCR and playing it back for a good cry. I thought we were weird, but here was someone who was telling me it's ok to cry at the movies. In fact, if I didn't, I could not dream of being part of the movie-making process.

I don't know how many of you cry at the movies, but I think it's a pre-requisite for all film critics to pass this litmus test before they are let out into the world. They should be seated in a theatre and, like in an interrogation room, the officers should watch through the tinted glass and see if a tear drop escapes the aspiring critic when they watch an emotional scene. They can use the last scene of *Braveheart* or scenes from *Salangai Oli* (our family favourite, will probably still work for us).

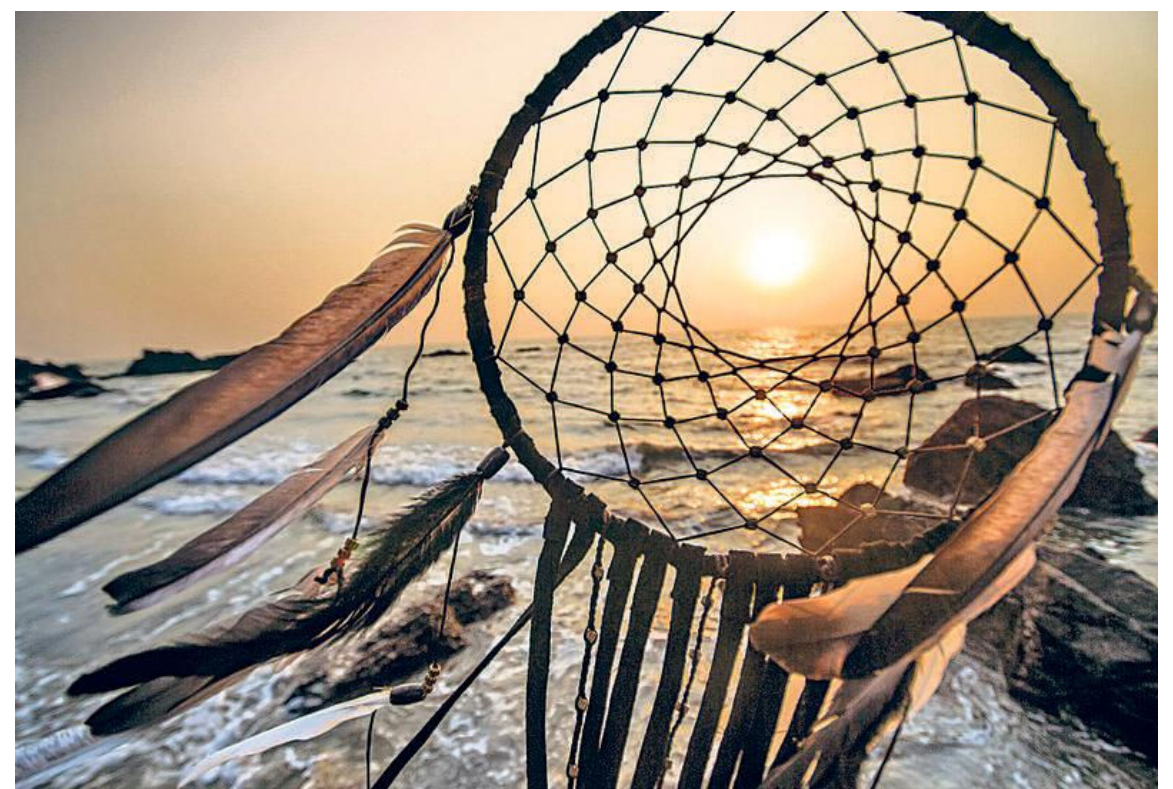
Grandmom, the great director

If all else fails, there is the mother sentiment very popular in Indian cinema. Works like a charm every time. Even for the stone-cold cynic. If you are a lover of cinema, then be ready to be moved.

It's not an easy job being a critic. They have to watch reels of crap before anything good comes their way and have to review everything anyway. Remember the food critic from *Ratatouille*, aptly called Ego, being moved to tears at the first bite?

I'm sure every critic goes into a movie secretly hoping for that moment. We are all looking for it, a little bit of god in a frame, a little bit of nirvana in a scene, a little bit of ecstasy in a song.

