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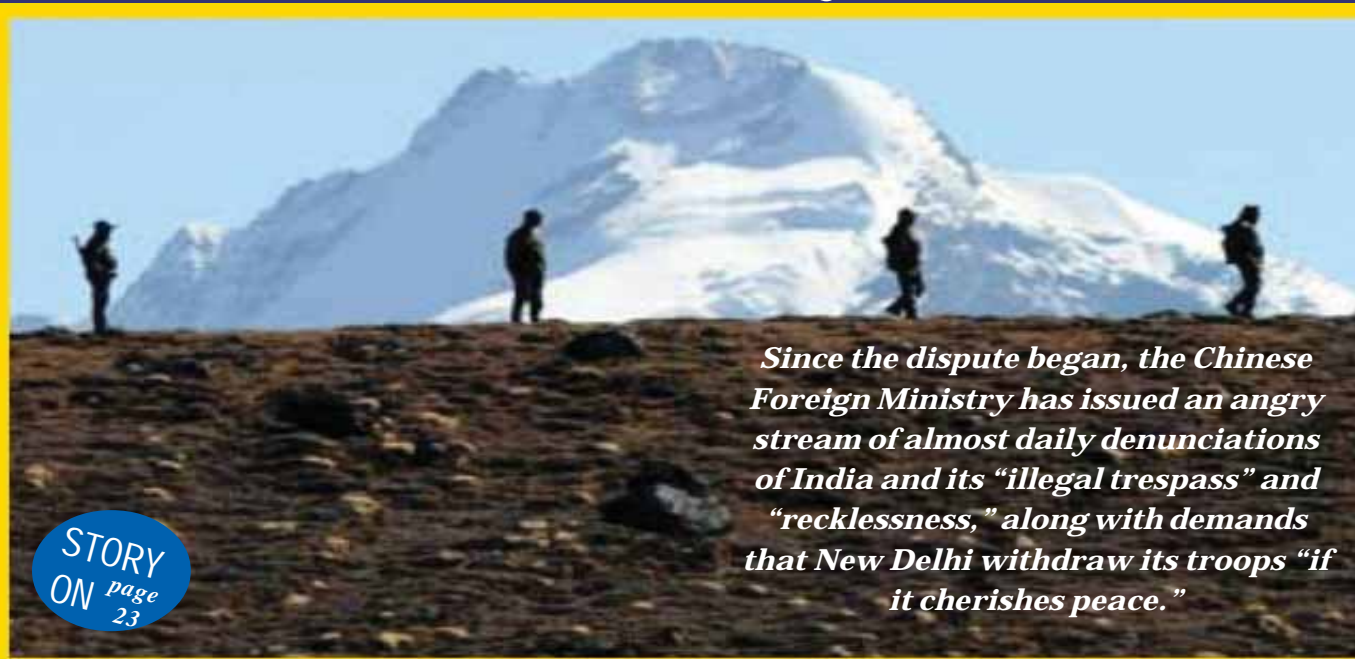
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Less pressure in doing multi-starrers: Parineeti



STORY ON page 31

China And India Dangerously Close To Military Conflict



Since the dispute began, the Chinese Foreign Ministry has issued an angry stream of almost daily denunciations of India and its "illegal trespass" and "recklessness," along with demands that New Delhi withdraw its troops "if it cherishes peace."

STORY ON page 23

Crude oil shipment from Texas opens New Vistas in India-U.S. ties

Consignments of American crude oil left the U.S. shores and are likely to reach india soon



(News Agencies) The first shipment of American crude oil is likely to reach India in September last week, opening new vistas in the India-United States ties. With this, India, the world's third largest oil importer, joins Asian countries like South Korea, Japan and China to buy American crude after production cuts by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) drove up prices of Middle East heavy-sour crude, or grades with a high sulphur content. "New breakthroughs! oil shipments frm U.S. to India has started," the Indian Embassy in Washington tweeted on Thursday after Indian Ambassador to the U.S., Navtej Sarna, handed over papers of the shipment to Texas Governor Greg Abbott. The first lot of two million barrels costs \$100 million, but given the volume being contemplated by Indian companies, (Contd on page 22)

Seventy years on, India and Pakistan need a course correction

Despite many gains, both India and Pakistan appear willing to relinquish the one thing that the people fought for together: Freedom. It is time to commit to becoming states that truly rejoice in diversity, and ensure the rights of the most vulnerable are : protected

Meenakshi Ganguly : In August 1997, as a journalist for Time magazine, I worked on a special issue celebrating 50 years of India and Pakistan as independent nations. We did report the horrors of Partition — the millions who lost lives and homes in bloody riots, the killing of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi soon after by men who thought he spoke too often about the rights of Muslims and not Hindus — but only as a memory of unfathomable hate. "It was madness," old men, once-murderers, shuddered as they confronted mortality and thought about mercy. In the five decades since Independence, the two nations had in many ways flourished, shaking off famine, disease, illiteracy. (Contd on page 22)



Ringling of the opening bell al NASDAQ



(By a Staff Reporter) pendency Day of In- Chakravorty, rang prominent members present at the cer- riningg ceremony As a part of the cel- dia and India@70 the opening bell at of the business and emony. This year was held at Nasdaq to ebrations for the 70th series, Consul Gen- Nasdaq on Tuesday, Indian community marks the Bth year commemorate India's anniversary of Inde- eral Sandeep August 76,20t7. and media were in the row that bell Independence day.

India's 70th anniversary of Independence Day



(By a Staff Reporter) On the occasion of the 70th anniversary of India's Independence Day, Consul General, Sandeep Chakravorty unfurled the

National Flag at the Consulate premises in the morning of 15 August. It was followed by the playing of the national anthem. Consul General read out President's Address to the Nation delivered on the eve

of the Independence Day. A short cultural program was held by Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan, which included singing of patriotic songs and poetry recitation. More than 200 people including

prominent members of the Indian community and local dignitaries, attended the ceremony. At the initiative of local Indian community organizations, iconic monuments in New York and surrounding

areas were lit up on the occasion with the colors of the Indian flag. These included the Empire State Building, Niagara Falls among others. A few photos are attached. The Consulate, in

association with various Indian business, professional and community organizations is organizing a series of events this year to celebrate India@70.

If I Could have Wings...

- SONIA GABA



That pleasant evening of October... a cool and fragrant breeze was blowing... can't forget that marvelous scene in the backyard of my uncle's house... Really it left an indelible mark on my head and heart. Some beautiful and colorful, cheerful and industrious; tiny engineers of nature were busy in a herculean task, making some sac-like structure for their living. These were weaver-birds, all engrossed weaving their nests in a unique way, using their wisdom to the fullest. The wings of my imagination drove me into the world of my dreams. This world was very

alluring but more fascinating was that tree, that proud tree which was bearing 5-6 nests of these birds. I just wanted to salute those dedicated birds who were teaching the lesson of hardwork, sincerity and single-minded devotion to the whole mankind. I was compelled to think that if I could have wings, I could have touched new horizons... and explored new possibilities. But undoubtedly, these birds really became a source of inspiration for me, Above all, I got courage to come out successfully through every thick and thin...

Trump ignores Bannon turmoil i

Eight days after the inauguration, President Donald Trump stood in the Oval Office, inside his new home. He was flanked by Vice President Mike Pence, as well as Reince Priebus, Michael Flynn, Sean Spicer, and Steve Bannon.

Less than seven months later, on the heels of Trump firing Bannon after a wave of public backlash for his Charlottesville remarks, Pence is the last man standing. And that point has been made clear in a photo taken January 28 that reveals the incredible turnover of the White House staff. The picture illustrates how the Oval Office turned into Trump's own version of The Apprentice. And if this was a reality show - instead of the highest office of the US government - then Michael Flynn would come in dead last. The national security



adviser served less than a month on the job when he resigned on February 13. It would be one of the first scandals to hit the Trump administration as it was revealed Flynn had called Russian ambassador Sergey Kislyak regarding American sanctions just weeks before Trump's inauguration. Flynn had initially said he never had such conversations with Kislyak. It was a claim that was later repeated by Pence - who then said he had been misled by Flynn.

Spicer would be next on the chopping block, quitting after five months that saw him hide in bushes and become one of Melissa McCarthy's most famous SNL parodies. The press secretary resigned in protest after Trump hired Anthony Scaramucci to take on the role of White House Communications Director. Scaramucci was meant to replace Mike Dubke, who had resigned in three months after replacing Jason Miller, the president's first choice - and first resignation.



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Blue Whale Challenge

Google, Facebook must take down content that abets suicide

While efforts should always be to maintain the freedom of the Internet, self regulations by Internet content providers such as Google, Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram, Microsoft and Yahoo, along with legal mechanisms should regulate content like the Blue Whale Challenge that impacts society at large



court's orders.

On the same day, the Chief Justice of India remarked how the Blue Whale Challenge was proof of human gullibility while hearing the Kerala 'love jihad' case. Mumbai and Midnapore police have reported a suicide each due to the online game and the case of the suicide of the Kerala teenager is under similar suspicion.

While the MEITY has sprung into action and rightly so, the role of the online community needs to be questioned.

All the Internet majors who have been issued the letter by the ministry are intermediaries under the Information Technology Act 2008 and guided by the provisions of Section 79, which defines their liability. As per Section 79, sub section 3 (b), the MEITY letter should get these intermediaries to remove the link to the deadly game. But there would still be

many others and proxy servers that could allow the game to be available and so it will be prudent to link the availability of the game to abetment to suicides defined under Section 306 of the Indian Penal Code. Clearly the administrators of the game are abetting the suicide as it is a task under the game but since suicide is unlawful under Indian laws and in all jurisdictions, the online availability and spread should also be considered as an abetment and thus dealt with.

Besides the legal steps to make the intermediaries act, it is also imperative upon them to proactively take down such content at the first notice and provide no links. Most of them swear by their terms and conditions and definitely any content that abets suicide should be covered by those provisions and if not, they should forthrightly incorporate them. It will also be pertinent to

mention here that Philipp Budeikin, the self-proclaimed founder of the game in 2013 has already been arrested and has pleaded guilty to inciting at least 16 teenage girls to commit suicide and also forced Russia to amend the suicide prevention legislation last year. Since the first suicide reported back in 2015, now more than 100 such deaths have been reported from across the world, particularly among teenagers.

While efforts should always be to maintain the freedom and openness of the Internet, efforts at self regulation and also legal mechanisms should be there to address such forms of content that can impact society at large. Clearly the Blue Whale Challenge is less of a challenge and more of a trap to lure vulnerable sections to physical harm and suicide. It has to be stopped.

On August 11, the central government's ministry of electronics and information technology (MEITY) sent a letter to Internet content providers such as Google, Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram, Microsoft and Yahoo to immediately remove the links of the online game Blue Whale Challenge, which has led to the suicide of children in India and many other countries.

This game allegedly comprises of a series of tasks assigned to players by

administrators during a 50-day period with physical and mental tasks, and the final challenge envisaging the player to commit suicide. A public interest litigation (PIL) was also filed before the Delhi High Court on August 16 against the game seeking immediate directions to restrain Internet majors and social media from uploading content pertaining to it and also seeking direction to the Delhi Police to appoint a special team to oversee whether these companies complied with the

India at 70: Thanks to Rightwing politics, we're witnessing a second partition

The Hindu 'Two Nationists', helped along with Islamic fundamentalists, will have nothing to do with secularism now. They want in India a partition of the mind within the partitioned nation. Dogged in their aim, they seek to leverage an India traumatised by terrorism, into what it wants, a Hindu Rashtra

The 15th of August is, in a very special day, the prime minister's day.

The Red Fort's rampart waits for him, sees him unfurl the Tricolour from its sandstone majesty and then address his fellow citizens. And we must, on Independence Day, greet our prime minister with a 'Jai Hind!'

But the Tricolour's story atop the Red Fort started with one who never was prime minister but gave us something that outlasts all prime ministerships: The greeting 'Jai Hind!' He had all that is needed in a leader, in a prime minister, but did not, could not, become prime minister. He has remained an unfulfilled aspiration, an unrequited promise – Netaji.

He stays indelibly etched in the popular imagination, all these seven decades and more since he was last seen, seven decades this year, this month and date, since the Tricolour was hoisted there, on that spot, by our first prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru. But even before he did that, Nehru had

become another link between Bose and the Red Fort. The INA personnel were tried in 1945 by court-martial, the first of which trials took place at the Red Fort, four leading lawyers defending the accused – Bhulabhai Desai, Tej Bahadur Sapru, Jawaharlal Nehru and Kailashnath Katju – Desai leading the defence skilfully on the basis of international law, and Nehru clearly shining in the proceedings. And there were three accused in this trial – Prem Sahgal, Gurbaksh Singh Dhillon and Shah Nawaz Khan, one Hindu, one Sikh, one Muslim. There was a nationwide surge of support for the three as symbols of braveheart patriotism and brave-mind secularism. The national chorus fluxed into the cry: 'Lal Qile se aayee awaaz, Sahgal, Dhillon, Shahnawaz'.

Sugata Bose, in his new book *The Nation as Mother* describes this passage in our history compellingly. The INA's motto – Ittehad, Itmad, Qurbani – meaning Unity, Faith and

Sacrifice shot through the country like a bolt of lightning. It bespoke, collectively, India's future in unity. Gandhi, Bose and Nehru were tough – tough on the colonial power and tough on the communal virus. They did not 'defend' secularism. They proclaimed its criticality to India. India un-free is not India, India un-secular is not India.

The Raj could not mess with their nationalism. The bigot could not mess with their secularism. For the reason they were ready, with the innocents who did die as a result of Partition, to give their lives for it. The Two Nations Theory says it all. The Muslim 'Two Nationists', helped along with diehard Hindus taunting it, would have nothing to do with secularism. It wanted Partition. Adamant to the end, it succeeded in leveraging the departing Raj to give it what it wanted, Pakistan. The Two Nations Theory, we must now remind ourselves, had Muslim and Hindu adherents. Pakistan slaked the thirst of the first. That

of the second is now wandering over the Indian countryside looking for, thirsting for, disemboweling the Indian earth for, the aquifers of hate. The Hindu 'Two Nationists', helped along with Islamic fundamentalists, will have nothing to do with secularism now. They want in India a partition of the mind within the partitioned nation. Dogged in their aim, they seek to leverage an India traumatised by terrorism, into what it wants, a Hindu Rashtra. And as this Partition of the Indian mind, as between Hindu and non-Hindu, is being assiduously advanced, what secularists miss is the strategic toughness and philosophic anchorage of a Gandhi, Bose and Nehru in the cause.

Indian pluralism is not just about Sufi music, Iftar embraces and kebabs. It is about being tough. 'Lal Qile se aayi awaaz...'

A formidable condemnation of Two Nationist divisiveness came from our former vice

president Hamid Ansari in his convocation address at the National Law School University in Bengaluru. Speaking on the eve of demitting office he warned, in words that were made of steely resolve, that the "illiberal form of nationalism" which we are witnessing "promotes intolerance and an arrogant patriotism".

His own ancestor, MA Ansari would have been proud.

What followed? Studied efforts at sarcasm and even rudeness aimed at Ansari when gratitude should have been offered, respect shown to his person, his office. So much for propriety, basic human decency. Hamid Ansari should have become President of India. Even as Dara Shukoh should have been emperor of Hindustan.

But then...

Whom does history honour? That never-say-die prince of secularism or the bigotry that ruled from the Red Fort awhile?

The Other Inconvenient Truth *The architecture of censorship*

Donald Trump chose Trump Tower, the place where he began his presidential campaign, as the place to plunge a dagger into his presidency. Trump's jaw-dropping defense of white supremacists, white nationalists and Nazis in Charlottesville, Va., exposed once more what many of us have been howling into the wind since he emerged as a viable candidate: That he is a bigot, a buffoon and a bully. He has done nothing since his election to disabuse us of this notion and everything to confirm it. Anyone expressing surprise is luxuriating in a self-crafted shell of ignorance. And yet, it seems too simplistic, too convenient, to castigate only Trump for elevating these vile racists. To do so would be historical fallacy. Yes, Trump's comments give them a boost, grant them permission, provide them validation, but it is also the Republican Party through which Trump burst that has been courting, coddling and accommodating these people for decades. Trump is an articulation of the racists in Charlottesville and they are an articulation of him, and both are a logical extension of a party that has too often refused to rebuke them.

It's not that Democrats have completely gotten this right, either. Too often, in response to the conservative impulse to punish, the liberal impulse is to pity. Pity does not alleviate oppression; it simply assuages guilt. The pity is not for the receiver but for the giver.

But in the modern age one party has operated with the ethos of racial inclusion and with an eye on celebrating varied forms of diversity, and the other has at times appealed directly to the racially intolerant by providing quiet sufferance. It is possible to trace this devil's dance back to the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the emergence of Richard Nixon. After the passage of the act, the Republican Party, the party of Lincoln to which black people felt considerable fealty, turned on those people and stabbed them in the back. In 1994 John Ehrlichman, Nixon's domestic-policy adviser and a Watergate co-conspirator, confessed this to the author Dan Baum: "The Nixon campaign in 1968, and the Nixon White House after that, had two enemies: the antiwar left and black people. You understand what I'm saying? We knew we couldn't make it illegal to be either against the war or blacks, but by getting the public to associate the hippies with marijuana and blacks with heroin, and then criminalizing both heavily, we could disrupt those communities. We could arrest their leaders, raid their homes, break up their meetings and vilify them night after night on the evening news. Did we know we were lying about the drugs? Of course we did." The era Ehrlichman referred to was the beginning of the War on Drugs. Nixon started his offensive in 1971, declaring in a speech from the White House Briefing Room: "America's public enemy No. 1 in the United States is drug abuse. In order to fight and defeat this enemy, it is necessary to wage a new, all-out offensive." The object of disrupting communities worked all too well — more than 40 million arrests have been conducted for drug-related offenses since 1971, with African-Americans being incarcerated in state prisons for these offenses at a rate that is 10 times greater than that for whites, according to Human Rights Watch. In 1970, Nixon's political strategist Kevin Phillips told The New York Times, "The more Negroes who register as Democrats in the South, the sooner the Negrophobe whites will quit the Democrats and become Republicans." The Republican Party wanted the racists. It was strategy, the "Southern Strategy," and it too has proved wildly successful. From there this cancer took hold.

The party itself has dispensed with public confessions of this inclination — at least until Trump — but the white supremacy still survives and even thrives in policy. The stated goals of the Republican Party are not completely dissimilar from many of the white nationalist positions.

If you advance policies like a return to more aggressive drug policies and voter suppression — things that you know without question will have a disproportionate and negative impact on people of color, what does that say about you?

