











# RK Nagar bypoll contest becomes cynosure of all eyes

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

AIADMK (Puratchi Thalaivi Amma) RK Nagar bypoll candidate E Madhusudhanan appeals for vote at Kasimedu Fish Market for bypoll in RK Nagar Constituency in Chennai on Sunday PTI



Supporters of AIADMK (Puratchi Thalaivi Amma) holding party symbol (electric pole) during the inauguration of the election office of RK Nagar bypoll candidate E Madhusudhanan in Chennai on Sunday PTI

By-elections in Tamil Nadu do not generate much enthusiasm among the electorate as it is a foregone conclusion that the ruling party wins the bout without much hassle. But the April 12 by-election from RK Nagar Assembly constituency, necessitated by the demise of former Chief Minister J Jayalithaa, has become the cynosure of all eyes as the multi-cornered contest is generating a lot of sound and fury between the contestants.

The Election Commission of India shunting out the Chennai City Police Commissioner and the Returning Officer of RK Nagar speaks lot about the kind of heat and dust caused by the high-pitch electioneering.

The split in the ruling AIADMK has been formalised by the EC which froze the name and symbol (Two Leaves) of the party. The two factions headed by the jailed VK Sasikala and former Chief Minister O Panneerselvam have been given the names AIADMK (Amma) and the AIADMK (Puratchi Thalaivi Amma) respectively.

While Dinakaran (nephew of Sasikala) has been allotted the symbol of Hat, the Panneerselvam faction's candidate E Madhusudhanan has been allocated the symbol Electric Post.

This is the first election in Tamil Nadu after the exit of Jayalithaa and Karunanidhi from the political centre-stage.

The RK Nagar was seen as a fortress of the AIADMK. Jayalithaa, when she contested the by-poll in September 2015, won by a huge margin of more than 1,50,000 votes.

But in the by-poll scheduled for April 12, there are two contestants from the AIADMK fighting for the legacy of Jayalithaa while the DMK has

fielded a local guy who is quite popular with the electorate.

Though Jayalithaa's niece Deepa Patrick Madhavan is contesting as the representative of MAD Party, she is not expected to make any impact in the final outcome. The fight is between the three candidates representing the AIADMK and the DMK.

The BJP has fielded Ganga Amaran, younger brother of music maestro Ilayaraja. But the BJP has not made any impact in the past elections from the constituency and it will definitely end up as an also ran. The Congress is piggy riding on the shoulders of the DMK, with which it has a strong electoral alliance. The Congress is yet to

recover from the shock defeat it faced in the 1967 Assembly election. Since then the Congress survived in Tamil Nadu only because of the life support system offered either by the AIADMK or the DMK.

The BJP was never a force to reckon with in Tamil Nadu. It continues to be like that even after the exit of Jayalithaa

and Karunanidhi from the State's political landscape. "There are no leaders of national stature in Tamil Nadu BNP except Subramanian Swamy. What the central leadership should do is to find out the possibility of having an electoral alliance with the AIADMK and make the party take strong roots in the State," said a senior

RSS leader. The leader, on condition of anonymity pointed out that there was a firm belief among the electorate that the AIADMK and the BJP were natural allies. "Both Panneerselvam and Palaniswamy, though belonging to the opposite factions of the AIADMK, have not said anything inimical to the BJP till date," he pointed out.

## Gaikwad: Not hiding, will take legal action against Air India

PTI ■ OSMANABAD (MAHARASHTRA)

Shiv Sena MP Ravindra Gaikwad, who allegedly assaulted a senior Air India official, on Sunday claimed that he was asked by a top party leader not to speak with the media over the issue. Threatening legal action against the national carrier, the Parliamentarian said he has not gone into hiding and will be present in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday.



**Air India employees abused me. I will take legal action against AI**

"A senior Sena leader ordered me not to speak with media till Wednesday (March 29) and so I am not coming before the media. I will come to Omega on Tuesday and celebrate Marathi new year 'Gudi Padwa' with my family and Shiv Sainiks. I will then attend Lok Sabha session (in New Delhi) on Wednesday," Gaikwad said over phone.

The 57-year-old MP, who represents Osmanabad, however did not disclose his present location. "I am not hiding and will speak to all after Wednesday," he added.

Gaikwad had on Thursday abused and assaulted a 60-year-old duty manager of the national carrier with slippers over not being able to fly business class despite having boarded an all-economy Pune-New Delhi flight.

Following the incident, he was barred from flying by major domestic airlines. "Air India employees abused me. I will take legal action against Air India," Gaikwad said.