The ability of cinema to unlock our secret wounds, mirror our loneliness and insecurities. To let us



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

We are all looking for a little bit of god in a frame, a little bit of nirvana in a scene, a little bit of ecstasy in a song

feel passion, anger. To get us to laugh at others and ourselves, to let go. It's an artistic medium that will outlive paintings and poetry in my opinion. It's the canvas to repaint history, predict the future, draw you into a fantasy, change mindsets and break barriers. We are all addicted to our screens already, constantly looking for stories in real life or reel, to entertain us on demand. Our attention spans may be shrinking, but not our appetites.

Grandmothers wove stories before television and movies. Around the warmth of the kitchen, stories were told to help the ball of rice along. My grandmother told me stories at bedtime, she made each one up I realised much later. There

was *Tom Thumb* and *Thumbelina*, but they went on adventures that were set in my world in Madras. Grandmothers were the great directors in many houses, building sets, giving actors lines, bringing kings to life and slaying demons.

Optical illusion

That day, Suhasini Mani Ratnam also told me about persistence of vision. She told me to stare at the light bulb in the room, then close my eyes, for the remnant of the image of the light to stick to the space inside my eyelid. Persistence of vision refers to the optical illusion that occurs when the visual perception of an object does not cease for some time after the rays of light proceeding from it have ceased to enter the eye. The illusion has also been described as "retinal persistence", "persistence of impressions" or simply "persistence".

This forms the basis of motion picture recording and projection. Twenty-four frames per second. When you look at a frame from a film reel, hold it up against the light, you'll see what that means. It's a

fragment of the movie, a word from the story.

I miss the smell of film labs these days; the onset of digital took away the smell, but that's just me being a romantic. We are still telling stories on the digital medium and that's what matters.

Wikipedia now seems to say scientists have disproved this theory of persistence of vision and motion pictures, which I plan to ignore completely because it takes away the magical awe with which I listened to her that day and rode home with my head full of dreams. What a buzz kill. I'm sticking with my version. Just like I refuse to accept that Pluto is not a planet any more.

I still watch *Braveheart* when I want to feel a little alive, a little less jaded. My therapy. *Ally McBeal* had a theme song to feel better on bad days and I have *Braveheart*. Sounds crazy but pick something that works for you to stay alive in this world.

The writer is a cinematographer, the non-bearded variety, and is called 'Cameraman Madam' on the sets.

Easy like Sunday morning

Let's meet some trailblazers

BY BERTY ASHLEY

1 Born in Varanasi as 'Manikarnika' on November 19, 1828, this lady was married at the age of 14 to the King. After the death of the Maharaja, the British, under Lord Dalhousie, rejected his adopted son's claim to the throne and annexed the territories. This enraged Manikarnika, who escaped on Badal, her beloved horse, and led a rebellion from Gwalior Fort. She was renowned for her valour and temerity. How do we better know Manikarnika?

2 As a teenager, this girl from a French peasant family believed that God had chosen her to lead her countrymen in to war. She accompanied her men as a sort of inspirational mascot, brandishing her banner in place of a weapon. With no military training whatsoever, she led her army to a momentous victory over the English. It is believed that the 'bob' haircut was inspired by her. Though she was burned at the stake at the age of 19, her legend lives on. Who was this girl?

3 On December 1, 1955, an African-American seamstress got into a bus in the U.S. after a long day's work and sat in the section for 'coloured' people. When the 'white' section filled up, the driver moved the sign and asked her to give up her seat. She refused, and for that got arrested. This led to a boycott of public transport by African-Americans and the formation of an Association where a hitherto unknown minister called Martin Luther King Jr. was elected president. Who was the lady who resolutely parked herself in her seat?

4 Jalālat-ud-Dīn — was the only woman to ever rule the Delhi sultanate. Her father, Iltutmish, started life as a slave and died a king. His daughter eventually took over the throne and is famed for excellent ruling. She was benevolent, just, and a patron of arts and knowledge. Unfortunately, she was killed by her half-brother who usurped the throne. After her rule ended, the Delhi Sultanate fell into disarray. Who was this iconic lady who has been portrayed on film and TV many times?

5 The youngest ever Nobel laureate is named after a shepherd's daughter who went to the



The last sovereign Queen Liliuokalani. WIKI COMMONS

battlefield to tend to the wounded Afghans who were fighting in Kandahar. When the flag-bearer was killed, she went and took his place and was killed under fire. But her death inspired the men who went on to trounce the British (this is the war in which Dr. John Watson supposedly got wounded before becoming a famous high-functioning sociopath detective's partner). Who is the remarkable woman education activist whose first name comes from this inspiring lady?