It says that you want the policies without the poison, but they can't be made separate: The policies are the poison.

And yes, this is all an outgrowth of white supremacy, a concept that many try to apply only to vocal, violent racists but that is in fact more broadly applicable and pervasive.

People think that they avoid the appellation because they do not openly hate. But hate is not a requirement of white supremacy. Just because one abhors violence and cruelty doesn't mean that one truly believes that all people are equal — culturally, intellectually, creatively, morally. Entertaining the notion of imbalance — that white people are inherently better than others in any way — is also white supremacy. The position of opposing racial cruelty can operate in much the same way as opposition to animal cruelty — people do it not because they deem the objects of that cruelty their equals, but rather because they cannot countenance the idea of inflicting pain and suffering on helpless and innocent creatures. But even here, the comparison cleaves, because suffering black people are judged to have courted their own suffering through a cascade of poor choices.

Independence Day is an occasion to celebrate freedom from a colonial regime that not only cast chains of economic and political bondage upon Indians, but also fettered their freedom to think, dissent, and express themselves without fear. Demands for a right to free speech, and for an end to political, cultural and artistic censorship, were at the heart of our freedom struggle, and which culminated in the celebrated Article 19(1)(a) of the Indian Constitution. Last week, however, two events revealed that 70 years after Independence, the freedom of speech still occupies a fragile and tenuous place in the Republic, especially when it is pitted against the authority of the State. The first was the Jharkhand government's decision to ban the Sahitya Akademi awardee Hansda Sowvendra Shekhar's 2015 book, *The Adivasi Will Not Dance*, for portraying the Santhal community "in bad light". And the second was an order of a civil judge at Delhi's Karkardooma Court, restraining the sale of Priyanka Pathak-Narain's new book on Baba Ramdev, titled *Godman to Tycoon*.

Neither the ban on *The Adivasi Will Not Dance*, nor the injunction on *Godman to Tycoon*, are the last words on the issue. They are, rather, familiar opening moves in what is typically a prolonged and often tortuous battle over free speech, with an uncertain outcome. Nevertheless, they reveal something important: censorship exists in India to the extent it does because it is both easy and efficient to accomplish. This is for two allied reasons. First, the Indian legal system is structured in a manner that achieving censorship through law is an almost costless enterprise for anyone inclined to try; and second, the only thing that could effectively counteract this — a strong, judicial commitment to free speech, at all levels of the judiciary — does not exist. Together, these two elements create an environment in which the freedom of speech is in almost constant peril, with writers, artists, and publishers perpetually occupied with firefighting fresh threats and defending slippery ground, rather than spending their time and energy to transgress, challenge and dissent from the dominant social and cultural norms of the day. The Jharkhand government's ban on *The Adivasi Will Not Dance* followed public protests against the writer, with MLAs calling for a ban on the book on the ground that it insulted Santhal women. The legal authority of the government to ban books flows from Section 95 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (which, in turn, was based upon a similarly worded colonial provision). Section 95 authorises State governments to forfeit copies of any newspaper, book, or document that "appears" to violate certain provisions of the Indian Penal Code, such as Section 124A (sedition), Sections 153A or B (communal or class disharmony), Section 292 (obscenity), or Section 295A (insulting religious beliefs). Under Section 96 of the CrPC, any person aggrieved by the government's order has the right to challenge it before the high court of that State.

The key element of Section 95 is that it allows governments to ban publications without having to prove, before a court of law, that any law has been broken. All that Section 95 requires is that it "appear" to the government that some law has been violated. Once the publication has been banned, it is then up to the writer or publisher to rush to court and try and get the ban lifted.



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Why I decided to write out my fears

Sometimes, if you surprise your fears by naming them, they themselves feel too sheepish to stick around

I find it amusing to come face to face with my fears because I take myself pretty seriously as a grown-up and grown-ups are not supposed to have childish fears. Right? Yet, fears are so tenacious. You think you are done with them, you have gained confidence and experience, and then suddenly you are about to do something you have done many times before and you realize that you are afraid of all kinds of vague possibilities all over again.

I remember making a list of my anxieties when I first started writing this column in June 2011. I was whining because writing about being a parent to young children would mean that I would have to be more self-aware. I would have to be more present. To be able to write anything worth reading, I

would have to be honest. To be honest, I would have to be good, because even though it feels wasteful to be a responsible adult when no one significant is watching, it is much more awkward to be nasty and then have to be honest about it.

Being good is hard work but over time we find out that it sure beats being indolent and decadent. I really wanted to make this column work. I needed to hear from readers and peers to guide me, and that happened effortlessly. It still feels foolish and inappropriate to share about one's inner life in this external way, but my sharing has catalysed others. There is always some mocking and rejection, but the engagement from readers continues to make me believe that even if I cannot always articulate the

motivation behind personal writing, I must not doubt its relevance.

Not everything can be spoken in words. Therefore we write.

What I didn't expect was that I really would become better understood. The initial feedback was always from readers I did not know personally and for years I remained worried about embarrassing and offending those closest to me—my family, friends and other inconvenient relatives.

There is, however, a great power in perseverance. In sticking it out even when one wonders whether one is moving forward at all or not. After about half a decade of writing this column, I find that all these words have changed me and the world I live in. My mother gets me, my brother trusts me, my husband protects me and

my children and father are mildly proud of me. I accept myself better. I smile at myself in the bathroom mirror as if it is natural to smile at oneself.

Dear reader, after six years of writing this column, there will be a book, *My Daughters' Mum*, a compilation of essays knitted together from new writing and articles that were first published here, in book stores next month. Published by Simon & Schuster, it is already available for pre-order online.

And with the book have come a bonus set of new fears. Are they original? No. Are they universal? Probably. Are they real or are they foolish? Both.

Sometimes, if you surprise your fears by naming them, they themselves feel too sheepish to stick around. I wrote them out in a list in order of their



appearance:

Fear of asking for what I want: I am sure this one goes way back to early childhood, where one timidly decided that the best way to not have to deal with rejection and the feeling of being undeserving is to not ask for anything in the first place.

Silly little fear, please step aside. Grown-ups ask for what they want, because no one knows better than them what they need.

Fear of getting what I want: Meet the evil twin. What if I do manage to create a good book with a nice cover that sparkles on the shelves of book stores? What next? Will I have to write another one? Behave like an author? Perform a role? What if I am revealed to be the imposter that I feel like? Is this what wild, incredulous panic looks like?

Take a deep breath. Distract yourself. Send fear to the back of the queue. **(Contd on page 24)**

What Mohan Bhagwat's I-Day Outing In Kerala Proves

Brinda Karat

On the 70th anniversary of independence, two incidents took place at opposite ends of the country, one in Kerala and the other in Tripura, which symbolize much of what is wrong with the functioning and approach of the present central regime and the politics it represents.

Let's take the incident in Kerala first. Mohan Bhagwat, the RSS chief decided, that he was going to hoist the national flag in Kerala in a government-aided school in Palakkad district. There are certain protocols and rules that the central and state governments follow for the hoisting of the flag on ceremonial occasions. In Kerala, too, the concerned department issued necessary instructions on August 5, 2017, that Independence Day should be celebrated

appropriately in all educational institutions. It stated that the national flag should be hoisted by the

head of the institution. This is a perfectly rational order and the state government is well within its rights to issue such an order. Mr. Bhagwat is not the principal of the school. The institution Mr. Bhagwat heads is far away in Nagpur. But Mr. Bhagwat chose to violate this order.

The UP government headed by Mr. Bhagwat's chosen Chief Minister, Yogi Adityanath, had also issued a circular. It concerned the raising of the national flag followed by the singing of the national anthem in all madrassas in the State. They were warned of strict action if instructions were not followed. Principals were asked to film the function as evidence that the government's instructions were being followed. As most of the press reported, this, in any case, what was being done for years in all UP schools including madrassas on Independence Day but it is quite normal for those

inspired by Hindutva ideologies of the RSS to present a picture of minority-run institutions having to be coerced into respecting national emblems.

In UP, it was a highly-motivated circular; in Kerala, it was a normal one; but the governments of both states have every right to ensure its implementation. In Kerala, the order applies to everyone, not just Mr. Bhagwat. There was nothing to stop him from hoisting the flag at any other public place. So there is no question of Mr. Bhagwat being restrained from hoisting the flag as some media channels and papers have reported. No, Mr. Bhagwat is not the victim.

The question arises of why the RSS chief should come all the way to Kerala just to break a rule set by the state government. It is no secret that the RSS had strongly opposed the decision of the constituent

assembly to choose the tricolor as the national flag. It took 52 years after independence for the national flag to be unfurled by the RSS, and that too, only after the Vajpayee government took office. On the eve of independence, the official mouthpiece of the RSS, the *Organiser*, carried an article that stated "the people who have come to power by the kick of fate may give in our hands the tricolor but it will never be respected and owned by Hindus. The word three in itself is evil and a flag having three colors will certainly produce a psychological effect and is injurious to a country."

The RSS has never disowned this understanding or its preference for the saffron flag as the national flag. So it was not love for the national flag which made Mohan Bhagwat go to that school in Kerala. What was he trying to prove?

That he is so powerful with his pracharak as Prime Minister that he can scoff at the orders of a state government which does not owe allegiance to his organization. In the context of the manufactured lies regarding the so-called victimization of RSS men by communists in Kerala, the RSS chief was being deliberately provocative against the LDF Government. It is a deliberate insult to the state government.

But that is not the only rule he broke. The second rule he violated concerns the national anthem. This time it was a rule of the central government. In 2002, the Vajpayee government adopted the Flag Code of India which specifies a detailed list of Do's and Dont's regarding the flag code and the conduct expected during ceremonial occasions. It was considered totally unnecessary by many at

the time, but it became the rule of law. It has three parts. The second part details how educational institutions have to conduct ceremonies involving the unfurling of the flag. In section 2 clause 2.3 vi, it says "Flag salutation will be followed by the national anthem. Parade will be kept at attention during this part of the function." But what happened in the Bhagwat-led function? It was not the national anthem, but *Vande Mataram* that was sung. It was only after the assembly had started dispersing that suddenly someone reminded the school's administration that the national anthem had not been sung! Everyone was called back and it was then sung. So much for the respect the RSS has for the national song.

Contempt for state government rules, utter hypocrisy and double standards - that's what Bhagwat's little outing on Independence Day showed. **(Contd on page 24)**

Why Nitish looks like a mirror image of Mehbooba in NDA

From being a Bodhi tree who was willing to reject power that came with a taint, the Bihar Chief Minister has become a bonsai in the BJP pot

The stage for apportioning blame is over. It's time now to assess what future holds in store for the dramatis personae in Bihar? On the face of it, the BJP is the undisputed winner — the way it was in Jammu and Kashmir.

Regardless of his de jure status as chief minister, Nitish Kumar is the de facto junior partner of the increasingly pan-Indian BJP. He's a kind of mirror image of Mehbooba Mufti whose PDP's tie-up with the saffron outfit was as much in disregard of the popular mandate as is her Bihar counterpart's volte face. They're both sleeping with the party they painted as villainous. But there's a difference. Unlike Mufti whose image is down from zenith to nadir in her citadel of south Kashmir, Nitish hasn't entirely lost his core base. The least empowered scheduled castes

(mahadalits) and the extremely backward among the OBCs (aati pichadas) are broadly with him. So are his clansmen, the historically BJP-inclined Kurmis. The danger for him isn't as much from friend-turned-detractor Lalu Yadav. The RJD leader's Muslim-Yadav constituency is at once his asset and liability. The extremely weaker sections Nitish roped in through assiduous social engineering, besides women voters, are more likely to be poached away by the mighty BJP. It was that very social mobilisation — besides the forward castes — that carried the day for Narendra Modi in Uttar Pradesh. Veteran observers of Bihar politics foresee in this backdrop a dim future for the BJP's newest ally. With the passage of time, Nitish's relevance in the NDA

would only be marginally more significant than Anupriya Patel's. The junior central minister's Kurmi-centric Apna Dal had mopped up assembly seats in certain districts of eastern UP adjoining Bihar. There's speculation already that the BJP might take Bihar (where elections are due in 2020) to polls with the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. If that happens, Nitish's fait accompli will be a truncated tenure with no guarantee of continuing as CM. One reason for which he dumped Lalu — besides corruption and his overbearing swagger — was the RJD chief's anxiety to see his son Tejasvi elevated as CM. In that limited sense, the JD (U)'s alliance with the saffron parivar is no safe bet. They too want someone from the Hindutva stock in the top slot. But that's politics

without constants; a game where rivals and companions aren't permanent. Nor are vote banks! Even the most inveterate of Nitish's admirers found hard to reconcile to the indecent haste with which he resigned and reassumed office. At one moment he stood like a Bodhi tree willing to reject power that came with taint; at another he seemed a bonsai in the BJP pot he had outgrown so promisingly. The dramatic swerve brought him down in the esteem of peers and public alike. Erased in one stroke was the renown of being an alternative to Modi. For the BJP, a bird in hand was worth the proverbial two in the bush. What more could it have asked than the PM's conceivable challenger recanting on the very principles he cited in 2013 to declare him a political untouchable? But could the



grand alliance that derailed the Modi juggernaut have been salvaged? The blame for it goes to both sides: Lalu erring before the breakup and Nitish after resigning. The rebellious Sharad Yadav had advised the CM to desist joining the BJP the way he had counselled him against deserting the NDA before the 2014 elections. But he ignored such advice, knowing fully well that the BJP of today wasn't the party of the AB Vajpayee era. Unlike the NDA-I that

was dependent on regional crutches, an ally of Nitish's size cannot be a restraining influence on the BJP-led formation's second edition. It has overwhelming numbers today in parliament and governments in 18 state capitals. So the core agenda of Ram mandir, Common Civil Code and abrogation of Article 370 that was deferred in its earlier incarnation is very much on the front burner. The tail will wag the dog no more.

Beyond buzzwords, where is PM Modi's 'new India'

For now 'new' India is an undefined but alluring futuristic dream, being strategically spun by a leader who knows that the promise of 'acche din' that won him the 2014 general elections could never match the vaulting expectations it threw up



Rajdeep Sardesai

One of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's great skills as a political communicator has been his ability to constantly summon up catchy buzzwords. If 2014 was the year of 'acche din', Make in India and Swachh Bharat, 2015 was about Start up and Stand up India, 2016 was Digital India and 2017 is now about 'New India'. But shorn of the artful messaging, what does 'New India' really mean? Is it a 'new India' when

over 70 ill-fated children tragically die in a Gorakhpur government hospital, an annual monsoon ritual in one of the more backward regions of the country? Is the prime minister assuring us that Japanese Encephalitis will be conquered, that public investment in health will be doubled, or that primary health centres will be strengthened? The truth is, the public health system in the country is in ICU. Is it a 'new India' when Assam is flooded every

year, when thousands are displaced in another annual catastrophe? Are we being assured that there will be a genuine effort to plug the encroachments of river banks, the lack of drainage, rampant deforestation, all of which contribute to the sorrows heaped upon hapless people by a swelling Brahmaputra? Is it a 'new India' when government schools struggle to provide quality education to lakhs of students across the

country? In a statement in parliament in December 2016, the HRD minister acknowledged that 18% teacher posts in government-run primary schools and 15% in secondary schools remain vacant. Is the government assuring an end to this acute teacher crisis in the immediate future? Is it a 'new' India where agricultural land-holdings are shrinking, where small and marginal farmers remain indebted to village money-lenders, where deepening agrarian

distress means that even in a year of a bountiful harvest, farmers denied a remunerative price commit suicide? Is it a 'new' India where the government is in denial on the reality of a manufacturing slowdown and jobless growth, especially in a post-demonetisation universe? A recent study of the Centre for Monitoring the Indian Economy (CMIE) reveals that 1.5 million jobs were lost post-demonetisation in the first four months of 2017. One of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's great skills as a political communicator has been his ability to constantly summon up catchy buzzwords. If 2014 was the year of 'acche din', Make in India and Swachh Bharat, 2015 was about Start up and Stand up India, 2016 was Digital India and 2017 is now about 'New India'. But shorn of the artful messaging, what does 'New India' really mean?"

Is it a 'new India' when over 70 ill-fated children tragically die in a Gorakhpur government hospital, an annual monsoon ritual in one of the more backward regions of the country? Is the prime minister assuring us that Japanese Encephalitis will be conquered, that public investment in health will be doubled, or that primary health centres will be strengthened? The truth is, the public health system in the country is in ICU. Is it a 'new India' when Assam is flooded every year, when thousands are displaced in another annual catastrophe? Are we being assured that there will be a genuine effort to plug the encroachments of river banks, the lack of drainage, rampant deforestation, all of which contribute to the sorrows heaped upon hapless people by a swelling Brahmaputra?

(Contd on page 24)

'It feels like I am dying a slow death'

Man, 21, has a 59" belly that leaves him in constant pain, unable to walk, sit or sleep and will eventually KILL him



(News Agencies) An aspiring footballer is in constant pain due to a life-threatening condition that has caused his abdomen to bloat to 59 inches.

Bikash Hazarika, 21, from a remote village in Assam, northeast India, who weighs just

134lbs (61kg), cannot walk, sit or sleep because his belly has swelled to an enormous 22lbs (10kg).

For the past five years, Mr Hazarika has only been able to sleep in a seated position for one-and-a-half hours at a time, due to a condition known as congestive hepatomegaly.

Mr Hazarika said: 'It feels like I am dying a slow death. My life was perfect before.

'I am losing all hopes of being able to live enough to get a treatment. It is already very late.'

Two years ago, Mr Hazarika visited a specialist who diagnosed him with congestive hepatomegaly; where blood backs up into the liver due to heart failure.

Doctors told him surgery could save his life but it costs

£7,300.

Unable to pay for the operation, Mr Hazarika returned home with his father Dilip, a contractual labourer.

His father said: 'I barely make £50 a month. It is impossible for me to make ends meet and feed five stomachs.

'We have already sold off our home to arrange moeny for his monthly medicine expenses that comes [in at] around £6. We cannot do anything else. We have no source to arrange money for his surgery.'

Mr Hazarika and his family are relying on the Indian Government to fund his surgery.

He said: 'It feels like I am dying a slow death. My life was perfect before.

'I am losing all hopes of being able to live enough to get a

treatment. It is already very late.

'I wish that government notices my condition and comes forward and offer me a free treatment. I will not just be able to live a normal life but also start playing again and make my country proud.'

Mr Hazarika said: 'It has been several years now. I cannot sleep or walk. I spend my day sitting on a bamboo chair thinking about the day when I will get a cure.'

A talented footballer, Mr Hazarika was playing the sport five years ago, when he complained of severe stomach ache and collapsed to the ground in agony.