He demanded that an inquiry should be initiated into the video (about the incident), which has gone viral.

Meanwhile, local Sena workers on Sunday burnt an effigy of Air India employees at Turori village in Gaikwad's support.

## 'India has best electoral but less a liberal democracy'

PNS ■ PATNA

India has done much better as an electoral democracy but substantially less as a liberal democracy; freedom of expression and religious practice though not absent in the country, they're not actually robustly anchored, said Ashutosh Varshney, a professor at Brown University, Providence (USA), here on Sunday while delivering lecture at the international conference organised by Asian Development Research Institute (ADRI).

He said 16 national and 362 State elections have been held since 1952 apart from three million members for local bodies have been elected since 1992, power has changed in Delhi several times and for many more times in the States, the poor and less educated people have voted as much as, if not more, than their more affluent co-citizens defying democratic theory.

Election finance, Varshney said, is the single biggest weakness of India's election process

**Election finance is the single biggest weakness of India's election process but it is clear that while business houses finance elections, often illegally, they are unable to determine results. For example: AAP in Delhi in 2013 and 2015, SP in UP in 2012 and the BSP in 2007, where poor political parties won elections**

but it is clear that while business houses finance elections, often illegally, they are unable to determine results. Citing the example of AAP in Delhi in 2013 and 2015, the Samajwadi Party in UP in 2012 and the Bahujan Samaj Party in 2007, he said poor political parties could and had won elections.

The so-called retrenchment of liberal values which is being attributed to the rise of Narendra Modi, Varshney said it was not something unprecedented and that checked on liberal values occurred under other governments also. He, however, added that the Uttar Pradesh

results could prove to be very significant in this context. He said for the first time the head of a religious order has also become the head of the State.

"The fact that the BJP could win despite not having the support of the single largest minority group was also of immense significance. If the BJP remains in power both at the Centre and UP for the next 10 years, it could have repercussions for liberal values. He said it was for the courts to ensure that the Constitution does not get a Hindu orientation under the present dispensation," said Varshney.



Officials and civilians take oath for a clean Ganga on the banks of the river in Allahabad on Sunday. A court in northern India had on Monday given the status of living entities to the Ganga and the Yamuna river to save them from further harm caused by widespread pollution PTI

## Pub city Bengaluru brings native organic Ragi Beer

KESTUR VASUKI ■ BENGALURU

DESI TADKA!

Cosmopolitan IT city Bengaluru, also called the Pub City, is bringing a new organic beer called Ragi Beer which is a new fad that is taking the binge to a new height. Bengaluru which has many microbreweries to boost brimming beer culture are now brewing native beer variety to attract new crop of tipplers or beer guzzlers to taste these new ale.

These microbreweries, the pitshop for young and old in Bengaluru have variety of fresh beer using many grains and fruits which include Basmati rice, wheat, mango jack fruit beer. Fresh, smooth and not too bitter.

This range of native beer is creating a new crop of tipplers who relish it on their way to a high. Bengaluru being one of the highest beer guzzlers in the country, microbreweries in the city are experimenting variety of local and native fruits and grains to brew beer as their favourite drink.

The new fad in the growing pub culture is the organic Ragi Beer which is taking tipplers to a new height but without adding to their tummy which beer guzzler fear of. 'Cheers to Ragi Beer' is the new mantra the tipplers are saying.

Many curious takers are opting for the freshly brewed drink from Ragi as breweries are experimenting with several locally grown fruits, spices and veggies. The local twist in brewing Ragi beer is a new taste to the beer connoisseurs.

Ragi or finger millet is an annual herbaceous plant widely grown as a cereal crop in

- Many curious takers are opting for the freshly brewed drink from Ragi as breweries are experimenting with several locally grown fruits, spices and veggies
- When JD(S) leader HD Devegowda was the Prime Minister the Ragi ball was introduced in some of the hotels in Delhi
- As Bengaluru breweries are experimenting with Ragi and other millets it has been there in many African countries as also in parts of Nepal and Bhutan
- The central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI) in Mysuru experimented Ragi Beer few decades ago. However this is for the first time it has been brewed for consumption commercially

Karnataka. Ragi is known for its low glycemic index with high micronutrient contents. Mixing with jiggery, Ragi Beer is a new favorite flavor for the tipplers.

Ragi a popular millet in South Karnataka, now taken a metamorphosis as Ragi Beer to cheer up the beer connoisseurs. In fact when JDS leader HD Devegowda was the Prime Minister the Ragi ball was introduced in some of the hotels in Delhi.

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Karnataka started licencing microbreweries in 2010, and today beer is one of the fastest-growing consumer categories in the city, earning major share of revenue.