6 Hedy Lamarr was an Austrian actress whose stunning screen presence made her a global star in the 1940s. Bored of acting, she became a prolific inventor and even designed bird and fish based wing designs for Howard Hughes's aircraft. One day, while talking to composer George Antheil, they discovered a passion for engineering and radiography. They went on to invent a 'frequency-hopping system' for use by Allied Forces. What modern day technology, we generally ask the password for, is based on this lady's work?

7 This lady was a revolutionary of the Indian independence movement, an officer of the Indian National Army and a prisoner of war in

Burma when she was Captain. She founded the All India Democratic Women's Association and was involved in many relief and rescue campaigns. In 2002, she was the only opponent to A.P.J. Abdul Kalam to become President of India. Even in her last years she was active with humanitarian work. Who was this dynamic lady?

8 Queen Liliuokalani (1838-1917) was the first Queen and the last sovereign of the Kamehameha dynasty which ruled an archipelago in the Pacific Ocean. She re-drafted the kingdom's constitution and resolutely withstood the western world's plans to take over her kingdom. She is also the author of the most famous song from her culture, *Aloha 'Oe*. She was eventually overthrown by soldiers from a country that took over these islands as one of its states. Which archipelago did she rule over? (See pic.)

9 This lady is the second-longest serving head of the world's largest democracy, (the longest being her father). The Green Revolution in India culminated under her government and India achieved food security. She was voted BBC's 'Woman of the Millennium' in 1999. Who is this lady whose 100th birthday is today?

10 Women's suffrage is the right of women to vote in elections. In 1902, the commonwealth of Australia enacted full women's suffrage. But a country to their East had already granted women the right to vote in 1893. Which was the first self-governing country in the world to give all women the right to vote?

A molecular biologist from Madurai, our quizmaster enjoys trivia and music, and is working on a rock ballad called 'Coffee is a Drink, Kaapi is an Emotion'.
@bertyashley

- ANSWERS
1. Kanti Laksminibai of Jhansi
 2. Joan of Arc
 3. Rosa Parks
 4. Razia Sultana
 5. Malala Yousafzai
 6. Whitney
 7. Captain Laksminibai Sahgal
 8. Hawaii
 9. Indira Gandhi
 10. New Zealand

GOVERN BRIDGE

Careful with entries



Neither vulnerable, South deals

BY BOB JONES

Today's deal was played in a tournament pair game some years ago. Overtricks are very important at this form of scoring and careful declarer play is often rewarded. South was Richie Schwartz, an expert who splits his time between South Florida and New York City.

The defense started with two high clubs before West shifted to the king of spades. We don't know for certain, but we expect that this unusual shift was the result of a "suit-preference signal" by East on the second club – the deuce on the first club to show count and the nine on the second club to suggest spades. Ten tricks were easy, assuming a normal split in trumps. The challenge was to find the overtrick. Schwartz won the spade shift with his ace and played the ace of hearts. You might not think that the problem on this deal would be to find an extra entry to the excellent South hand. Schwartz was fully aware of this and played dummy's four of hearts on the ace.

Declarer continued by cashing the ace and king of diamonds, and then ruffing a diamond with dummy's jack of trumps. He led the five of trumps to his king and ruffed another diamond, this time with dummy's eight of trumps. This established his long diamond as a winner, and he led the carefully preserved two of diamonds to his three. The long diamond provided a discard for dummy's losing spade and Schwartz had his precious overtrick. Well played!