His symptoms were dismissed as a minor infection by a local doctor, who recommended he rest for a few

What is congestive hepatomegaly

Congestive hepatomegaly is a back up of blood into the liver due to severe heart failure. This increases pressure in the veins, which can cause the liver to become engorged with blood. Many patients have no symptoms. Others suffer just mild abdominal discomfort. In severe cases, sufferers may develop jaundice, fluid accumulation in the abdomen, an enlarged spleen and liver damage or scarring. Treatment focuses on resolving heart failure to restore liver function.

weeks.

Mr Hazarika said: 'It was excruciatingly painful. I could not breathe. I tried everything but the pain did not fade.

'My mother then took me to a local doctor who prescribed some medicines that did help for sometime but the pain was back again.'

'We are just treating the flames and not putting out the fire'

Indian doctors want focus on encephalitis at UP hospital where 80 children died



(News Agencies) It took the death of 80 children at a decrepit government hospital Uttar Pradesh to raise a public outcry over the state of healthcare in India.

In wake of the tragedy questions are now being asked about the amount of money public hospitals receive from the government, and whether or not an unpaid bill for life-saving oxygen is to blame for the deaths.

Answers are yet to be given, but doctors who have spent decades treating sick kids in the area say the incident is a symptom of chronic mismanagement, corruption and outright negligence are worsening encephalitis outbreaks that sicken thousands of children every year. The official version of events claims that thirty-three children died Aug. 10 and 11 at the BRD Medical College in Gorakhpur,

around the same time there was a disruption in the oxygen supply.

A team of experts sent from New Delhi concluded that the interruption was not responsible for the deaths, but that has failed to quell national fury in India over how the hospital allowed oxygen to run out.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi even expressed sympathy to the children's families this week during his Independence Day speech.

Doctors say they hope the national spotlight will force officials to focus on another hugely neglected problem: encephalitis, which has killed more than 4,000 children and sickened nearly 25,000 since 2010 in Uttar Pradesh, where the hospital is located.

A number of the children who died were suffering from the brain-swelling condition.

Small sweaty bodies, some convulsing, others lying unconscious with their eyes rolled back in their heads, were packed two-to-a-bed in the large, open-air ward. The death of a child was announced over and over again by the wailing howl of mothers collapsing on the filthy floor.

Acute encephalitis syndrome is a catch-all term to describe patients suffering fever, vomiting, headaches and brain function issues such as confusion, trouble speaking and coma along with seizures.

The condition can leave surviving children paralyzed and mentally impaired.

Outbreaks can be timed every year to the monsoon rains that leave swaths of coffee-colored flood waters standing in fields and licking at roadways in impoverished parts of the country's major rice-growing region.

Yet much about the disease remains a mystery or a matter of debate.

'If there is more rain, the cases are more,' said Dr. K.P. Kushwaha, the Gorakhpur hospital's former head who retired two years ago after working more than three decades as a pediatrician there.

'If there is less rain, the cases are less.'

Though it's not proven, Kushwaha suspects germs spread through fecal matter in dirty water may be related to the outbreaks, along with overall poor sanitation and improper

toilet facilities and practices in the country's most populous state.

But he insists the root cause is empty government promises and neglect in an area where health infrastructure and funding are poor and medical understaffing is high.

'We are just treating the fire, but we are not doing anything to prevent the fire and extinguish the fire,' he said. 'In India, the corruption is so rampant that it has become a normal routine.'

A lack of testing capabilities makes it impossible for doctors to diagnose the cause of many encephalitis cases.

Often, children with other identifiable diseases get lumped into the category simply because the symptoms are similar, said Dr. V. Ravi, of the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences.

He has been studying encephalitis for 30 years and is currently researching the

problem with a grant from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In the past three years, he has tested nearly 7,000 encephalitis patients in three Indian states and found that Japanese encephalitis and dengue fever, both spread by mosquitoes, along with scrub typhus, a bacterial infection spread by mites, account for about 40 percent of identifiable encephalitis causes. The rest remain a question.

Dengue fever has no specific treatment other than supportive care, and India has not approved a newly released vaccine. Scrub typhus can be treated effectively with a cheap antibiotic if caught early.

Japanese encephalitis has been wiped out in many Asian countries, but has plagued parts of India for decades, especially near the Nepal border in the northeast corner around Gorakhpur.

1%
of India's GDP is spent on health, which is the lowest in the world

112
ranking of India among 190 countries in health index according to WHO

'We have fear in our hearts but we still love our city'

70 years after Partition, Sikhs say neither India nor Pakistan feels like home for a young generation



(News Agencies) In 1901, Radesh Singh's Sikh grandfather left his village in the Punjab province to move to Peshawar in northwestern India on a promise of work and adventure.

At that time he was 11 years old, the British ruled the Indian subcontinent and Pakistan wasn't even a glimmer in the eye of its founder.

But Singh's grandfather would never return to his village, not even in 1947, when Partition divided the country into majority Hindu India and Muslim Pakistan, leaving Peshawar part of the latter. In both, Sikhs remained a religious minority. In the 70 years since India's break from British rule they have waged a secessionist uprising in India demanding outright independence for the Punjab state where they dominate.

They have felt increasingly less at home on either side of the border, but particularly so in recent years in overwhelmingly Muslim Pakistan as they too have become victims of local Taliban violence.

Singh said poverty kept his

grandfather in Peshawar, located at the foot of the famed Khyber Pass and dominated by fiercely independent ethnic Pashtun tribesmen.

'It's not easy to start over at zero when you have very little,' he said.

The hostility in the immediate aftermath of 1947 was brief in the northwest, said Singh. It was followed by decades of peace. The decision to stay in the new country now called Pakistan seemed like a good choice at the time. The Sikhs had lived peacefully for centuries alongside their Pashtun Muslim countrymen. After all, said Singh, Sikhs had a glorious history in the northwest. For a time in the 18th century they oversaw a dynasty. Their capital was Pakistan's eastern city of Lahore. It was a Sikh ruler, Ranjit Singh, who rebuilt Peshawar's infamous Bala Hisar Fort, an imposing walled fortress that some historians say is as old as the city itself, which traces its origins back more than 2,000 years.

Today Sikhs are among

Pakistan's smallest minorities. They are easily identifiable because of their tightly wound and often colorful turbans, and because they share the surname Singh. The CIA Factbook estimates that 3.6 percent of Pakistan's 180 million people are non-Muslims, including Sikhs, Christians and Hindus.

Until 1984, Singh said, Pakistan's Hindus and Sikhs lived as one in northwest Pakistan. Their children married, they even worshipped together. But then India's Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was assassinated by her Sikh bodyguards.

They (Hindus) cut all relations with us. They said Pakistani Sikhs are like all Sikhs everywhere. No difference. They said, 'From now on, we will be separate from you,' Singh recalled.

Today Sikhs are battling with the Pakistan government for ownership of dozens of Sikh temples that they call gurdwaras; while it is slow going they have managed to reclaim some of the buildings. Many were abandoned in 1947 and taken over by Muslims who arrived from India. The Pakistan government, which took over the buildings after 1947, allowed the squatters to remain.

In a congested neighborhood in Peshawar's old city, Singh stepped through large steel gates that opened on to a

sweeping courtyard. It no longer resembled a house of worship, but Singh said it was once a vibrant gurdwara attended by hundreds of Sikhs. Now two families call it home. Two clotheslines crowded with clothes drying in the blistering midday sun stretched from one end of the courtyard to the other. A child's plastic toy sat idle nearby. Elsewhere in Peshawar, an armed guard, his rifle slung loosely by his side, stood guard at the city's largest Sikh temple, an ornate marble building that dates back 250 years. Inside a half dozen Sikh men sat on plastic chairs. It is a short, bureaucratic-looking man, a Muslim, who has the final say about who enters the gurdwara. He works for the government body that oversees properties vacated by people who fled to India in 1947.

After phone calls made, names recorded, passports handed over and more phone calls made, the doors to the gurdwara were opened, revealing a cavernous carpeted room and ornate pillars decorated with hundreds of tiny

mirrors. In a small room at the far end of the upper story, two students read the Guru Granth Sahib, Sikhism's holy book.

Singh, who heads a council representing the Sikhs in Pakistan, said that since his homeland began to turn toward radical Islam, particularly in the Pashtun heartland, young Sikhs have been looking to leave.

'They want to go to another country, not to India or Pakistan,' he said, but every country eyes them with suspicion. Even Indians, he said, see his Pakistani passport and question his intentions, suggesting he wants to agitate for Sikh secessionism, the battle that resulted in Indira Gandhi's death and a dream still held by many Sikhs on both sides of the border. For Singh, Pakistan's slide into intolerance began in the late 1970s with the former Soviet Union's invasion of neighboring Afghanistan. Pakistan's military dictator Zia-ul-Haq set the country on the course of Islamic radicalisation as jihad became a rallying cry to defeat the communists in Afghanistan, he said.



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Nepalese SIM cards prove saviour for Indians living close to border

Malpa and Malti Nalaah, which has seen loss of seven human lives, are usually beset with poor communication network. The entire communication network collapsed after the landslides on Monday.

(News Agencies)DEHRADUN: Despite repeated claims by officials that mobile connectivity will be enhanced along the India-Nepal border, the people in frontier areas are largely dependent on cellphone service operators from the neighbouring country to remain in touch with the outside world. Nevertheless,

state-run telecom firm BSNL is yet to establish towers in the border areas of Pithoragarh district and claims it will be done by the year end. Not surprisingly, the recent landslides after cloudbursts exposed the poor mobile connectivity in this part of the state. Rescue operations became a Herculean task in the

absence of proper mobile connectivity. Malpa and Malti Nalaah, which has seen loss of seven human lives, are usually beset with poor communication network. The entire communication network collapsed after the landslides on Monday. In such a situation, the people in Dharchula have no

option but to use Nepalese SIM cards despite higher call rates. Nepalese telecom operators such as Namaste and Sky charge Rs12 per minute, which is nearly 30 times higher than the call rates offered by domestic players. "We have little choice. Mobile connectivity of domestic operators is only for namesake. It would have been difficult for us, if there were no SIM cards available from across the border," Dinesh Dhami, a local, says. Meanwhile, the weather gods are yet to hear the prayers of the people in Pithoragarh. On Monday, chief minister Trivendra Singh Rawat had to cancel his tour to the landslide-affected areas due to inclement weather. Rawat said his government requested the Union home ministry to help in restoring communication facilities in the border district. "We are also requesting the Nepalese mobile companies to increase the frequency of

towers so we can get help for accelerating relief works at times of emergencies," he said. Sources in the telecom ministry told HT owing to security reasons, it was a practice to not build mobile tower in 10 km area of the border. But this norm is largely relaxed barring some parts of Jammu and Kashmir. BSNL officials accept border areas face troubles due to the poor mobile connectivity. They claim double shielded twisted pairs (DSTPs), which are vital for communication, will be set up in Jholahghat area for better mobile communication. "Seven-eight base transceiver station (BTS) – that facilitates wireless communication - will be set up in Dharchula area. For this, we have received equipment. Work for site selection is on final stage," BSNL principal general manager telecom, Almora, AK Gupta told Hindustan Times over phone.

TMC sweeps seven civic bodies in Bengal, BJP a distant second, Left wiped out

The Left put up a poor show with the Forward Bloc, a front partner, winning a seat in Nalhati municipality. The Congress failed to win even a single seat in the polls.



(News Agencies) The CPI(M) on Thursday failed to win even a single ward out of the 148 that went to the polls at seven civic bodies in West Bengal on August 13, even as the Trinamool Congress emerged triumphant. The ruling party swept the polls held at Dhupguri, Haldia, Panskura, Durgapur, Cooper's Camp, Nalhati and Buniyadpur municipalities. The BJP emerged second in the race, although with just six seats, while the Left parties put up a dismal show in the electoral contest preceding the crucial 2018 panchayat polls. The Forward Bloc, the only Left Front partner to notch a seat, blamed the tie-up between the Congress and Left for the loss. "People have not accepted our alliance with the Congress. The Left parties won't survive if they continue with this alliance," said party state secretary Naren Chatterjee. This was a contention echoed even by Trinamool leaders. "The alliance has virtually reduced the CPI(M) to a street sign, and the Congress isn't even visible. It's time for both the parties to decide if they should continue to blindly oppose us or support our efforts in the best interests of Bengal," said Trinamool secretary general Partha Chatterjee. The CPI(M), however, discounted these theories. "The question of coming first, second or third doesn't make sense because the polls were neither free nor fair," argued Sujan Chakraborty, the party's Jadavpur MLA and state secretariat member. Meanwhile, BJP state president Dilip Ghosh claimed that the party's performance on Thursday was an indication that it would make an impact in the panchayat elections. "We are surging ahead, and it's visible. We are preparing for the big fight in 2018," he said.

Jayalalithaa death to be probed, CM Palaniswami takes step towards AIADMK merger

An investigation into the death of former Tamil Nadu chief J Jayalalithaa was a demand by the AIADMK faction led by O Panneerselvam ahead of an expected merger with the group under chief minister E Palanisami. Jayalalithaa's residence, Poes Garden, will be turned into a memorial.



(News Agencies) Tamil Nadu chief minister Edappadi Palanisami ordered on Thursday a judicial investigation into the death of AIADMK supremo J Jayalalithaa and said her sprawling Poes Garden bungalow will be converted into a museum and memorial. He said a retired high court judge will investigate the circumstances and prolonged hospitalization of Jayalalithaa before her death last December. Details of the probe, its scope and name of the former judge would be announced later. The announcement is viewed as a reconciliatory signal from the ruling camp to rebel leader O Panneerselvam, popularly known as OPS, who ruled the state till early February after party supremo Jayalalithaa's death. OPS wanted an inquiry into

Jayalalithaa's death and this remains his top condition for a merger between the two AIADMK factions. The steps are considered significant in the growing push to unite the two groups as the chief minister reaffirmed a promise made by his ousted predecessor. During his short stint, OPS had declared that Veda Nilayam, 81, Poes Garden in Chennai — the state's power address for close to three decades — would be converted into a public museum.

But his wish got tossed away in the state's political turbulence. The AIADMK split as long-time Jayalalithaa aide VK Sasikala took over the reins of the party in a bitter power struggle and handpicked Palanisami as chief minister. Sasikala's dreams too were dashed as the Supreme Court convicted her of

corruption in February and sent her to prison for six years. She appointed nephew TTV Dinakaran as her deputy in the party before going to jail and allegedly put relatives and loyalists in the government machinery. Known as the party's backroom operator when Jayalalithaa was alive, Sasikala and her family have been staying in the 24,000-square-foot bungalow that wears an estimated value of Rs 90 crore. Jayalalithaa and her mother, Sandhya, bought the property in 1967. But the yesteryear matinee idol and AIADMK chief, called Amma by her legions of supporters, was not known to have left behind an official will. The other key demand of the OPS camp is ouster of Sasikala and Dinakaran from the party. There have been allegations that Sasikala didn't allow party leaders to meet Jayalalithaa during her treatment in a private hospital in Chennai. The ruling AIADMK sacked Dinakaran from the party post last week, considered a first step towards mending fences with the rival group. Also, he said a Central Bureau of Investigation probe would have been better than a judicial inquiry to ferret out the truth more effectively.

Ten-year-old girl who was **REFUSED** an abortion after being repeatedly raped by her uncle in India



sent to an intensive care unit. The chairman of the team that treated the girl, Dr Dasari Harish, said: 'As far as the girl is concerned, she is stable and will be kept in a separate room.' He added that the 'high risk pregnancy' ultimately concluded in an 'uneventful' birth.

'We hope the baby also recovers,' he said. The girl was not aware that she was going to hospital to deliver a baby but was instead told by her parents that she needed an operation to remove a stone from her stomach.

Her father has asked that the child be made available for adoption. Indian law does not allow women to undergo the procedure beyond 20 weeks unless the foetus is proven to be

genetically unviable or if it poses a risk to the mother's life. The girl's parents discovered their child was pregnant after she complained to them about stomach pains. She later told her mother that her maternal uncle had raped her six times over a period of several months when he visited the family in their home. On July 18, the family sought legal permission to have the pregnancy terminated and the uncle was arrested, but their initial appeal to Chandigarh court was refused. They then went to the supreme court in Delhi but when the girl was 32-weeks pregnant - that appeal was also refused. The Chief Justice J S Khehar-headed bench denied the plea of the girl by citing a



'grave threat' to her life. 'The medical board is satisfied that it will neither be in the interest of the child or the live foetus which is approximately 32 weeks old to order abortion,' said the bench. The team of doctors that delivered the birth today consisted of three gynaecologists, an anaesthetist, a neonatologist and a paediatrician.

(News Agencies) A ten-year-old girl who was impregnated after being repeatedly raped by her uncle has given birth to a child. Pleas for an abortion were rejected by India's supreme court late last month because it was deemed to not be in the

interest 'of the child or the live foetus'.

Her baby was delivered through a C-section at a hospital in Chandigarh - in the northern state of Punjab - and weighs 4lbs 8oz.

According to NDTV, it has been

Indians second largest buyers of Central London property

South-east Asians accounted for 36% of property sales in Central London in the year to August, followed by Indians at 22% and West Asia 21%, as per London Central Portfolio's latest sales audit

(News Agencies) Bengaluru: Indians are the second largest buyers of property in central London, accounting for 22% of sales in the year to August, pushing buyers from West Asia to the third slot (at 21%), according to property investment advisory London Central Portfolio's (LCP) latest sales audit. South-East Asian buyers took the top spot, accounting for 36% of all purchases. Interestingly, Indians

also spent more per house. They accounted for one-third of the total spend, with an average purchase price of £1.77 million, slightly higher than the market average of £1.6 million. Meanwhile, the number of buyers from continental Europe has fallen significantly, and they now account for only 7% of sales, from 24% previously.

Analysts attribute this to the uncertainty following Brexit. Following 2015's changes to the

Liberalised Remittance Scheme in India that increased the amount Indians could spend on properties in the UK (or elsewhere) to \$250,000 per person, there has been a notable surge of purchases from wealthy Indian families. Their interest has been stoked by a sluggish real-estate market back home, LCP's chief executive Naomi Heaton said in a 14 August release. "As India has become a more challenging



place to invest in, with high loan interest rates and rising prices in the main urban centres, together with increasing global political and economic uncertainty, Indian buyers with a larger amount of capital to spend have increasingly turned to London as an investment destination of choice."