According to Rohit

Jairam Parwani of The Biere Club many beer connoisseurs are taking to this new brew and becoming popular.

A group of guzzlers from a software company identify this brew as local and their own. Another professional who is a beerolic finds this a way too good to other beer and familiar to him.



## Mehbooba: People should allow the Govt to work

PTI ■ SRINAGAR

Jammu & Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti on Saturday said peace was prerequisite for holistic and equitable development of the State and people should allow the Government to work and find solutions to the problems

"The Government needs time to execute its agenda of development and empowerment. People have to give peace a chance and allow the Government to function efficiently so that it can find solution to every problems J&K faces," she said during election meetings in Budgam district of Srinagar Lok Sabha constituency, which is going to by-polls on April 9.

The Chief Minister said the only impediment towards ensuring growth and empowerment was "lack of peace". "It is heartening to see that the people were asking for our report card as they believe that PDP is their own party and it will fulfil their expectations. This feeling makes us work harder on the ground. We are not shying away from the answers and we assure everyone that we stand by our political, economic and developmental agenda," she said.

Mehbooba said the PDP forged an alliance with the BJP for the benefit of people of all the regions of the State unlike the NC-Congress coalition, which is characterised by just lust for power.

## 12 Indian fishermen held by Lankan Navy

PTI ■ RAMESWARAM

Twelve fishermen from Tamil Nadu have been arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy on the charge of fishing



in the territorial waters of the island nation.

The fishermen, who were out on sea from Jegadapattinam in Pudukottai district were arrested near Neduntheevu late last night, a Fisheries official said on Sunday. The fishermen along with their two mechanised boats had been taken to Kankesanthurai Port in northern Sri Lanka, Assistant Director of Fisheries Alexander said.

Besides, around 2,000 fishermen from Rameswaram who were fishing near Neduntheevu in 500 boats were chased away by the Lankan Naval personnel

and they returned to the shores here last night, officials here said.

The latest incident of arrest is the fifth such detention of Indian fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy this month. While Sri Lanka released 77 fishermen on March 14, as many as 38 fishermen, including those arrested on Sunday, are in the custody of the neighbouring nation.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K Palaniswami had on March 23 written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking his intervention to ensure the release of the fishermen and 131 boats

in the custody of Sri Lanka.

Voicing concern over the recurring detentions of fishermen, he had appealed to the Prime Minister to direct the External Affairs Ministry to take up matter with Sri Lankan authorities in a "concrete and decisive manner".

Fishermen in the State have also staged protests over the recent killing of a colleague allegedly by Sri Lankan Naval personnel and demanded steps to resolve the issue of fishing rights in the Palk Straits and ensure that their livelihood was protected.

OUTCRY AGAINST CM YOGI FOR CRACKDOWN ON ILLEGAL SLAUGHTERHOUSES

# Real culprit is previous Govt

The NGT in 2015, 2016 had asked Akhilesh Yadav to close down illegal abattoirs and enforce environmental norms for the sake of public health, hygiene and protecting the groundwater and surface water from pollution. Despite repeated orders, he ignored them

**PNS ■ LUCKNOW**

Though there is nationwide outcry against the Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath over the crackdown against the illegal slaughterhouses that it is aimed at targeting the minority community, the real culprit is the previous Akhilesh Yadav which ignored repeated orders of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) in 2015, 2016 to close down the illegal abattoirs and enforce the environmental norms for the sake of public health, hygiene and protecting the groundwater and surface water from pollution. UP has over 1,000 illegal slaughterhouses.

The misplaced over zeal of the previous Samajwadi Party Government to protect its minority vote bank by not complying with the NGT directives has not only threatened the livelihood of those engaged in meat business and non vegetarian food eateries but also the

leather industry in the State. The size of the leather industry in UP is ₹20,000 crore of which ₹10,000 is exported. The leather industry employs over 5 lakh people and the share of UP in India's leather trade is close to 35 per cent. The NGT, on Wednesday March 22, issued notices to Aligarh District Magistrate and UP Pollution control board and five other agencies for turning a blind eye to a slaughterhouse discharging filth in a drain situated beside a Government school in Aligarh. A Delhi based environment activist had filed a complaint before the NGT in October last year that a slaughterhouse has been running next to a Government school in Udalilyaspur in Aligarh. It was brought to the NGT's notice that entire area surrounding the slaughterhouse is in very bad shape. Most students who study in the nearby school are below the



age of 10 and are forced to drink from a hand pump installed inside the campus. The drain is filthy due to discharge of blood and animal waste and a foul smell emanates from the factory and the slaughterhouse produces around 170 metric tonne meat per day. The tribunal has fixed April 20 as the next date of hearing.