NORTH
♠ 63
♥ J876542
♦ 86
♣ Q8

WEST
♠ K7
♥ Q
♦ J1072
♣ AK10754

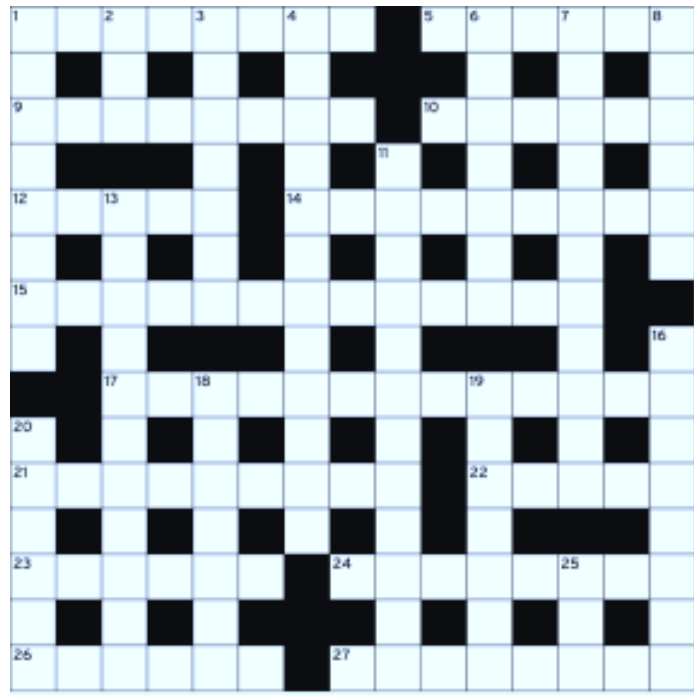
EAST
♠ Q109542
♥ 109
♦ Q5
♣ 932

SOUTH
♠ AJ8
♥ AK3
♦ AK943
♣ J6

The bidding:
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
2NT Pass 4♦* Pass
4♦* All pass
*Transfer to hearts

Opening lead: Ace of ♣

THE SUNDAY CROSSWORD NO. 2970



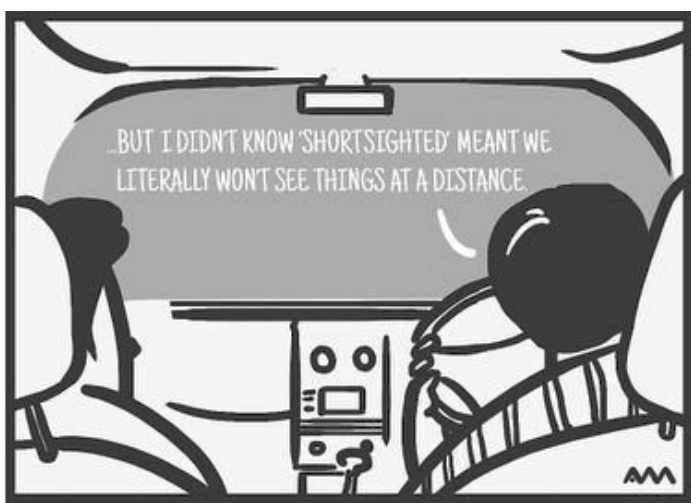
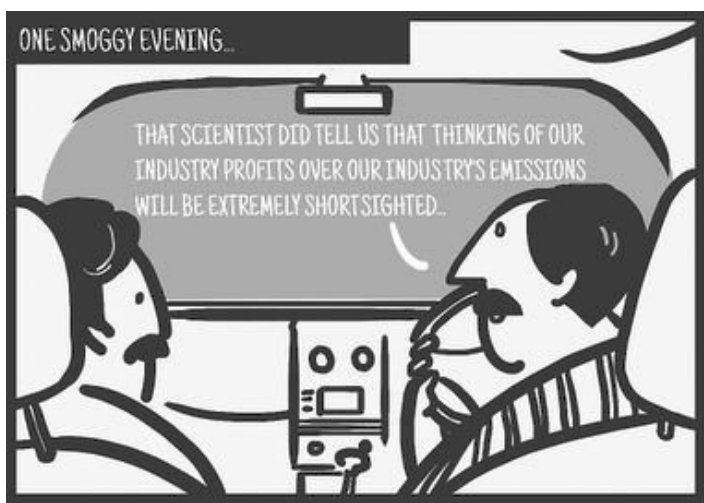
- Across**
- 1 See vine tangled with herb (8)
 - 5 Abandon thread (6)
 - 9 Covered past life initially with relief (8)
 - 10 Is painful technique used in texting? (6)
 - 12 Environmentalist's signal to proceed (5)
 - 14 Custom immune to criticism from airman blushing aboard boat (6,3)
 - 15 Propose measure before social gathering for indoor game (5,8)
 - 17 Certainly sense hot excitement of bout, duo receiving cheers (7,1,5)
 - 21 Resistance in territory by soldier, cold and calculated (9)
 - 22 Greek character absorbed by argument he tackled (5)
 - 23 License book in revolutionary electronic way (6)
 - 24 Unlucky one, round in valley, in retreat (3-5)
 - 26 Thirsty to grab attention? Not interesting (6)
 - 27 Linguistic unit in translation of sly label (8)
- Down**
- 1 Stretch, with energy left, operating barrier (8)
 - 2 Struggle with unfinished scene (3)
 - 3 Quiet because occupied by French article (7)
 - 4 Artist captures nobody's heart? Harsh (12)
 - 6 Paint moderate area (7)
 - 7 Curtail urge to reform land management (11)
 - 8 Deny any connection with inspector, planted (6)
 - 11 English clubs still followed by supporter very happily (12)
 - 13 Inclination, changing gear, to cut extra hard work (5,6)
 - 16 Trio, not half oppressed by burden, cross (8)
 - 18 Gossip time after time going into story? Right (7)
 - 19 Responsible university scientist finally separating new fluid (7)
 - 20 Move up when around goal (6)
 - 25 Clumsy boat yet to capsizes (3)