"As sterling has weakened against foreign currencies, representing a 20% discount for dollar denominated investors compared with two years ago, we are now seeing Indian buyers becoming an increasingly dominant force in the marketplace. They have overtaken buyers from the Middle-East, who have fallen to third place," Heaton said. In the year to 15 August, the pound has fallen 1.38% against the rupee. Indian developers beat Indian buyers to London by a few years. In 2014, Mumbai-based Lodha Developers Pvt. Ltd acquired the MacDonald House property from the Canadian

embassy in Mayfair for over £300 million. Lodha also bought another property in Lincoln Square, and started selling apartments in the project last year. In May, Lodha UK, the London-based development arm of Lodha Developers, also raised \$375 million (£290 million) of construction finance from Cain Hoy for the Lincoln Square project. It has sold 78 units worth almost \$170 million (£130 million) between May 2016 to May 2017. Another Mumbai-based developer Indiabulls Real Estate Ltd soft-launched its project Hanover Bond—a collection of 79 apartments and a five-star hotel—in March, and opened bookings for customers. The developer bought the property in London's Mayfair in 2014 for around Rs1,550 crore. In an investor presentation in July, Indiabulls said it has sold four apartments during the soft launch at £4,750 per square foot, at a total value of £15.48 million.

SC allows Delhi Airport to commercially utilize land for non-aeronautical purposes

Supreme Court upholds a ruling of the high court that allowed Delhi International Airport to put airport land to commercial use for non-aeronautical purposes

(News Agencies) New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday upheld a ruling of the Delhi high court that allowed Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL), a unit of GMR Group, to put airport land to commercial use for non-aeronautical purposes. The court was hearing the Centre's appeal against the order permitting such use of airport land by DIAL. The Centre told the court that since DIAL had bid for the airport land before the scope of the non-aeronautical use was widened, it could not get the benefits of subsequent changes in the law. National Civil Aviation Policy, 2016 (NCAP), which came into effect on 15 June last year, barred airport operators such as DIAL, which run under the public-private partnership (PPP) model, from commercially utilising their land for non-aeronautical services. The restriction was not applicable to future

or upcoming PPP airports which would be run by the AAI. On 10 April, 2016, a division bench of the Delhi high court headed by then chief justice G. Rohini ruled on a challenge brought by DIAL against the exclusion of existing PPPs. She directed AAI to take necessary steps to extend the benefit of liberalized use of airport land under provisions of the 2016 aviation policy to DIAL. The 41-page order held exclusion of PPP airports such as DIAL from availing of benefits under the policy to be 'violative of Article 14 (equality before law) of the Constitution'. DIAL had contended that it had written to the ministry in October 2016 against the exclusion of existing PPPs, but the government had rejected its representation on the grounds that post-bid benefits could not be extended to existing PPP airports that had executed agreements with AAI.



(Left to right) People help an injured woman lying on the ground after a van crashed into pedestrians near the Las Ramblas avenue in central Barcelona on Thursday; a man consoles a victim's relative on Friday; the seized van covered and being lifted by a tow truck; people pay tribute to the victims of the attacks.

ISIS claims responsibility,
Spanish police
gun down
six attackers

BUTCHERY IN BARCELONA

SPANISH Police killed six would-be attackers after confronting them early on Friday in a town south of Barcelona where hours earlier a suspected Islamist militant drove a van into crowds. The death toll in a double attack in Barcelona and Cambrils rose to 14, emergency services said Friday.

Islamic State said the perpetrators had been responding to its call for action by carrying out Thursday's rampage along Barcelona's most famous avenue which was thronged with tourists enjoying an afternoon stroll at the peak of the summer season.

Bodies, many motionless, were left strewn across the avenue and authorities said the toll of dead, which included several children, could rise with more than 100 injured. Hours later in the early hours of Friday, as security forces hunted for the van's driver, police said they killed five suspects in Cambrils — 120 km south along the coast from Barcelona — to thwart a separate attack.

"The five men attempted to drive into tourists on the Cambrils seafront," police said. "Their car overturned and some of them began stabbing people. Four were shot dead at the scene and the fifth was killed a few hundred metres away," police said.

A Spanish woman was killed in the Cambrils incident, while several other civilians and a police officer were injured. Police destroyed explosive belts the men had been wearing, though they turned out to be fake.

Shortly before midnight on Wednesday, the day before the van ploughed into the tree-lined walkway of Barcelona's Las Ramblas avenue, one person was killed in an explosion in a house in a separate town southwest of Barcelona, police said.

Cops believe a cell of at least eight people may have been involved in the Barcelona and Cambrils operations



King Felipe of Spain and Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy observe a minute of silence in Placa de Catalunya, a day after a van crashed into pedestrians at Las Ramblas in Barcelona, on Friday.

Police said they had arrested a Moroccan and a man in Spain's North African Enclave of Melilla. The van driver was seen escaping on foot and was still at large. A third man was arrested in the town of Ripoll on Friday. A judicial source said investigators believed a cell of at least eight people, possibly 12,

may have been involved in the Barcelona and Cambrils operations and it had been planning to use gas canisters. Later, on Friday, residents and tourists returned to Las Ramblas promenade where hours earlier a

white van had zigzagged at high speed through pedestrians and cyclists, leaving bodies and injured writhing in pain in its wake.

As Spain went into three days of mourning, people laid flowers and

lit candles in memory of the victims along the promenade.

Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy and Spain's King Felipe visited Barcelona's main square nearby to observe a minute's silence.

The victims came from 24 different countries, the Catalan regional government said, ranging from France and Germany to Pakistan and the Philippines.

Spanish media said several children were killed. *Daily Mail*

Brother of alleged van driver arrested

AS of Friday morning, three people have been arrested and six people have been killed in connection with the terrorist attacks in Barcelona and Cambrils. The three arrested include a Spanish and a Moroccan man.

One man handed himself in to police on Thursday evening: This is Driss Oukabir, 28, a Moroccan national living in Ripoll, 65 miles north of Barcelona. He claims he is not connected and that his identity documents had been stolen by his younger brother: Moussa Oukabir, 18, is now being hunted by police, thought to have been the driver of

(Top) Moussa Oukabir and Driss Oukabir

the van on Las Ramblas that killed 13 and injured 100. Thursday also saw one man arrested in Alcanar, 120 miles south of Barcelona, where the gas explosion in a house is being investigated. One man died in this explosion, who has since been linked to the attacks last night.



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Narendra Modi may have won a historic mandate in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections on the back of a development agenda but it is his predecessor Manmohan Singh who mentioned development more frequently in Independence Day speeches. This is one among several surprising findings from a Mint analysis of the Independence Day (I-Day) speeches delivered by India's current Prime Minister so far, and those of Singh, his predecessor. The analysis compared 10 speeches of Manmohan Singh with four of Modi's. Given India's roller-coaster ride between 2004 and 2014, there's the fact that Singh clearly had opportunity to cover more ground (and issues) than Modi has had.

Modi is believed to have a better connect with a new aspirational India which is focused on jobs and industrial growth while Singh's regime was often seen to be focused excessively on doles for the poor. Yet, poverty (and related words such as 'poor') has been more frequent in Modi's I-Day speeches than in Singh's I-Day speeches. Singh also spoke

What Narendra Modi's speeches reveal about the man and his message

Narendra Modi's focus on poverty and farming has been increasing over time, an analysis of his speeches since he became prime minister shows



more frequently about jobs (and employment) in I-Day speeches than Modi has. Farm and farming related words are nearly equally frequent in the I-Day speeches of both leaders. In general, economic issues tend to dominate the speeches of both leaders. The frequency of each key-word has been calculated as a ratio (per 10,000 words) to

account for the differing word lengths of speeches delivered by the two leaders.

Modi has mentioned education 3.38 times per 10,000 words in his I-Day speeches, compared to 29.87 times for Singh. Modi has mentioned health 5.84 times per 10,000 words compared to 18.4 times for Singh. There are two not-so-

surprising differences between the two. Singh was silent about the 'middle-class' which have found mention in Modi's I-Day speeches. Modi has been largely silent on 'Muslims'/minorities' which found mention more frequently in Singh's I-Day speeches. It is worth noting that the focus on certain issues in speeches may not always reflect

policy priorities. As Indian voters have discovered, action rarely ever matches rhetoric in Indian politics. Nonetheless, the frequencies of key-words do give an idea about the message that leaders wish to convey. And Modi's message seems to have increasingly focused on poverty and the rural economy rather than on jobs and industrial growth, an analysis of all his speeches over the years show. This analysis of Modi's speeches includes all speeches listed on his website since he became prime minister, and not just the I-Day speeches delivered by him. Successive droughts over the past few years and the demonetisation-induced liquidity crunch last year have brought India's farm crisis into sharp focus in recent months, and this may partly explain the rising frequency of these words. Nonetheless, it is quite likely that Modi is trying to burnish his appeal—among farmers, who constitute the single biggest occupational group in India, and among the poor, who constitute a large group of regular voters in the country—as the next Lok Sabha election draws closer.

How shell companies are used in black money creation, laundering ***Post-demonetisation, the income tax department has had considerable success in tracing movement of cash through layers of shell companies***



"There was some cash flow going into asset creation that the returns did not reflect."

Within days of starting the investigation, it was clear to the department that Anjali was struggling to reconcile its inventory with its books of accounts—there was more gold and jewellery lying in its stock than recorded in its books—and that the company bought "finished

goods" from a clutch of vendors. At the office of one such vendor, only a few hundred metres from the Aayakar Bhawan, which houses the tax department, in downtown Kolkata, tax sleuths stumbled upon ledgers. In them, every transaction with Anjali was neatly recorded with every detail—and for Anjali's comfort, one detail too many: cash returned to the company for every transaction.

There used to be an old saying among businesses in Kolkata: "dhan maat dikhao", which means your wealth shouldn't show. It dates back to the pre-1991 era of command economy, and evolved as one of the best practices of that time to fly under the radar of the tax authorities.

Even in a transformed economy in which wealth creation is much appreciated, some old wisdom, such as the one above, has not lost relevance. Hours before demonetisation was announced on 8 November, the income tax (IT) department in Kolkata launched a probe into the operations of Anjali Jewellers Pvt. Ltd, a 25-year-old family owned enterprise, now a leading jewellery-maker in West Bengal.

"After closely tracking Anjali for years, it appeared to us that the company was expanding much faster than what its declared cash flow would permit," said a tax officer, who asked not to be identified.

It was immediately clear to the department that these were "bogus transactions", shown in Anjali's accounts to suppress profits, and all the "searching questions" about rapid asset creation were at once answered. The department claimed Anjali had concealed at least Rs160 crore of income. Anjali disputed it, and after a few days of resistance, the company agreed to settle, admitting a tax liability of around Rs70 crore.

"As regards tax computations, we are

legally analysing (the matter) and the process is on," Anargha Chowdhury, a director at Anjali, said in a statement. "We are cooperating with the department...it is improper to speculate on tax or income figures."

The probe into Anjali's operations also led the department to 26 other beneficiaries, according to officers. They had one common connection: the Dhanuka brothers, at whose Waterloo Street office the telltale ledgers were unearthed. When contacted, Sunil Dhanuka admitted to having worked with Anjali, but denied having served any other client.

For seasoned tax sleuths, it was a rather underwhelming investigation. "There was hardly any layering to cover the cash trail and even the ERP (enterprise resource planning) software was easy to crack," said the officer cited above.

Normally, when dealing with such bogus transactions, the department has to dissect through "layers and layers" of shell companies, or ones that do not have any legitimate business and are used only for tax rationalization and money laundering.

Chowdhury claimed in his statement that Anjali did not have any shell company. The department isn't alleging it does either.

But over the past two years, the department has identified around 16,000

shell companies based in Kolkata alone. Anjali had transactions with only a handful of them—all controlled by the same operator—a middle-aged chartered accountant, according to income tax officials. Operators

Investigation shows this operator is in control of at least 322 companies, said one of the tax officers, but he is not on the board of any of them. He doesn't own any shares in these companies either.

The directors and shareholders of these shell companies are mere "name-lenders"—they sign on documents for a fixed fee. The operators seek out people in distress to be appointed as directors. The tax department once came across an old lady who was supporting her husband's cancer treatment by signing on documents as a director of shell companies. Some, for sure, love the easy money. In most cases, these directors are traceable. But even if the department gets to them, it doesn't help because they know nothing—not even the operator who employs them from behind several layers of proxies, said tax officials.

"The whole game is played through proxies, with layers and layers of them acting as smoke screen," said a tax officer, who claimed that he once had to dig through 51 layers in a single circuitous transaction—the maximum in his career—to identify the beneficiary.

Hibernating Idealism

The sly interplay between idealism and ideology keeps excess at bay. In these times of 'total politics' in India characterised by a jam-spread of hatred that leaves isolated, targeted individuals meekly facing a gargantuan State that healthy mutual vigil has been summarily suspended.

Idealism and ideology come to us naturally, when we are young. Most of us do not have to struggle to acquire them; we are eased into them by our early life experiences and our 'significant others'. As we pass through childhood and adolescence, we reconfigure the moral sensitivity that comes from identification with parents, peer groups, religious and political leaders, and from heroic figures we have read or heard about. Out of that emerges forms of idealism and ideology that we can call our own. Obviously, I am not talking here of the idealism associated with philosophical schools such as Neoplatonism or perennial philosophy in the West or Buddhism and Vedanta in the East, nor about ideology as defined by Karl Marx and Karl Mannheim.

I am using the two concepts as they are used in everyday life and in political sociology and political psychology. The base of idealism is laid once the child crosses the stage of conventional morality and is able to make increasingly complex, socially sensitive, moral choices. That change takes place mostly outside the range of the child's awareness. It is part of normal child development that falls under the regime of what psychoanalysts call the superego and is part of what child psychologists Jean Piaget and Lawrence Kohlberg call normal moral development.

Attempts to find an ideology that demands long-term, personal commitment comes later, during adolescence. It can be a more self-conscious, intellectual search. One usually knows when one is looking for an appropriate ideology for personal use and can give reasons for one's choice. But such reasons can be misleading. For, the choice can be shaped by deeper forces within one, to which one has no clue. An ideology can be a defensive manoeuvre to find certitudes, to keep at bay deeper uncertainties and insecurities; it can be constrained by the moral sensitivity and idealism one has grown up with. It can even be something as predictable as a disempowered, marginalised man opting for a hyper-masculine ideology to feel vicariously powerful and potent. Being a more

self-conscious process, one can control one's allegiance to an ideology. One can embrace an ideology with unbending passion or with some detachment, so as to use it as an instrument of political power, social status, academic respectability or even as a handy, post-facto self-justification for all kinds of Satanism—from organising or presiding over a full-fledged genocide to running a free-for-all kleptocracy.

Ideology is also a time-tested way of discrediting idealism as an irresponsible, naive, romantic response to real-life political and social issues. This is often so effective that many learn to package their idealism in the language of ideology to deflect damaging criticisms. If that does not work, you can deploy an ideology to discredit a troublesome idealism, however impressive or lofty, by calling it a hidden counter-ideology with a built-in political strategy. No wonder, many insist that, as adults, we should be able to rise above idealism and ideology and to use both in public life as political technologies at opportune moments.

However, there is also something in these two concepts that is intensely seductive, if not fatally attractive. Even those who lead an obscenely successful, high-cholesterol, calorie-counting life love to talk of fits of idealism and ideology through which they have passed. I have heard veteran politicians and successful business tycoons proudly saying how naive and idealistic they once were, till experience taught them to be tough, shrewd and cynical. Perhaps they want to convey that they too had an innocent, lovable, moral self, till they were forced to disown it to pursue a more realistic dream. Had he been young, G.D. Birla once said, he too would have joined the Naxalites. Idealism and ideology are cousins. In normal times, they check each other's excesses. But, these are not normal times in India. As in the Mahabharata, these cousins live in a dysfunctional family. They work together only when under attack from politics. The job of politics is to dissolve idealism, often in the name of ideology, and to subvert ideology, usually in the name of political realism.

I can find no better example of this than a statement of Deng Xiaoping who, I am told, once claimed, "The West builds capitalism, for the sake of building capitalism. We build capitalism to build socialism." Faced with a clash between ideology and idealism on the one side, and the politics of survival on the other, Deng was merely revealing his priorities as a practising politician.

In Indian public life, 'doing politics' has become a term of abuse. Yet, the ability and the freedom to do politics is the ultimate sign of life in a democracy. Democratic politics is not only the right to vote but also to organise and seek votes in the name of a party or movement of one's choice. North Korea regularly holds elections and its dynastic rulers regularly win these elections, getting more than 90 per cent votes. Nobody has accused the country of being a democracy.

Democracies begin to die when normal, open interplay amongst idealism, ideology and open politics stops and 'total politics' takes over. Such politics has four components. First, everything is reduced to politics and politics intrudes into everything. Once, caste- and religion-based politics and dynastic politics were cases of primordial ties trespassing into democratic politics. Now they are part of normal politics. If you think they are parts of an unavoidable phase in a highly diverse, unequal society where political ideologies do not have much play, there is, for your entertainment, university politics (which subsumes student politics, politics of college admissions and appointment of teachers and vice-chancellors, and politics of curricula); politics of science and science-bureaucrats; politics of sports and cinema; and, cutting across some of these domains, awards politics (which was always seen as part of normal politics till it produced an unworthy progeny called politics of returning awards, which was quickly dubbed, officially, as nasty, anti-national, conspiratorial politics). Now, to this long list you could add a new, colourful entrant—the politics of post-retirement benefits. In almost all such forms



of politics, the key player has been the Indian state. Yet, no one has affirmed that the Indian state is getting overloaded. Not even the ones who spend sleepless nights on India's overloaded judiciary; nor the ones who wonder why our terribly busy prime minister did not find time in two years to comment on the country's newly popular sport—lynching. Second, the technology of political warfare and political mobilisation has been changing dramatically in India in recent times. As populist rhetoric, clever use of media, especially social media, and smart sloganeering have acquired salience in political campaigns, we have failed to notice that our politicians have rediscovered an important truth, which clever demagogues and propaganda chiefs have always known: hatred goes much farther than positive sentiments in politics, particularly when you are trying to mobilise people or when the state faces a crisis of governance.

Hatred defines our enemies. And that definition is always sharper than that of our allies. That is why all nationalisms, especially if they are state-centric, tend to be hate-based. The only exceptions are those nationalisms that defy the conventional meaning of nationalism and use it as a synonym of patriotism, a much older word that refers to a natural human sentiment called territoriality. Unlike nationalism, it is not an ideology. It is easier to mobilise people against enemies than for friends; people usually know better what they hate than what they love. A dystopia can quickly produce a monolithic wall of public opinion deaf to all isolated voices of sanity.