In it's UP election manifesto 'Sankalp Patra' the BJP had promised it would shut down illegal and mechanised abattoirs in the State if it came to power. With Yogi Adityanath as the Chief Minister with the support of a three-fourths majority

The illegal abattoirs have been closed down in Allahabad, Varanasi, Saharanpur, Amroha, and Moradabad and in east UP districts. But this has fuelled anxiety in the leather industry. There are a large number of illegal slaughter houses and those operated manually in the state, especially in the western UP districts. Although there are no comprehensive figures on this, they provide employment to almost 50,000 people. During the last 14 years of uninterrupted rule of the SP and BSP, cattle and meat mafia flourished in the State as both the political parties were involved in a no holds barred competition for the enblock support of the Muslim community. The Governments headed by both the parties not only ignored the illegal trade they infected and abetted it as the illegal slaughter houses as provided huge financial support to both the political parties. During the SP regime dozens of incidents occurred across the State where the cattle mafia involved in illegal transport of cattle's crushed the policemen under the wheels of the truck and several constables and a sub-inspector was also crushed to death by truck on Bareilly-Badaun road in 2015.

# CM: Don't opt for contractual work instead work for UP's development

**PNS ■ LUCKNOW**

Asking party workers not to opt for contractual work in Government sector Chief Minister Adityanath Yogi said that UP's face will change in next two months as people have reposed faith on us and it is workers' responsibility to ensure BJP fulfills all poll promises. "I appeal to the party workers and family members of law makers not to seek contract of Government department. Contractual work has always brought bad name to the party. Instead, monitor the development work. Ensure Government schemes are implemented effectively," Yogi said while addressing BJP workers in Gorakhpur on Sunday.

It was the second day of his visit when Chief Minister had a series of interaction with the party workers, social activists and citizens of Gorakhpur. This was Yogi's maiden visit to Gorakhpur, from where he is also Member of Parliament, after taking over as CM. Chief Minister asked workers to inform him about any problem people are facing not only in Gorakhpur but also in other parts of the State. "I will take prompt action if any mis-



deed is brought to my notice," he said. He talked at length about the historic mandate BJP has got in this election. He time and again said that this mandate means responsibility. "I am the Chief Minister and someone is the Minister. It does not mean that we should bask in glory. The posts have given us responsibility. I have already made it clear that those people who are willing to work for 18-20 hours can come and work with us. If they do not have that capacity they are free to part," he said. "Our every action is accountable. Therefore, in next two years we will have to work tirelessly, irrespective of the fact that there is sunshine, rain or biting cold. Efforts should be made to ensure that the welfare schemes of the Centre percolate to the last strata of the society, and needy people are able to avail its benefits," he said reminding people that Lok Sabha elections will be held in 2019. CM said that the priority of his Government is to bring law and order back to rails. The criminals should either mend their ways or leave UP. I have given strict warning to police officials that I will not tolerate non-sense," he said.

# Farmer's suicide bid at Gorakhpur temple foxes cops

**Lucknow:** A bid to immolate self by a Balia native farmer on the premises of Goraknath temple when Mahant (head priest) of temple and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister was inside the temple threw the Gorakhpur police in tizzy. The news soon went viral on social media exposing chinks in security cordon of the CM.

As per reports, thousands of people from Gorakhpur and neighbouring districts thronged to the temple when they heard the news of arrival of CM Adityanath Yogi to plea their cases.

Among the crowd of petitioners, one Raj Kumar Bharti of Rajput Mewari ward number 14 of Balia was also present as he had to seek help from the CM for

waiver off his loan. Sources said that during the Janta Darbar programme in temple premises, Raj Kumar Bharti doused self with Kerosene after he failed to get audience from CM. But before he could light fire, alert cops overpowered him and foiled his immolation bid. "The police recovered a letter from Bharti's pocket in which he had stated his hardship and loan on him. He also said that he was under huge debt due to his prolonged illness and failed to get help from the district administration," the sources said. SSP Gorakhpur Ram Lal Verma said Ram Lal Bharti took the extreme step due to personal problem. **PNS**