Solution No. 2969



ECOTISM

BY ASHVINI MENON



LETTER FROM A CONCERNED READER

Masterchef Gummidipoondi

Respected Sir/Madam,

Once upon a time, before all the TV channels were full of Masterchef Gummidipoondi and all, you could go to people's houses for dinner party without tension. We would arrive at friend's house on the dot. Then for 40 minutes we will talk about this and that topics. How are children doing in school? How are things in the office? Are you using Leave Travel Allowance this year? You should go to Lakshadweep, it is just like Kerala but without Malayalis. Like that, like that things.

In between we will have Rasna in free complimentary glasses from some Federal Bank or Tamil Nadu Mercantile Bank or BHEL. Then sharp 7:30 p.m. we will have dinner of rice, one gravy curry and one dry curry and some pickles. Then if we are lucky, pudding. And then back on the scooter. By 9:00 p.m. we will be fully asleep.

Nowadays if you go to dinner party? Unbearable torture.

Two days back, while I was watching excellent DVD of World War film *The Longest Day*, suddenly the phone started to ring. Mrs. Mathrubootham picked up. Then she came running into the living room. I said, "What is this excitement? Has second-class actor Madhavan put one more without-shirt photo on the internet? Have some shame, woman, he is young enough to be your son."

"Shut up, Mr. Mathrubootham, it is an emergency," she said. "Dr. Shankaramenon's daughter has come from Bombay on leave, and she is inviting us for dinner this evening."

Oh my god. Make up some lie and avoid it no, Kamalam? Haha. What a comedy.

Sir/ Madam, this is impossible. My wife is incapable of saying lies. Many years ago, due to installation of new water tank on top, I decided to put one sick leave in the office. I told her you call and tell my office. So manager asked, "What is Mathrubootham suffering?" She said, fever.

What fever?
Sir/ Madam, what normal people will say? Viral fever or influenza or something.

Instead Mrs. Mathrubootham got world record tension and said, "He has fever in his lungs and liver and heart and appendix, whole body fever, it is very serious, doctor is saying anything can happen, we are in ICU, family has been informed. But he will come to office tomorrow because water tank work will finish this evening itself." Compared to my wife Raja Harishchandra is Dawood Ibrahim.

Sir/ Madam, I said, Kamalam don't take risk, say ok we will come. Dr. Shankaramenon told us to arrive for dinner at sharp 9 p.m. First, his daughter Anamika brought one big plate with three kilos of raw vegetables cut into small pieces with some sauce. I asked Mrs. Mathrubootham whether this is modern style party where guest is supposed to bring stove, LPG cylinder and sambar powder? She silently told me to be pin-drop silent by inserting her mobile phone into my rib cage.

Waiting for adai avial

After this, we had starters. Anamika said *adai avial* is coming. I thanked all gods of every religion. She brought one small plate covered with toothpicks. Each toothpick had one small *adai*, with one two rupee coin, with one teaspoon of *avial* on it. With great difficulty I ate in silence.

Are you ready for main course, Anamika asked. I said, of course, I am very excited. While walking to the dining room, I secretly touched a Vinayaka poster on the wall for mental strength. Inside we were served Japan style rice and vegetable curry followed by United Kingdom style pudding.

Sir/ Madam, what is all this complicated food items? All bad influence from TV. What is the problem with traditional items such as *vathakuzhambu* or *papaya pachhad*? Of course, I did not want Anamika or Dr. Shankaramenon to feel bad, but we are not animals. So out of politeness I took Japan rice three or four times.

We have also brought home enough food for the next one week. If you put 10 or 15 toothpicks together it looks like one normal *adai* with *avial*.

Yours in exasperation,
J. Mathrubootham



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