Third, statist nationalism invariably seeks a one-to-one relationship with the individual citizen. It suspects all communities and has an instrumental view of all religions, sects, castes as well as other non-state actors—trade unions, NGOs, students' unions, citizens' movements and professional

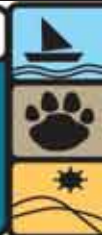
bodies—that can become an alternative means of mobilisation and alternative source of power. At least on this issue there now seems to be a perfect consensus among all political parties in an otherwise chaotic, bitterly divided polity.

Individual citizens, thus, increasingly face the state alone—with no autonomous institution, community or movement left to intervene between the two. The judiciary, one of the few checks on the state, tends to be inaccessible to ordinary citizens due to its costly, time-consuming ways. And the various commissions supposed to protect the human rights of different sectors—minorities, women, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, the press—are often ineffective or, as in the case of vigilance, not in place. Over time, (1) the plurality of voices itself becomes a casualty of high-pitched, divisive politics; (2) the very existence of opposition in the polity is made to look like a conspiracy against the ruling regime and the nation-state and (3) the reigning cabal of decision-makers, small to begin with, shrinks further.

Fourth, the waves of what Ziauddin Sardar, philosopher and historian of science and of Islamic thought, calls post-normal times has already reached the shores of India. This requires, Sardar believes, a different set of beliefs, which even many well-meaning Indians will find difficult to gulp: "Post-normal times demand...that we abandon the ideas of 'control and management', and rethink the cherished notions of progress, modernisation and efficiency. The way forward must be based on virtues of humility, modesty and accountability, the indispensable requirement of living with uncertainty, complexity and ignorance. We will have to imagine ourselves out of post-normal times and into a new age of normalcy—with an ethical compass and a broad spectrum of imaginations from the rich diversity of human cultures."

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Quebec

A panoramic view of the Niagara Falls.



Insider Bureau) THIS is the world's second biggest country and to add to the drama it has three oceans — Pacific, Arctic and Atlantic — caressing its coastlines.

Canada has that and the mountains and great roadways. And it has been the land of opportunities for plenty of Indians.

Realising the potential of those who head there to visit friends and relatives or to holiday, the Canadian Tourism Commission has come out with an array of activities to garner brand visibility in India. "We already have captured a major chunk of outbound tourism from Delhi and Mumbai.

We are launching our Canadian Signature Experiences (CSE) collection. It is a set of travel experiences found only in Canada. CSE makes it easier for the travel trade to package the products better and sell more Canada. We are moving towards newer growth cities with nationwide Ads and familiarisation trips," says Tina Singh, Assistant VP, Canadian Tourism Commission, India.

The reason for this lies in the numbers. In 2012, 1,47,000 Indians visited Canada, a 5.3 per cent growth over 2011. These visitors injected \$ 173 million in Canada's tourism economy, up by 6.4 per cent. According to the Canadian Tourism Commission's figures, there has been 18,129 Indian arrivals to Canada in August 2013, an encouraging 7.1 per cent increase over the same period last year. This year Canada has seen 1,06,499 Indian

In 2012, 1,47,000 Indians visited Canada, a 5.3 % growth over 2011. These visitors injected \$173 million in Canada's tourism economy, up by 6.4 % over 2011

EXPLORE CANADA



Whistler, 125km north of Vancouver, is visited by more than 2 million people annually. Alpine skiing and mountain biking are the main attractions.

visitors so far.

The trade figures corroborate these numbers. "While VFR still remains a major influencer for Indians travelling to Canada, discerning and well-travelled passengers are con-

stantly evolving and looking out for newer destinations. We have seen a 60 per cent year-on-year increase in the number of Indians visiting Canada," says Mohit Gupta, Chief Business Officer, MakeMyTrip. Another segment

MUST SEE IN CANADA

- 1 Get drenched at Niagara Falls.
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- 4 Go culture-hopping around Place-D'armes in Montreal.

that has been steadily increasing is the MICE EXPLORE CANADA group. "The MICE segment is stronger and is growing. Popular commercial hubs such as Vancouver city and Ontario are the choices for such groups," says Sharat Dhall, President, Yatra.

Agreeing with Dhall is Tara Singh. "Corporates are looking out for new destinations as incentives for their employees.

Canada being on top of this list is attracting a number of groups. In the recent past, Canada has gained popularity for MICE and the number of queries is fast growing.

AJAY KUMAR



A 1946 Mercury Sedan and an antique train compartment (top right) are on display at the museum, inaugurated by Haryana CM B.S. Hooda (right) on Saturday.



(Insider Bureau) THERE'S good news for vintage car lovers. As many as 60 antique vehicles will be on display under one roof at India's first transport museum, which was thrown open for public in the remote Mewat district of Haryana on Saturday.

Constructed by a private company, the first-of-its-kind Heritage Transport Museum is located 75 km from the Capital. The museum's collection includes a 1932 Chevrolet Sedan and a toy cart of 1500 BC. Besides these, a bus, a compartment of an antique train, a chopper and bullock and horse carts are also on display.

Inaugurating the museum on Saturday, Haryana Chief Minister Bhopinder Singh Hooda said it is a tedious job to collect such a large number of old vehicles and to see such a collection under one roof is a fabulous experience.

"The modes of transportation are an emblem of history, of how people commuted in the past. It is also a symbol of how infrastructure was developing during those days," Hooda

India's first transport museum opens in Haryana



Heritage Transport Museum is located in Tawru, Mewat.

said.

Vintage cars All the heritage vehicles have been collected from different states in the country.

Talking about the museum, its founder and managing trustee Tarun Thakral said: "My journey towards collecting vintage vehicles started in 1994. I have visited almost every state

in the country to collect 60 vehicles so far and we are expecting to get 20 more vehicles.

The goal to start this museum, Thakral said, was to make people aware of the lives our ancestors lived and how they travelled from one place to another.

"Humans are mortal but vehicles are not. It is part of our history which I want to carry forward to our future generation so that they can learn about history," he said

and added: "We want to develop this museum as showcase of transportation in India, research, preservation and education.

The construction of the museum was started in early part of 2010 and took ` 12 crore. Fifty per cent of the construction cost was shared by the Haryana government's ministry of culture while the 3.1-acre land was allotted to the museum by the state government for ` 1 crore. Apart from vintage vehicles, the museum comprises a library and reference centre, a miniauditorium, a souvenir shop, seminar rooms and a refreshment lounge.

The museum has set up ` 300 for an

The founder of the heritage museum wants to develop it as a showcase of transportation, research, preservation and education

₹12 cr

Amount spent on construction of the museum

3.1 acres

Area on which it stands

₹300

price of ticket for adults; it's ₹150 for kids

Crude oil shipment from Texas opens new vistas in India-U.S. ties

this new development is expected to boost the bilateral oil trade to \$2 billion. "Opening New Vistas in India U.S. Co-opn," tweeted the Indian Embassy in Washington DC, which also posted several pictures and a video of the event. Consignments of American crude oil left the U.S. shores between August 6-14 and are likely to reach Paradip (Odisha) in September last week. Lifting of ban While the 40-year-old ban on export of American oil was lifted by then U.S. President Barack Obama in December 2015, the real move started during the maiden meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Donald Trump on June 26 when the two leaders agreed to deepen the engagement in the energy sector. Soon thereafter, Indian companies started purchasing crude from the U.S. Two Indian oil giants, Indian Oil Corporation and Bharat Petroleum, placed orders for over four million barrels. The development was welcomed by Mr. Trump in his phone call with Mr. Modi. "In his call with Prime Minister Modi on Monday, President Trump welcomed the

first-ever shipment of American crude oil to India, which will occur from Texas later this month," a State Department spokesperson told PTI. "The President pledged that the United States would continue to be a reliable, long-term supplier of energy," the spokesperson said in response to a question. "During the Prime Minister's June visit to the White House, President Trump and Prime Minister Modi committed to a comprehensive review of their trade relations with the goal of creating a fair and reciprocal trading relationship and removing obstacles to growth and jobs creation, including in the energy sector," the spokesperson added. Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. placed its first order in July and the second one on August 10. Bharat Petroleum Corp made its first purchase of U.S. oil, buying high Sulphur crudes Mars and Poseidon. BPCL has bought a cargo containing 500,000 barrels each of Mars and Poseidon for delivery from September 26 to October 10. Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd. (HPCL) is also looking at buying U.S.

crude oil. IOC Director (Finance) A.K. Sharma told PTI recently that buying U.S. crude has become attractive for Indian refiners after the differential between Brent (the benchmark crude or marker crude that serves as a reference price for buyers in western world) and Dubai (which serves as a benchmark for countries in the east) has narrowed. Even after including the shipping cost, buying U.S. crude is cost competitive to Indian refiners, he said. "We are not looking at any term [or fixed quantity] deal from U.S. as of now. We will tender to buy crude and if the U.S. crude is competitive as compared to others, we will buy it," he said. Over the next 20 years, India's energy consumption growth is projected to be the fastest among all major economies. And by 2035, China and India will have the largest share of global demand (35%). Investments in U.S. While this is the first crude oil import from the U.S., Indian companies have made significant investments in purchasing energy assets in the U.S. Four Indian public

and private sector companies have invested approximately \$5 billion in shale assets in the U.S. Indian companies have also contracted 9 MMTPA of LNG from the U.S. and the first shipment is expected in Jan. 2018. Of this, GAIL has contracted 5.8 MMT per annum, including 3.5 MMTPA of LNG from Sabine Pass Liquefaction terminal (Louisiana) and 2.3 MMTPA from Cove Point LNG liquefaction project (Maryland). In a tweet a day earlier, Senator Ted Cruz said Texas will provide crucial oil exports to India and serve as a reliable long-term supplier of energy. In a certificate issued to Mr. Sarna on the occasion, the Texas Governor said in the decades to come "this relationship will continue to be one of the world's most significant" as the U.S. and India work toward common goals of prosperity, strength and peace. "As a top exporter to India with over \$2 billion annually in exports and as the nation's leader in crude oil reserve and production, Texas looks forward to our growing relationship with India," Mr. Abbott said.

Seventy years on, India and Pakistan need a course correction

Life spans increased, fewer children died young, and more mothers survived birth. As writers, artists, scientists, traders, and achievers in many other fields, Pakistanis and Indians had found their voice and earned international respect. Economic prospects were encouraging, and with that the hope of lifting millions out of poverty. Time's special issue, and even the fact that a major international magazine had produced it, was one of optimism. Now, two decades later and 70 years since Independence, despite many gains, both India and Pakistan appear willing to relinquish the one thing that people fought for together: Freedom. They have adopted, and even embellished, the practices of their colonial oppressors. State security forces, used by the colonial administration to suppress the population, remain as abusive as ever. Religious sentiment is deployed to kill, with induced fervour that encourages militants to shoot down people in railway stations or hotels, blow them up in parks, and for mobs to beat a man to death on the streets. Loyalty is always on test, on what people post on social media, what they sing, write, paint, and whether they bow before the flag. Those who dare dissent are vanquished by laws that have long since been dropped by the colonial rulers. Charges of sedition or blasphemy are recklessly handed down, and

then marauding followers are let loose to punish, incited by ultranationalist demagogues. Civil liberties and human rights are denounced as imported concepts, created by the former colonisers, forgetting that they are ideas that found global acceptance after the devastation of world war. In Pakistan, secret military courts

consign to the hangman, men convicted of terrorism after unfair trials, while establishment forces nurture others who will commit terror attacks. In Pakistan, a Christian woman is facing the death penalty because denouncing discrimination was deemed blasphemous; a politician who spoke for her rights was

murdered, and his killer feted. In India, a little boy is left bleeding to death by both his killers and bystanders because he might just have been a beef-eater. And in both countries, leaders speak of protecting women, and yet promptly blame the victim for sexual abuse, domestic violence, acid attacks, and other ill-treatment. India and Pakistan

have mirrored a crackdown on critics. Groups who speak out for human rights might lose their funding, and even face arrest. So, 70 years on, both countries need a course correction. Many pledges will be made, but it is time to commit to truly becoming states that rejoice in diversity, and ensure the rights of the most vulnerable are protected.

The costly failure of the South Asian judiciary

While the judiciary in Pakistan finds itself in the middle of the civil-military duel, the Supreme Court in Nepal is stuck in a tug of war between the ruling and opposition coalitions. Just weeks before her retirement, the first woman chief justice of the Nepalese Supreme Court, Sushila Karki, found herself close to being impeached when the members of the ruling coalition moved a motion to that effect. The step was heavily criticized as an attack on the judiciary by international organizations like the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) and Human Rights Watch. The impeachment motion could not go ahead largely because opposition parties threw their weight behind her and did not allow Parliament to function. The role of Karki was not above board either. She was accused of having her favourites not just among the political parties but also among the judges, who were allotted cases accordingly. The root of the problem lies in the

role of political parties in the appointment of judges in Nepal. The judiciary is packed with cadres of political parties, which does not bode well for judicial independence and the separation of the judiciary from the legislature.

The situation is perhaps most grim in the tiny island country of the Maldives. With an allegedly selective interpretation of the anti-defection law, the judiciary in the Maldives has stifled the efforts of the Maldives United Opposition to impeach the speaker of the Parliament. Not many give any credence to the judiciary in the Maldives, for it has gone along with the government in suppressing dissent, convicting opposition leaders without allowing them free and fair trials and harassing important constitutional authorities like the Election Commission. The judiciary and President Abdulla Yameen's government have come under sharp criticism from, among others, the ICJ, South Asians for

Human Rights, and the Commonwealth. Maldives finally decided to quit the Commonwealth over what it claimed was unfair and unjust scrutiny "in the name of democracy promotion".

To some extent, the problems in these countries can be explained: Pakistan, Nepal and the Maldives are all fledgling democracies. The institutions of a multi-party democracy have not taken root in any of them. And this process takes time (though one can argue that time has not been a constraint, especially for Pakistan, which has had 70 years to establish these institutions). But the role of the judiciary is perhaps more important than most other institutions. While other institutions undergo their respective gestation periods, the judiciary can provide an anchor of stability in nascent democracies.

Often, the problem is with the institutional design. The key factors in developing a robust judiciary are a) separation

from the executive and the legislature, b) appointment of judges on the basis of merit, c) provision of a term of service which cannot be arbitrarily curtailed, and d) making the removal of judges difficult through procedures which involve a high majority in the elected legislature. Even older, established democracies haven't found an absolutely clean formula so far. The UK, for instance, which has had some role for a separate judiciary since the 12th century, has taken some steps to strengthen the separation of the judiciary from the legislature only in the first decade of this century. While India has been the beacon in South Asia, the executive and the judiciary did clash after a majority government elected for the first time in three decades desired to clip the wings of the judiciary, which had undertaken a massive expansion of its own role in the preceding decades through some creative interpretation of the Constitution.

The Night the Oxygen Ran Out in an Indian Hospital

liquid oxygen for lack of payment. On Friday, despite repeated warnings from the supplier and hospital technicians, the oxygen ran out.

By the time the flow was stabilized, more than 60 children had died. Many were sick with Japanese encephalitis and other tropical diseases and may have died from other causes, but doctors admitted that the oxygen interruption is likely to have claimed at least several lives. The children's deaths have become a national outrage, headlining front pages of all the major newspapers and marring celebrations this week of India's 70th anniversary of independence.

India health care system remains in shambles and there is no meaningful measure by the government to ameliorate it is not a secret to the...

I am an Indian doctor who got disgusted with the corrupt healthcare system and left. I can surmise the exact reason why there was no payment...

India is a backwards country, period. It wants to be modern and effective but it is a long way from that---a very long way. Sure, poor...

The government hospital, part of the larger Baba Raghav Das Medical College in Gorakhpur, was considered the area's best, a beacon to millions of people. It is now a symbol of India's swamped, mismanaged and often corrupt public health care system. As this episode underscored, the system is so enormous and has so many people moving through it that mistakes are often not corrected until many lives are lost.

The medical college is a monument to that sense of scale. It is a hulking, sprawling network of buildings with nearly 1,000 beds and 10-foot-wide corridors a city block long. With such a deluge of patients, some coming from hundreds of miles away, doctors sometimes work 36-hour double shifts with just a six-hour break, and children are crammed two or three

to a bed. Families are camped out everywhere, their bedrolls, blankets, water jugs and round steel food tins clogging the hallways.

The case has cast a glare on the government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in no small part because Gorakhpur is the home turf of one of Mr. Modi's most contentious allies, Yogi Adityanath. A divisive politician and Hindu ascetic, Adityanath recently became chief minister of India's most populous state, Uttar Pradesh, which, at 200 million, has more people than all but a handful of the world's nations.

The state government's initial response to the oxygen fiasco was to imply that it was perfectly normal for 10 children to die every day at the Gorakhpur hospital, especially at this time of year, the rainy season, when swarms of mosquitoes spread deadly Japanese encephalitis, a virus that causes brain swelling and seizures. That explanation was widely criticized as the height of insensitivity. "Who have we become?" asked Pratap Bhanu Mehta, a leading commentator, in a recent column. "In our republic poor children are fated to die."

The government response continues to be confused. Adityanath's administration is adamant that the oxygen problem was not responsible for any deaths, even though no autopsies were performed. At the same time, it has suspended the head of the medical college and called for a full investigation.

Lying just south of the India-Nepal border, Gorakhpur is very lush, especially now, during the monsoon. Some parts of it are beautiful, with dripping banyan trees, brightly painted houses and new shops. There's even a Domino's pizza place. But in other areas, stagnant water covers the roads and garbage is stuffed into every nook and cranny—between houses, along riverbanks, heaped up in vacant lots. Entire neighborhoods seem to be sinking under piles of their own waste.

The town is surrounded by wet green rice fields that during the rainy season are infested with mosquitoes.

Brahamdev Yadav, a rice farmer, had never heard of Japanese encephalitis. But by putting his hand to the foreheads of his newborn twins, he could tell they were sick. He checked them into the hospital on Aug. 3, around the same time that the hospital's oxygen supplier was issuing increasingly urgent pleas for payment. In a string of letters to the medical college, the Indian news media reported, the supplier insisted it had its own bills to cover and could not keep delivering liquid oxygen for the hospital's central oxygen system unless a \$100,000 bill was settled.

In India, public officials often squeeze their vendors for "commissions." It is widely acknowledged that even after public contracts are awarded, vendors have to grovel for payment, and that the best way to lubricate the bureaucracy is to give the officials in charge a 2 to 5 percent cut. When asked whom they blamed for the tragedy, several parents of children who died in the oxygen shortage said simply, "corruption."

The head of the medical college, R. K. Mishra, who has resigned, was already under suspicion for misusing public money, Indian news outlets reported. In this same part of India, millions of dollars have vanished in other public health corruption scandals.

The medical college clearly needs all the funds it can get. While a new Japanese encephalitis wing is state of the art, with its plate glass windows and beeping machines, other parts of the hospital are in chaotic disrepair. Giant holes have been punched in the walls, the wide corridors reek of urine, many lights have burned out and water drips from the ceiling, pooling on the floor.

The hospital is "overburdened 10 times," said Dr. K. P. Kushwaha,

the former head of the medical college. Doctors said that many Indian hospitals are like this, often with deadly consequences. In 2011, 16 new mothers died at one crowded hospital in Jodhpur before it was discovered that many intravenous fluid bags were contaminated with bacteria. That same year, 22 babies died at another hospital over a four-day period, though the cause remains unclear.

On Thursday night, Mr. Jahid arrived at the medical college with his 5-year-old daughter burning with fever and struggling to breathe.

China And India Dangerously Close To Military Conflict: Foreign Media

NEW DELHI: As nuclear posturing between North Korea and the United States rivets the world, a quieter conflict between India and China is playing out on a remote Himalayan ridge - with stakes just as high.

For the past two months, Indian and Chinese troops have faced off on a plateau in the Himalayas in tense proximity, in a dispute prompted by moves by the Chinese military to build a road into territory claimed by India's close ally, Bhutan.

India has suggested that both sides withdraw, and its foreign minister said in Parliament that the dispute can be resolved only by dialogue.

Yet China has vociferously defended the right it claims to build a road in the Doklam area, land it also claims.

Since the dispute began, the Chinese Foreign Ministry has issued an angry stream of almost daily denunciations of India and its "illegal trespass" and "recklessness," along with demands that New Delhi withdraw its troops "if it cherishes peace."

Incursions and scuffles between the two countries have long occurred along India and China's 2,220-mile border - much of which remains in dispute - although the respective militaries have not fired shots at each other in a half-century.

Analysts say that this most recent dispute is more worrisome because it comes at a time when relations between the two nuclear-armed powers are declining, with China framing the issue as a direct threat to its territorial integrity. For the first time, such a conflict involves a third country - the tiny Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan.

And the potential for dangerous clashes elsewhere on the rugged mountainous border remains real, analysts say. Indian and Chinese patrols jostled each other and

This was just hours after the Gorakhpur Newline, a website featuring local news, published an article warning that the hospital's oxygen supply was about to run out.

Mr. Jahid, a jewelry salesman, had not seen that report. Like most others with children at the hospital, he had passed through several smaller facilities before getting there. "They told me, 'Take her to the medical college, where there are good doctors and machines, and she'll be O.K.,'" he recalled. He said the oxygen cut out five times on Friday.

exchanged blows Tuesday morning by a lake in the Ladakh region of the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir, according to local reports.

"It would be very complacent to rule out escalation," said Shashank Joshi, an analyst with the Royal United Services Institute in London. "It's the most serious crisis in India-China relations for 30 years."

The standoff also reflects an expanding geopolitical contest between Asia's most populous nations. As China fortifies islands in the South China Sea and exerts its influence through ambitious infrastructure projects throughout the continent, its dominance of Asian affairs is growing, as is its unwillingness to brook rivals. India is seen by some as the last counterbalance.

"The most significant challenge to India comes from the rise of China, and there is no doubt in my mind that China will seek to narrow India's strategic space by penetrating India's own neighborhood. This is what we see happening," former Indian foreign secretary Shyam Saran said recently at an event in New Delhi.

The incident began in mid-June, when a crew from the People's Liberation Army, the PLA, entered a remote plateau - populated largely by Bhutanese shepherds - with earth-moving and other equipment and "attempted to build a road," India's Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement.

They were confronted by a Royal Bhutan Army patrol; Indian soldiers pitched tents there two days later. India and Bhutan - a country of just under 800,000 - have long had a special relationship that includes military support and \$578 million in aid to Bhutan.

India and China hold marathon border meet, discuss peace after Ladakh scuffle

"The Chinese patrol refused to return when the Indian side showed banners that they were in Indian territory, in accordance with the settled drill. Heated arguments took place thereafter, leading to a scuffle in which troops punched each other and then stones were thrown," said an official who didn't wish to be named. Indian troops said the Chinese patrols of around 15 soldiers threw stones, wounding around six men from the ITBP. The Pangong area is prone to such face-offs as two-thirds of the lake is under Chinese control. Normally things are brought under control

after showing banners to the Chinese side, telling them they are in Indian soil. There have been occasions when the Chinese refused to leave, leading to tense standoffs. The Asian giants have a long border dispute that led to a war in 1962. The festering feud causes around 400 face-offs every year from Ladakh to Arunachal Pradesh. An official said meetings usually held on August 15 between Chinese and Indian soldiers along the frontier were cancelled on Tuesday. But the event was marked more informally, with both sides exchanging sweets.

Why I decided to write out my fears

Sometimes, if you surprise your fears by naming them, they themselves feel too sheepish to stick around

Fear of standing next to my work: Self-belief and self-doubt are clearly fond of each other because they are always hanging around together and creating confusion. Why mess with their relationship? Just accept their uninvited appearances and carry on with what needs to be done. If you must be seen in public, plan your clothes and shoes. Plan the commute, you might as well reach well-dressed

and in time. **Fear of success:** This is a novel one. After spending years worrying about the fear of failure, you discover that the idea of success is scary too. Dismiss it. Get back into your pyjamas and water the plants. **Fear of having to abandon my fear of driving:** It dawned on me like an epiphany one day that my last two beloved terrors are—fear of writing

a book and fear of driving a car. I know how to do both, I have trained and practised and done trial runs and yet I have resisted getting into the driver's seat and hitting the highway for years. Once the book is out, will I have to start driving too? Who would have thought they would be related. Essentially, both of them are a fear of assuming control. Of crashing and hurting

someone inadvertently. They are an obedient reaction to the critical parent's voice that warns children against creating trouble by being incompetent and dangerous. That teaches girls that their mere presence is perceived as a threat by others. All I need to accept is that I am quite harmless, actually. I am powerful and able and it is safe to be so. In fact, it is essential.

Residents 'Trapped' As Bengaluru Lakes Froth Like Never Before: 10 Points

In Tripura, it was another story. Here, the central government was directly involved in insulting an elected Chief Minister. Manik Sarkar, the Chief Minister, recorded his speech for broadcast on Independence Day with Doodarshan and All India Radio as is the usual practice. Shockingly, these organizations tried to censor his speech. When he

refused to change a single word of it, the agencies refused to broadcast it. The letter sent to the office of the State AIR authorities states "...keeping in view the sanctity and solemnity attached with the occasion the broadcast is meant for the CEO Prasar Bharati was also consulted and the collective decision taken at Delhi advise that the broadcast may not go with

its existing content." Manik Sarkar's speech, available on the CPI(M) Facebook page, upholds constitutional values. It also posits the state government's initiatives as opposed to the anti-people policies of the central government. Mr. Modi made certain claims. He criticized all governments before his as being corrupt. That is acceptable. But if an

elected Chief Minister seeks to project the policies of his government, that is not allowed. This is the real face of the "cooperative federalism" that the Prime Minister claims to have established. Who is this collective sitting in Delhi that has been given the power to stop the broadcast of a Chief Minister? Clearly the central government is trampling on the autonomy

of DD/AIR and Prasar Bharati by such outrageous acts of censorship. This is an insult to the people of Tripura and to the rights of states. While the Prime Minister was speaking from the ramparts of the Red Fort on democracy and good governance, on the ground, on that very day, these two incidents symbolized the wide gap between the hype and the reality.

Beyond buzzwords, where is PM Modi's 'new India'

Is it a 'new India' when government schools struggle to provide quality education to lakhs of students across the country? In a statement in parliament in December 2016, the HRD minister acknowledged that 18% teacher posts in government-run primary schools and 15% in secondary schools remain vacant. Is the government assuring an end to this acute teacher crisis in the immediate future?

indebted to village money-lenders, where deepening agrarian distress means that even in a year of a bountiful harvest, farmers denied a remunerative price commit suicide? Is it a 'new' India where the government is in denial on the reality of a manufacturing slowdown and jobless growth, especially in a post-demonetisation universe? A recent study of the Centre for Monitoring the Indian Economy (CMIE) reveals that 1.5 million jobs were lost post-demonetisation in the first four months of 2017.

the prime minister promises to end bureaucratic and political corruption but where 'local' corruption and red-tapism still haunts the average citizen: India still ranks a lowly 79 least corrupt nation out of 175 countries in the Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index. And if you believe ministerial corruption has ended, just travel to my home state of Goa where 'rates' for legislators switching sides to form a government are freely discussed. Truth is, 'new' India is for now at least

an undefined but alluring futuristic dream, one which is being strategically spun by a leader who knows that the promise of 'acche din' that won him the 2014 general elections could never match the vaulting expectations it threw up. Rather than being devoured by past hype, the prime minister is cleverly changing the goalposts by embarking on another feel-good journey to woo the gen-next voter. Which is why the 'new' India artifice is not offering instant gratification but sets a five

year target of 2022 by which time another election will have, in all probability, also been won!

Post-script: Despite the 'invented' fantasy of a 'new' India, an India Today mood of the nation poll forecasts that the Modi-led alliance could win close to 350 seats if general elections were held now. Clearly, the hope of a better India embodied in the charismatic Modi persona is still attractive. Unless a divided and dispirited opposition carves out its own compelling counter-narrative.

Residents 'Trapped' As Bengaluru Lakes Froth Like Never Before: 10 Points

Another resident said it was difficult to send children to school for fear of the foam hitting them.

2. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said on Thursday that the state government is "taking all necessary actions," promising a solution, but with a timeline that will cause hearts to sink. "It is there, it will be solved within one or two years," said the Chief Minister, who will seek re-election in assembly polls

next year. 3. With factories around the lakes pouring a steady stream of chemicals and sewage, including human waste, from residences in the area also flowing into them, the Bellandur and Varthur lakes have been frothing for years and even caught fire recently, making global headlines. 4. Rain since late Monday night, when the city got its heaviest shower in August since 1890, has exacerbated

the foaming, making it tougher for people driving past to evade the flying white clouds of chemical. 5. In many places the rain has brought down the fence put up around the lakes, flooding homes, roads and cars parked in low-lying areas, 6. "The water current was so strong that it has destroyed the fence and the mud wall. Water flowing from Bellandur to Varthur has also entered the empty land adjacent to it,"

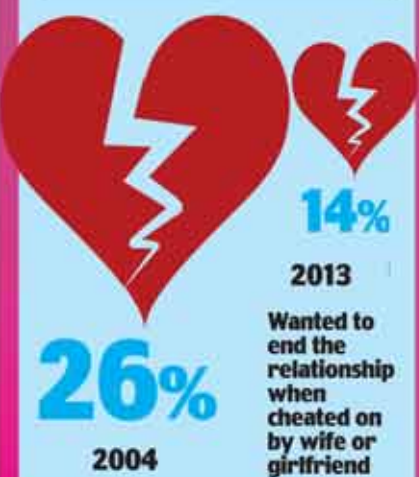
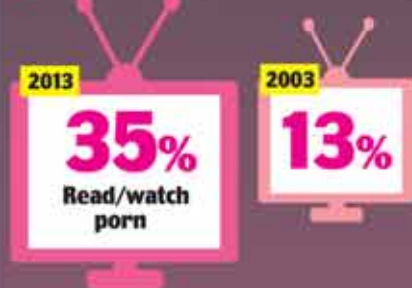
said a resident. 7. The National Green Tribunal had earlier this year directed the Karnataka government to fix the lakes, but it hasn't been able to come up with a solution yet. 8. The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), which is the custodian of the lakes, has been working to remove weeds and is using high-power pumps and coir foam mattresses and other filtering techniques to stop the

frothing, but it little impact. 9. Experts from Britain and Israel have visited to study the problem and they say that the solution is simple - stop pouring pollutants into the lakes. 10. In March, TV Ramachandra, a professor at the Indian Institute of Science who has been studying the lake for decades, said they had given a reasonably good proposal for the rejuvenation of lakes in Bangalore. "We know how to manage it," he said.

PRUDISH MEN, RACY WOMEN

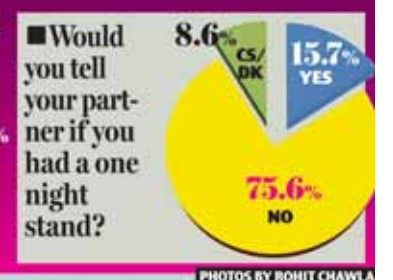
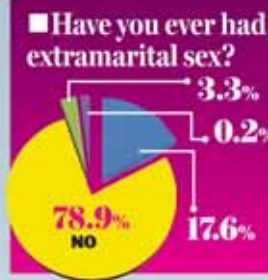
The first India Today sex survey in 2003 decoded female sexuality. The second in 2004 explored what men wanted. Over a decade, men have turned discreet while women are candid and experimental.

CHANGE IN WOMEN'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS SEX 2003-2013



■ Do you think having sex with your wife is your marital right?
79.3% Yes | **14.9%** No | **5.9%** CS/DK

■ Do you insist on sex even if your partner is not in the mood for it?
48.1% SOMETIMES | **32.9%** NEVER | **13.4%** VERY OFTEN | **1.9%** YES | **3.8%** CS/DK



Sex and the CITIES

Short skirts invite rape & premarital sex is still taboo — the India Today sex survey gives you a reality check

(By Our Staff Reporter) THE wisdom of surveys often provides us insightful peeks at prevailing attitudes to different phenomena. In that light, sex surveys, saucy reads as they are, hold a mirror to the society, especially one as beset by patriarchy as India's.

Little wonder then that when the India Today Group, along with the marketing research organisation MDRA, set out to unmask Indians' changing attitudes to sex, their questions threw up some worrying answers even as they revealed how people in our country are getting more experimental with the art of intimacy.

The inherent tendency for victim-blaming is reaffirmed by the fact that of the 1,999 men surveyed across 19 cities, a staggering 36.3 per cent blamed a woman's revealing clothes for rape. While 33.3 per cent said rape could be attributed to the rapists' perversion, only 4.6 per cent believed male chauvinism played a role.

Marital rape, on the other hand, appeared to be no concern at all for most of the male respondents, an astounding 79.3 per cent of whom said it was their right to have sex with their wives. As many as 48.1 per cent even admitted to "sometimes" insisting on intercourse irrespective of whether their wives were in the mood or not.

More than 13 per cent confessed to doing so "often". The survey also brings into question the common perception that education is the panacea for all of India's ills, with results showing that the belief that revealing clothes invited rape was stronger among people who had completed higher levels of formal education. Around 45 per cent of people with postgraduate degrees in professional fields were found to hold this opinion, as opposed to 35 per cent among Class XII pass-outs.

The deep-seated orthodoxy evident in this response also seemed to be the determining factor for the respondents' attitude to premarital sex. Of the 2,015 women surveyed, again across 19 cities, a resounding 74.3 per cent admitted they expect the man they marry to be virgins. They fared only slightly better than men, 77.4 per cent of whom expect their prospective wives to have "saved herself", as the common euphemism goes, for after marriage.

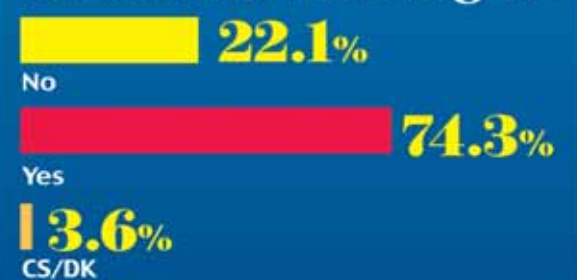
Among the male respondents, no less than 76.1 per cent said they would never marry a woman they know has had premarital sex. Of the entire pool of respondents, 44.8 per cent termed the entire concept of premarital sex "wrong". Paired with findings suggesting a more adventurous attitude to sex — 28 per cent of the female respondents admitted to masturbating as compared to 9 per cent in 2003, when the first India Today sex survey was conducted — the survey puts the verdict clearly on the wall.

Indians have a long way to go before women are allowed a say over their bodies and sex shorn of the stigma.

Till then, the status quo will be questioned, one sex survey at a time.



■ Do you expect your husband to be a virgin?



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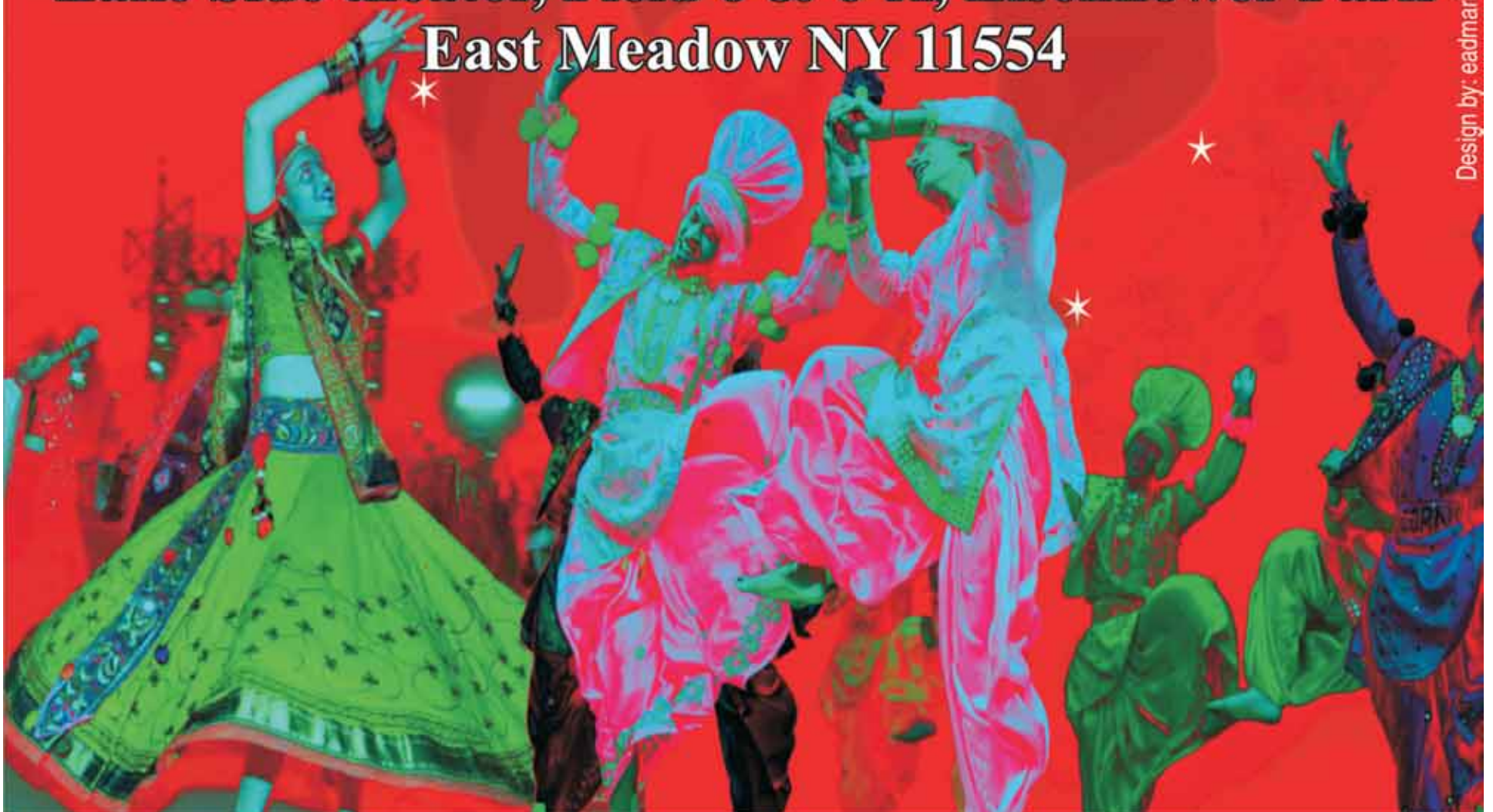
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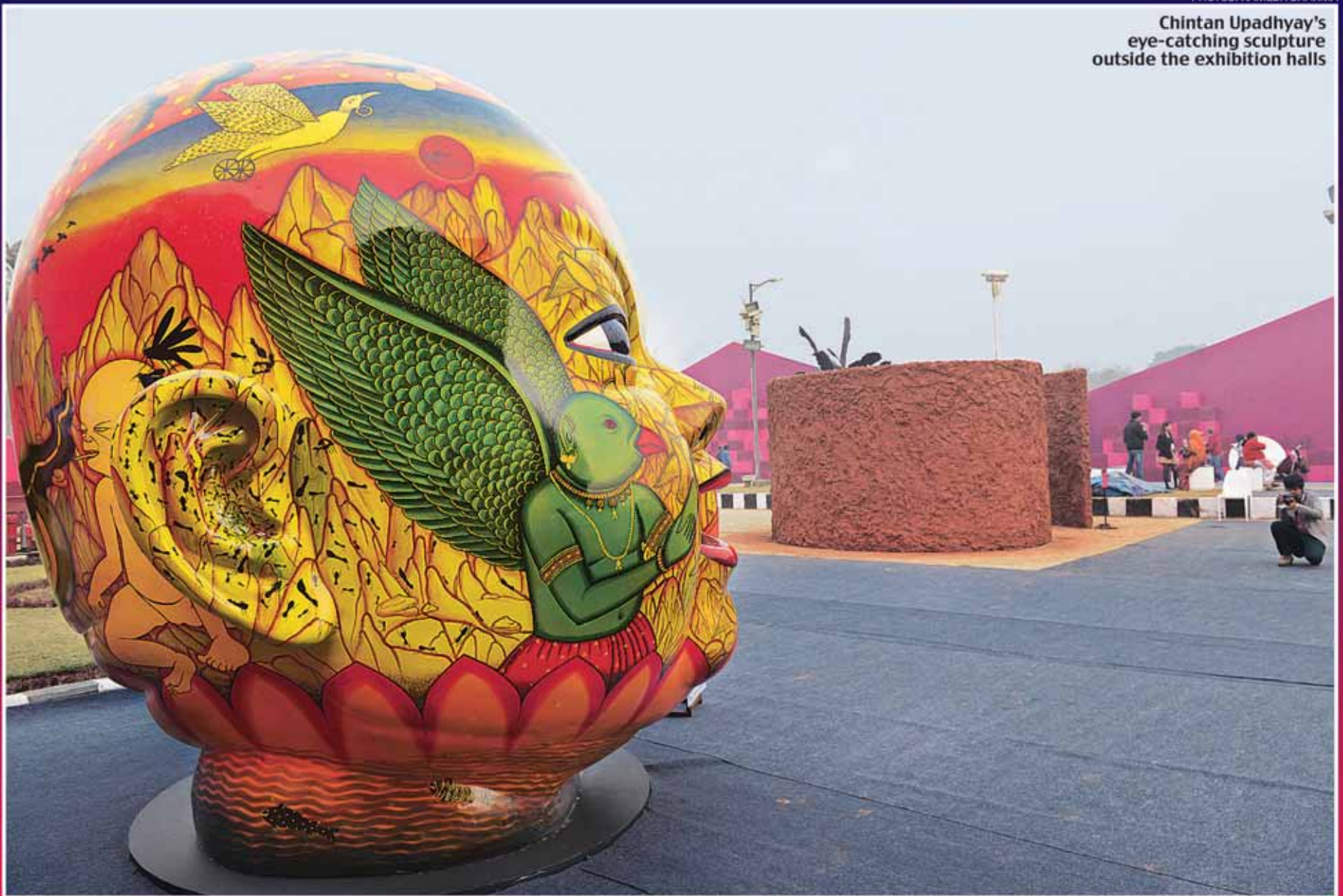
**Lake Side theater, Field 6 & 6-A, Eisenhower Park
East Meadow NY 11554**



Design by: eadmark.com

PHOTOS: RAMESH SHARMA

Chintan Upadhyay's eye-catching sculpture outside the exhibition halls



(Media Reports) YOU just can't miss them. The moment you enter the premises of the ongoing India Art Fair (IAF), you are greeted by the view of huge installations. Some are a comment on society while others merely reflect its creator's unique ideas. Chintan Upadhyay's ' Iconic Shrine' — a 10 feet high baby face that represents mass consumption - belongs to the former category while Julien Salaud's ' Constellation of the deer' (inside Hall- 1) is of the other kind. Salaud transforms a stuffed deer into a work of art and gives the animal a second life. Guillaume Lointier from Gallerie Suzanne Tarasieve in Paris, which is representing the French artist at IAF, says, " Salaud has taken a 20th century stuffed deer and covered it in a pattern (using nails and beads) akin to a constellation." Other notable installations are those of Subodh Gupta (' Aura') and Siddharth Karawal (' Denture Venture').

ART GOES BIG

An eclectic range of installations is strewn across the India Art Fair venue

Light & Power

The figures are made of various light fixtures and are wired to appear in motion. Tushar Jaog's ' Enlightning Army of the Empire' inside Hall- 2 is an installation that catches the eye for its eccentricity. Nandita Kumar takes the basic component of Jaog's

work, a light bulb, and turns it into a 3.26 x 2.9 feet sculpture. Her work, ' Heliophilic Observatory' (inside Hall- 1), is centered around solar energy and features intrinsic wire- work done with the electric circuit of the bulb.

Trees of life

Subodh Kerkar's ' Palm Leaves' are

an ode to his childhood. Five huge palm leaves signify that specific time in his life when he used to live in a small house that was surrounded by palms trees. The blackened tree next to Kerkar's installation signifies an ongoing phenomenon — that of environmental degradation. " Banana Tree' is a comment on how industrial waste disposal is affecting trees and the whole environment," says its creator Debanjan Roy. The artist has used recycled automobile tires and tubes to create what looks like a banana tree. Both installations are situated outside the main exhibition halls.

Out of the box

It appears to be an ordinary phone booth from the outside, but once you open the door and stand inside it does the show really begin. ' STD/ ISD' (near the entrance) by Israeli artist Achia Anzi is a life- size installation in which the visitor must stand inside the booth for an auditory experience. Fans overhead and below one's feet add to the overall effect. '



(Clockwise from above) Subodh Kerkar's 'Palm Leaves' was inspired by his childhood memories while Julien Salaud's 'Constellation of the deer' gives a second life to a stuffed deer. Tushar Jaog uses tubelights and lamps for his creation 'Enlightning Army of the Empire'.

Shapoorji Pallonji Group says Tata group loses more if business ties snapped

Tata Sons had directed its group companies to cut all business ties with Cyrus and Shapoor Mistry's Shapoorji Pallonji Group



(News Agencies) Mumbai: The Shapoorji Pallonji (SP) Group said it gives more business to the Tata group of companies than it gets from the latter. Any step to snap business ties is detrimental, not to the SP Group, but to the interests of the Tatas, said a Shapoorji Pallonji spokesperson. On Thursday, the Economic Times reported that the Tata Sons

Ltd board, under the leadership of N. Chandrasekaran, has directed group firms to snap all business ties with the SP Group. The move, the newspaper added, will lead to a loss of business worth hundreds of crore. It said almost 50 companies of the SP Group will be affected by the Tata Sons board's decision, taken on 9 August. All Tata group companies are said to be acting on the Tata Sons directive, which came to them on 14 August, the ET report said.

"Tata Sons instructing independently listed companies

to take this step has locked out a significant consumer of its products—an act that is detrimental, not to the SP Group but to the interests of the Tata Group companies," said the spokesperson in a texted response. A Tata Sons spokesperson declined to comment. The privately held SP Group, which had \$5 billion in revenue in 2016, has interests ranging from construction to shipping. Last year, SP Group procured steel in excess of Rs400 crore from Tata Steel Ltd, the spokesperson said, adding that it has also been a large buyer of heavy commercial vehicles from Tata Motors Ltd, procuring more than

150 vehicles in the last three years. On the other hand, the "total commercial engagement in O&M (operation and maintenance) and supply contracts with SP group companies namely Eureka Forbes and Sterling Wilson from the Tata Group does not exceed Rs50 crore annually," he said. "The SP Group believes in taking business decisions unemotionally, in the best interests of stakeholders and will evaluate every business opportunity on merits," he said when asked whether the group will look at scrapping ties with Tata group firms. In a separate statement, the SP Group also refuted allegations of conflict of interest. Former

Tata Sons chairman Cyrus Mistry in November 2013 directed all group companies to stop awarding new engineering and construction contracts to his family-run SP Goup, the latter said on Thursday. As a result, orders from the Tata group fell from Rs1,125 crore in 2012-13 to zero in 2015-16, SP said in a statement. "Any residual orders pending is extremely insignificant in value for the SP Group," it added. The Mistry family and Tata Sons, which share a five-decade old association, have been engaged in courtroom battles since October last year when Cyrus Mistry was ousted as the chairman of the Tata group holding firm in a boardroom putsch.

How the business president lost the business community



Trump was supposed to be the businessman president. He was supposed to run the federal government more like the private sector. The real estate mogul turned president filled his Cabinet with a cadre of Wall Street and corporate bigwigs and invited top CEOs to join two White House business councils, the Strategic and Policy Forum and the American Manufacturing Council. Wednesday afternoon, as CEOs withdrew from the councils en masse and Trump disbanded them, it all fell apart. Initially, the prospect of playing a role in deregulating Wall Street and slashing corporate taxes must have thrilled many business leaders. But as each month in the new administration passed, public pressure to disassociate from the administration mounted. Consumers and social justice advocates launched aggressive media campaigns to get CEOs to quit the councils. Any

connection to the president started to turn into a liability. The defections from Trump's two business councils started slowly after the president's so-called Muslim ban and intensified after his withdrawal from the Paris climate agreement. This week was a turning point, after Trump's tepid condemnation of white supremacists who killed a woman in Charlottesville, Virginia, over the weekend. By Wednesday, the president's Strategic and Policy Forum and American Manufacturing Council had disbanded. Public outrage had proved too overwhelming. "We believe the debate over Forum participation has become a distraction from our well-intentioned and sincere desire to aid vital policy discussions on how to improve the lives of everyday Americans," participants said in a statement explaining their decision. "As such, the president and we are disbanding the Forum."

Wall Street ends down after more White House turmoil

U.S. stocks lost ground late to end lower on Friday following a White House-focused week that raised more questions about the Trump administration's ability to implement its pro-growth agenda. While the day's losses were small, Friday marked the first time stocks haven't risen the day after a more than 1 percent drop since Donald Trump was elected president on Nov. 8. The week's losses further dented the post-election rally, which was built on Trump's promises of tax cuts and higher infrastructure spending. Thursday's 1.5-percent drop in the S&P 500 came a week after a similar fall, and while the benchmark index still is up 13.4 percent since the election, it is down 2.1 percent in the last two weeks. That's the most since the two weeks before the election. "While this mini correction we're seeing may not amount to much, it's probably caused by this escalation in doubt of all of these things that seemed hopeful to investors at the beginning of the Trump administration," said J. Bryant Evan, investment advisor and portfolio manager at Cozad Asset Management, in Champaign, Illinois. In the latest shakeup, the White House said Trump on Friday fired chief strategist Steve Bannon, known as an



economic nationalist and an advocate of "America First" policies. Critics have accused him of harbouring anti-Semitic and white nationalist sentiments. While stocks turned higher following reports of Bannon's departure, they lost those gains heading into the close. The news followed a week heavy with speculation and focus on the White House. On Thursday, there was concern about the possible departure of National Economic Council Director Gary Cohn; on Wednesday, Trump disbanded some business councils. Trump also alienated some corporate leaders and U.S. allies this week with his comments following violence in Charlottesville, Virginia, where there was a white nationalist protest against the removal of a Confederate statue. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 76.22 points, or

0.35 percent, to close at 21,674.51, the S&P 500 lost 4.46 points, or 0.18 percent, to 2,425.55 and the Nasdaq Composite dropped 5.39 points, or 0.09 percent, to 6,216.53. The S&P 500 closed roughly 1 percent below its 50-day moving average, the furthest below that key technical measure since mid-April and the closest to its 200-day moving average since the election. For the week, the Dow was down 0.8 percent, the S&P 500 was down 0.7 percent and the Nasdaq fell 0.6 percent. Shares of sporting goods retailers and Deere weighed on the market following disappointing results. Nike's 4.4-percent slide weighed the most on the Dow, following dismal results from sporting goods retailers Foot Locker and Hibbett. Deere's 5.4-percent fall was the biggest drag on the industrial sector after the

farm equipment maker reported a second straight quarter of lower-than-expected sales. Friday also was the eighth straight day in which the New York Stock Exchange and Nasdaq had more stocks making new 52-week lows than highs, matching a similar streak leading up to Trump's election. About 290 issues hit a 52-week low on Friday, the most since immediately after the presidential vote. The market's rally faces further tests in the weeks ahead with the approach of a historically weak month for equities and a host of other issues that could weigh on market, including the Federal Reserve's September meeting, where it could announce plans to unwind its bond portfolio. Advancing issues outnumbered declining ones on the NYSE by a 1.12-to-1 ratio; on Nasdaq, a 1.04-to-1 ratio favored advancers.

Rise in Americans drinking more alcohol: Study



(News Agencies) Washington, Rise Americans drinking alcohol: Study. There was an 11 per cent overall increase in alcohol consumption among adults in the US between 2002 and 2012, a new study led by researchers of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism has revealed. The study, posted online on Wednesday, used data from face-to-face interviews conducted in two national epidemiologic surveys on alcohol and related conditions, which were joined by 43,093 and 36,309 adults respectively, reports Xinhua news agency. The study concluded that between 2002 and 2012, an increase in alcohol use, high-risk drinking, and alcohol use disorder (AUD) occurred in the total US population and across almost all socio-demographic subgroups,

especially women, older adults, racial/ethnic minorities, and the socio-economically disadvantaged. Alcohol use, high-risk drinking and AUD rose 11.2 per cent, 29.9 per cent and 49.4 per cent respectively. Rise Americans drinking alcohol: Study The study called for a broader effort to address the individual, biological, environmental and societal factors that influence the problem of alcohol use and abuse which could have economic costs amounting to about \$250 billion. Rise Americans drinking alcohol: Study "These increases constitute a public health crisis that may have been overshadowed by increases in much less prevalent substance use, such as marijuana, opiates, and heroin," the study warned.

Lip shades for truly stylish look in monsoon season



(News Agencies) Different Lip shades are more in trend instead of red or pink lip shades during the monsoon season. It lets you look even more stylish. Monsoon season is a perfect time to play with shades. Girls can try Metallic, Nude Glass and Berry Shade for looking more awesome. Metallic shades and deep red or maroon lipstick shades are on trend in this season. Gray or tops shades can also be tried by woman for looking more stylish. ou can also enhance your personality with golden highlights. Gold, Top Metallic, Nude Glass and Berry Shades can also make you stylish. Glitter lips also give you trendy look.

We bet you don't know Expiry date of these things!

(News Agencies) Expiry date, yes, In Our general life we talk about expiry date, do you know that there are some things in our house which too have expiry date but we never care about that. Even we are so used to them that we can't imagine our daily routine without them. Here is a list of things we bet you didn't know had an expiry date. Everybody have fond of towels, but you know we need to part with them after 1-3 years because wet towels are the easy targets for bacterial growth which cannot be cleaned even by regular washing. Next household thing is slippers, yes they too have expiry date. We should change them after every six months. Slippers need to be washed properly because if they are not cleaned properly there is a chance of spreading fungal infection. The expiry date for bath sponge is no more than two weeks. They easily start to breed fungus and mold within this period of time. Though for sanitizing synthetic and natural poufs, you can boil them in hot water. Running shoes, a very important for one's fitness regime. Do you know After completing few hundreds of miles, your running shoes start losing their cushioning and

stress your joints. If your running shoes have completed an year it is time to part with them and get new ones. Apart from losing their supportive fluffiness, pillows also become home for dust mites. Change your pillows every 2 to 3 years before they become thin and lumpy and trigger severe health illness. you must change your hairbrush every year. Hairbrushes can be home to several scalp and skin



infections. They could also be the biggest reason for your hairfall.

Chennai-based NGO is using 'Sarahah' to rise awareness

(News Agencies) Chennai-based NGO using Sarahah. Sarahah is the latest social media app. It is going popular day by day. In it you can comments about the profile picture of your friend. Chennai-based NGO that's using Sarahah's anonymity to drive awareness on child sexual abuse. Mr Sandhiyan Thilagavathy said "We are working on reaching out to every stakeholder for free awareness session." Chennai-based NGO is running Mission Save The Smiles. be very well used for learning and talking more about CSA. Sometime people feel hesitate to talk but through Sarahah they can post their view easily on it. It is an excellent app. Sarahah page was launched on August 15th, 2017 by Chennai-based NGO using Sarahah. While SaveTheSmiles was started as a movement to educate and empower children, parents and adults on prevention of child sexual abuse back on 19th of Nov, 2016. Sarahah page has received adequate response so far. People are asking question around the topic of CSA without any restrictions. Technology tools are playing an important role to fulfill SaveTheSmiles's mission. It is creating online awareness around CSA.

Good news for Whatsapp users

(News Agencies) Whatsapp has started updating its new beta version. According to 'WABetaInfo', its new Android's Beta version 2.17.295 of WhatsApp has started updating. There is no new feature in this new beta upgraded but it has been given a preview of payment indigenous. Whatsapp P.2.P. Mobile Payments is working on an app linking feature. Whatsapp can bring its payment feature in the next 6 months. Recently, it was revealed that the talks about UPI-based payments to banks and NPCI with Whatsapp have been intensified. There are talking on some specific issues and



it is causing some delay in starting the service. Talk about UPI Support is moving forward in the right direction Some apps like Hike Messenger and Wechat are already supporting UPI-based payments. Whatsapp is slightly behind in this case. Whatsapp is the most popular app in India. That's why people are eagerly waiting for the payment facility in this app. To promote digital transactions in the country, the government has decided to implement The Bhim app and UPI app have been released on website. Good news Whatsapp users.

Using 'smiley' emojis in formal mails may create your bad impression: Study

(News Agencies) Using 'smiley' emojis formal mails. Beware! Using the smiley face emoji or similar emoticons informal e-mails may not create a positive impression, rather suggest incompetence, a study has said. The results demonstrated that in contrast to face-to-face smiles, which increase both competence and warmth, the smileys in an e-mail, had no effect on the perception of warmth and in fact had



a negative effect on the perception of competence. A researcher Dr Ella Glikson from Ben-Gurion University (GBU) of the Negev in Beersheba, Israel said that the findings provide first-time evidence that contrary to actual smiles, smileys do not increase perceptions of warmth, but actually decreases perceptions of competence as in formal business e-mails, a smiley is not a smile. e researchers from BGU, University of Haifa and Amsterdam University conducted a study on 549 participants from 29 different countries. The participants were asked to read a work-related e-mail from an unknown person and then evaluate both the competence and warmth of that person.

Justin Bieber drops new track 'Friends'



(News Agencies) Justin Bieber drops new track 'Friends'. Rejoice Beliebers, Justin Bieber is back and he wants to be your friend with his new single 'Friends'. On Thursday, the 23-year-old singer released the new dance single 'Friends' with producer BloodPop and songwriters Julia Michaels and Justin Tranter, the team behind his 2015 hit track 'Sorry'. The lyrics are about a breakup, "Girl, you wonderin' why I've been callin' / Like I've got ulterior motives / No, we didn't end this so good / But you know we had something so good," and "So I'm wondering, can we still be friends? / Can we still be friends? / Doesn't have to end / And if it ends, can we be friends?" The excited Canadian pop-sensation took to his Twitter account and posted a picture of a black-and-white illustration of two birds fighting over a worm, captioning, "#FRIENDS out now. <https://bieberbloodpop.lnk.to/Friends>". The track is the first solo single for Bieber since his 'Purpose' album track "Company" was released on its own in 2016.

Less pressure in doing multi-starrers: Parineeti

(News Agencies) Parineeti Chopra less pressure in doing multi-starrers. Parineeti Chopra enjoyed working in a multi-starrer like "Golmaal Again" as the actor felt she could go ahead and act without facing any performance anxiety. The 28-year-old actor, who will next be seen opposite actor Ajay Devgn in the fourth installment of the comedy franchise, said she could concentrate on doing her job as the responsibility of carrying the film was ably shouldered by the huge and supportive cast. "Sometimes you feel less pressure as you know there are so many stars in the film. It's not you who is carrying the weight of the film on your shoulders. You can just concentrate on what you have to do and have fun with it," Parineeti Chopra told the reporters here. "Golmaal 4" is the actor's first multi-starrer and she said working in a "massy entertainer" like Rohit Shetty's directorial was an education for her. "It is my first multi-starrer. I got to know you can be in the frame with six-seven characters. The number can also go up to 10-15 till the climax." "It was very different as I have mostly worked with one- two co-stars in one go. Also, a film like 'Golmaal' requires different acting and dialogue delivery. I learnt a lot." Parineeti said she felt like a crazy fan when she first saw the cast of the film together. "It was a fangirl moment for me when I saw this group together. When the first 'Golmaal' came out, I wasn't even planning to be an actor. Let alone thinking that one day I'll be a part of this franchise." "But it soon went away as the moment I joined, they treated me



Sunny Leone is so totally charmed by Kochi



(News Agencies) Sunny Leone totally charmed by Kochi. Sunny Leone is in Kerala for an inauguration event, and her experience in the state was marked by fans who had surrounded the venue and would not stop screaming her name. Her car was swarmed by a crowd of people too. The actress was visibly dumbfounded by the unprecedented display of appreciation. She even replied to a Keralite fan who commented that he had been waiting for her arrival since 8 am.. She captioned "No words...no words...I can't thank the people of Kochi. I was so overwhelmed by the love and support. Never ever will forget Gods own Country Kerala!! Thank you" The actress was in the city for the launch of a retail store in MG Road. This is the actress' second.

Priyanka Chopra Gets Trolled For 'Disrespecting' National Flag



(News Agencies) Priyanka Chopra Trolled Disrespecting National Flag. Priyanka Chopra is a troll-magnet and trolls being best at what they do always find a reason to pick on her. The comments are distasteful to another level. Just a few days ago, her picture with PM Modi was criticised and people targeted for wearing a dress. Once again, PC has unintentionally dropped herself in the middle of the troll-radar. And while we still can't fathom and decode people's problem with letting women choose what to wear, again it's PC's clothes that have made moral-police-rs and arm-chair activists angry. On 15th August, PC posted a boomerang on Instagram, where she is seen wearing a white top, denim jeans and a tricolor dupatta. And trolls like always, wanted to teach her that she should have opted for 'traditional wear' instead. "Please don't return to India again," Priyanka Chopra was told in the comments. "Don't you have a salwar-kameez for this occasion?" asked one follower. How about a sari, wrote another follower and it didn't stop. Many even went on to slut-shaming her. Yes, they are our people, who think it's cool and happening to troll women for choosing the outfit of their choice. Here are some of the comments and most of them will make you cringe.

like an equal co-star. I was a part of the gang. It became an equal relationship quickly." The actor said she could feed off this energy to deliver a better performance. "All of these people are mad - right from the director to the last crew member. The reason we are able to show all the fun onscreen is only because we have so much fun off-screen. I never thought I'll have so much fun on the set of a movie.



Jacqueline Fernandez, the rockstar of social media

(News Agencies) Jacqueline Fernandez rockstar of social media. Jacqueline Fernandez is going the distance to promote her upcoming film 'A Gentleman' with co-star Sidharth Malhotra which is slated to release on August 25. The actress' pole dancing videos were a rage on the internet and now there's another picture of her that is worth drooling over.

Jacqueline took to social media and shared a picture of herself posing in front of the mirror with the caption, "He said he liked my hair long so I cut it short #kavya #gentleman #25thaugust"

she is seen flaunting her sexy back in a back-less fuschia top and looks tantalizing in her hot pants. Her hair now short makes her look exuberant and luscious at the same time.

Aks(ay Kumar scores another win with 'Toilet: Ek Prem Katha'

Akshay Kumar's 'Toilet: Ek Prem Katha' made a massive Rs83.45 crore over the four-day Independence Day weekend, beating records of his own 'Jolly LLB 2' and 'Rustom'

(News Agencies) New Delhi: There is a reason why he's known as the most bankable star in Bollywood. Akshay Kumar has not let his fans or the trade down with the collections of his recent film Toilet: Ek Prem Katha, which made a massive Rs83.45 crore over the four-day Independence Day weekend. In fact, the satirical comedy also beat Kumar's recent releases like Jolly LLB 2, which made Rs77.71 crore by the end of its first week, and crime thriller Rustom, which collected Rs50.42 crore in its opening weekend last year.

The Shree Narayan Singh-directed film made Rs14.59 crore in its overseas collections by Monday.

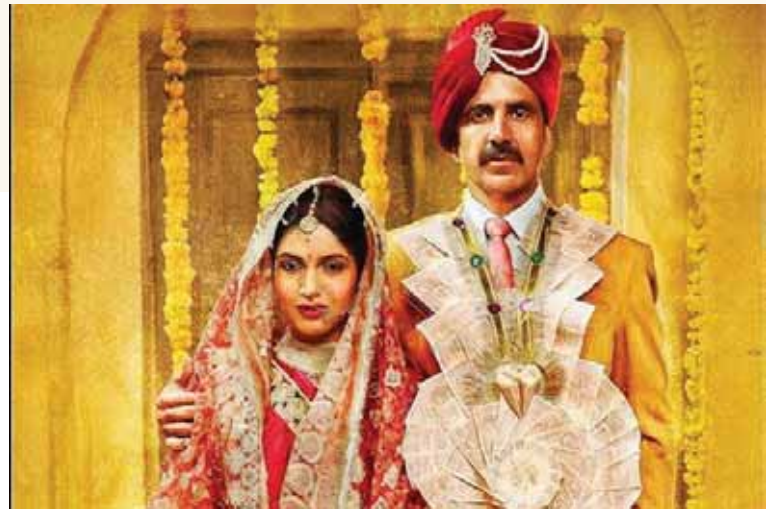
"After an above average start on Friday, the film grew by word-of-mouth praise Saturday

onwards and has done extraordinarily well among both class and mass audiences," said film distributor Brijesh Tandon who operates in the Delhi-Uttar Pradesh circuit, adding that a 40-50% occupancy on the first day averaged out to 70-80% by the second day bringing much cheer for distributors and exhibitors.

The Viacom18 Motion Pictures production had restricted its ticket prices to the mid-level range at about Rs250 even in the plush multiplexes. Riding on a marketing campaign inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Swachh Bharat concept, it makes for Kumar's sixth hit in a row after Subhash Kapoor's courtroom drama Jolly LLB 2, which released earlier this year (Rs117 crore), crime thriller Rustom (Rs127.49 crore) that

also won him a National Award, multi-starrer comedy Housefull 3 (Rs109.14 crore), historical drama Airlift (Rs128.1 crore) and action comedy Singh Is Bliing (Rs89.95 crore).

"He's growing with each film and this is likely to be one of his biggest-ever, surpassing even the likes of Rowdy Rathore (that had earned Rs133.25 crore in 2012)," said film trade and business expert Girish Johar, who predicts a Rs90 crore-plus first week for the movie. "The Rs100 crore figures he manages for nearly three to four films every year easily make him the most bankable actor for exhibitors and distributors." Johar added that even a Rs100 crore figure is impressive today, probably considering the underwhelming collections of two big-ticket festive



weekend releases lately—and Rs62.60 crore, Salman Khan's Eid war drama Tubelight and Shah Rukh Khan's Rakshabandhan romantic drama Jab Harry Met Sejal—both of which failed to meet expectations with lifetime earnings of Rs119.26 crore respectively. "Toilet Ek Prem Katha has been a huge relief for the trade after the dull business by the two big festive releases. It's a content-driven film that audiences have lapped up completely," Tandon said.

Amitabh Bachchan shares first pictures from 'KBC'



(News Agencies) Amitabh Bachchan shares first pictures from 'KBC 9' sets. Amitabh Bachchan has started shooting for the ninth season of "Kaun Banega Crorepati" and the megastar shared candid pictures from the sets. The 74-year-old veteran actor posted the photos on his official blog and Twitter page. "Back from work. It's late so, more tomorrow." "KBC" engaging well (sic) Bachchan wrote on the micro blogging site. The actor has been associated with the quiz game for 17 years. The registration for the ninth season started back in June. "KBC" first aired in 2000 and was hosted by Bachchan. It also marked his first appearance on Indian television. The actor went on to host the second season of the show which went on air in 2005. Season three was hosted by Shah Rukh Khan. Bachchan made a comeback in front of "computer ji" with the fourth season and has been serving as the anchor since then.

After petition to Smriti, 'Pehredaar Piya Ki' moved to 10 pm slot

(News Agencies) After petition to Smriti Irani, Pehredaar Piya Ki moved to 10 pm slot. The Broadcasting Content Complaints Council (BCCC) has directed Sony channel to move the controversial show 'Pehredaar Piya Ki' to the 10 pm slot and run it with a scroll saying that it does not promote child marriage, an official said. Pehredaar Piya Ki began airing last month and chronicles the story of a nine-year-old boy, Ratan (Afaan Khan), and his marriage to 18-year-old Diya (Tejasswi Prakash).

In its meeting held, the Council ordered the channel to shift the show to 10 pm, the restrictive hour on the small screen, from its current slot of 8.30 pm. A scroll has to run saying that the show does not promote child marriage and is a work of fiction, said an official from the body.

This meeting was chaired by BCCC's new chief, Justice (retd) Vikramajit Sen. Though elders are awake at 10 pm, BCCC wants to ensure that minors are not able to see the show, Sen said.

He added that they ordered a scroll to be run since they did not want any misinterpretation that the show advocates child marriage. The channel



remained unavailable for comment on the decision. Pehredaar Piya Ki has been slammed on social media for its "regressive" content with viewers accusing it of promoting child marriage. The TV ombudsman received close to 140 complaints last month from viewers demanding action against the show for promoting child marriage, an official said. A petition

was also started online asking the Information and Broadcasting Ministry to ban the show. The ministry is learned to have forwarded a complaint regarding the serial to BCCC. More than one lakh people had signed a petition on change.org urging Information and Broadcasting Minister Smriti Irani to ban the show. Creators of the soap, however, deny that it is regressive. "We have not received anything yet. As and when we receive it (instructions from the ministry), we will reply to it. We will explain our point

of view," the show's producer, Sumeet Mittal, was quoted as saying. According to IBF guidelines, BCCC is duty-bound to inform the ministry if channels don't adhere to its decisions. The ministry will then decide on the future course of action, an official explained. The BCCC, he added, was hoping that Sony would abide by its directive within a week.



Fardeen Khan shares adorable first pic of his son Azarius Khan

(News Agencies) Bollywood actor Fardeen Khan and wife Natasha Madhvani welcomed their second child on August 11. The delighted father took to Twitter and shared the news with his fans. Today, the actor took to the micro-

blogging site again to share the first look of his son. He captioned the snap, "Thank you for the congratulatory messages and wishes. Our best to all of you as well. Diani, Natasha & FK." In the photo, Fardeen who is dressed in

a black sweatshirt with his hair tied in a ponytail is seen holding Azarius in his arms and staring at him lovingly. Fardeen and Natasha got married in 2005 and already have a daughter who they named as Diani Isabella Khan.

The costly failure of the South Asian judiciary

Problems of institutional design mean that it has failed to function as an anchor of stability in most countries in the

(News Agencies) It is widely recognized that judicial independence is an important prerequisite in the making of a successful democracy. India is rather fortunate on this count. Beyond the brief period of Emergency (1975-77), the independence of the judiciary has largely not been under suspicion. This is a great, even if often understated, achievement of India's journey as a nation state in the last 70 years. But the report cards of the neighbouring countries in South Asia don't look as good. The recent developments in three of them are of particular concern. In Pakistan, the Supreme Court recently disqualified Nawaz Sharif from holding any public office, leading to his resignation from the post of prime minister. This has meant that no Pakistani prime minister has yet been able to complete a full



tenure in office. The conduct of the judges, the composition of the investigation team and the most trivial of all charges that was found to implicate Sharif confirmed that his disqualification was not the judiciary's decision alone. At some level, the Pakistani army was involved. This instance is an addition to the unfortunate

precedent in 2012 when then prime minister Yousaf Raza Gilani was disqualified by the Supreme Court on charges of contempt of court. In this way, the Pakistan army may have found a compliant judiciary as the new tool to cut democratically elected prime ministers down to size.

(Contd on page 22)

The Night the Oxygen Ran Out in an Indian Hospital



(News Agencies) GORAKHPUR, India — It was around 6 a.m. last Friday, said Mohamed Jahid — the father of a very sick little girl being treated at a government hospital — when the oxygen stopped. The situation was desperate, but the parents of children in the intensive care unit did not panic, because they had no idea what was going on.

Most were villagers like Mr. Jahid, who said they all thought it was normal procedure when the nurses unhooked the ventilators that had been helping keep their

children alive, handed out small plastic hand-operated resuscitators and quickly showed the parents how to use them. With his daughter gasping for air, Mr. Jahid got right to work. "I pumped and pumped," he said. He looked around the ward. All the parents were pumping and pumping. Unbeknown to them, the hospital's supplies of oxygen had been steadily dwindling, after the supplier cut off shipments of

(Contd on page 23)

India and China hold marathon border meet, discuss peace after Ladakh scuffle

The Ladakh incident comes at a time when the Asian giants are locked in a row in the remote Doklam plateau, which borders Sikkim in India's northeast and is claimed by both Beijing and Bhutan, since June 16.

(News Agencies) A nasty scuffle by Indian and Chinese troops in the Ladakh sector and ways to maintain "peace and tranquility" in the sensitive region were discussed at a marathon meeting between military officers of the two neighbours on Wednesday. More details weren't immediately known as the army and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police officers refused comments. The meeting began in the afternoon and continued till late into the evening. It was held a day after Chinese troops hurled stones at Indian border troopers, forcing them to retaliate. Blows were also exchanged, leading to injuries on both sides.

The clash near the Pangong Lake, which divides Indian and Chinese territory, was triggered by an incursion bid by Chinese troops that was foiled, sources said.

The incident happened at a time when the two neighbours are locked in a standoff thousands of miles away in the

disputed Doklam plateau close to Sikkim. Government sources said a "pre-scheduled border personnel meeting" was held in Ladakh's Chushul area, adding that the Pangong incident was on the agenda. The two sides discussed strengthening of existing mechanisms for maintaining border peace and tranquility, the sources said.

Defence minister Arun Jaitley too refused comments. "This is



not a subject on which the government normally makes a comment." A Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson in Beijing said she was not aware of any scuffle along the Ladakh border. Two groups of Chinese soldiers reportedly crossed the Line of Actual Control, the de-facto boundary between the two countries, around Pangong. Indian border troopers asked them to return.

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Residents 'Trapped' As Bengaluru Lakes Froth Like Never Before: 10 Points

As Bengaluru's Varthur, Bellandur lakes froth, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah says state government is "taking all necessary actions".

BENGALURU: After the city's heaviest August rain in a century, two giant lakes in Bengaluru are spewing so much toxic foam that residents who live near them have reportedly complained that they are having to stay indoors. On Wednesday, the froth, a stinking cocktail of chemicals and untreated sewage dumped in the lakes, rose to over 10 feet in the Varthur Lake, spilling over a tall fence erected to keep the

foam away from motorists on the city's Whitefield road. A day before, the 1000-acre Bellandur Lake had hurled froth at motorists. Here is your 10-point cheat-sheet to the Bengaluru lake mess: 1. Foul foam spilled on to the road from the 440-acre Varthur lake, rising. "We are afraid of stepping out, more so with children. What if they fall ill?" a man who lives in the area told media.

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