# Yogi: Those who patronise goons will either leave UP or land in jail

**PTI ■ GORAKHPUR**

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday urged the people help him break the negative image of the State and hinted at strong measures to ensure law and order. "For the past few years Uttar Pradesh has been defined as a State from whose boundaries begins darkness, from where the pot-holed roads begin and the place from where the women start to feel insecure. I was to break this mindset," he said, and added that he wants to make UP a place, where women feel safe and secure. Adityanath said, "I would like to assure that in the next two months, people would come to know how a State Government should work. I have got an opportunity to clean-up the mess (kachda saaf karne kaa maukaa milaa hai), and I will do it." The UP CM gave out a stern message to the anti-social elements and



criminals in the State. "There is no place for those who give patronage to the goonda elements, mafia, criminal and other rogue elements. They have the option of leaving UP or else they would land in places designated for them (jails)," he said, while hinting at massive revamping of law and order. Underscoring the need for improved work culture, the UP CM also said people who are prepared to work for 18-20 hours a day are "most welcome" to join him, the rest are free to leave. "Time has come that we should work 18-20 hours a day. There no time for any entertainment (mauj masti)," he said. The UP CM also advised his Ministers that they should

**People who are prepared to work for 18-20 hours a day are most welcome to join me and the rest are free to leave, he said**

# Akhilesh's Lion safari project under scanner

**PNS ■ LUCKNOW**

Akhilesh Yadav's pet Lion Safari project in Etawah come under scanner as Forest, environment and Zoo Minister Dara Singh Chauhan said that he is getting feedback from the officials regarding this project. "I have come to know about splurge of Government money in setting up lion safari in Etawah. I have asked a report from officials. If something is found amiss this Government will order a probe into this project," Chauhan told *The Pioneer*.

Lion Safari in Etawah was a dream project of former Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav. Government where lions from Gir forest were brought for rehabilitation. But after the death of a couple of lions and their cubs questions were raised about efficacy of the project. The then Chief Minister had also summoned Vet experts from London to cure ailing lions but even that did not save the big cat. The Minister said that he has heard about huge investment in that project but there is

# Youth held, another on run for snatching weapon in Kashmir

**MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU**

Weapon snatching by militant cadre and unruly mobs in Kashmir valley is a fad. Only last year Kashmir valley had witnessed 16 incidents of weapon snatching/looting between January 1 and December 31, 2016.

But on late Saturday night the winter capital of the State, Jammu, too witnessed a similar weapon snatching incident involving two youth from Kashmir valley.

Following this weapon snatching incident a high alert was sounded in and around Jammu and all security check points and exit routes were alerted to track down the youth who managed to run away with the service weapon of J&K police cop.

The entire security grid was alerted as the incident has come to light ahead of the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Jammu on April 2 to inaugurate country's longest road tunnel between Chenani and Nashri.

This is for the first time, youth hailing from South Kashmir district of Shopian, snatched an AK-47 rifle from a police constable near Tawi bridge in Jammu.

Police officers investigating the case claimed the youth had past history of participating in incidents of stone pelting. "We are verifying the records to ascertain whether they had any association with any militant outfit or over ground workers" a senior

police officer told *The Pioneer*. Reportedly, the youth were roaming in the area for last few days and were probably tasked with the job of weapon snatching.

Swift response by the police teams, however, led to the arrest of one youth along with a motorbike.

According to preliminary reports the youth, riding a motorbike, first intercepted the cop and threw chilly powder in his eyes before hitting him with a baseball bat. The police constable has been identified as 50-year-old Mohammad Hanief. He was serving as Personal Security Officer (PSO) with Anjuman Minhaj-e-Rasool chairman Maulana Dehlavi. He was returning to District police lines after dropping Dehlavi at the state guest house.

The arrested youth has been identified as Masrool Ahmad son of Abdul Rashid R/o Ratnipora, Shopian. Masrool has disclosed identity of his associate as Asif son of Mohammad Ali Shah R/o Banpora, Shopian. He was absconding with AK-47 rifle of the police constable.

Day long investigations by the police has revealed that the youth had fixed fake number plate on their motorbike. They are believed to have travelled from Shopian on the same motorbike. Police is working out the details to track down their sympathisers in Jammu, and who had organised their stay in Jammu.

# PIL on how assets of TMC leaders grew manifold

**SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA**

The powers that have gone into a tizzy after the Calcutta High Court's order to relevant parties to file affidavits on a public interest litigation claiming multi-fold increase in the assets of a bevy of Bengal Ministers. The PIL was filed by advocates Anindyasundar Das and Biplob Chowdhury. Assets of at least 23 State Ministers have grown disproportionately as per the returns filed by these leaders with the Election Commission, the peti-

tioners say. For instance, the combined asset of Kolkata Mayor Sovan Chatterjee and his wife has gone up by about 293 percent: from ₹62.37 lakh in 2011 to ₹1.83 crore — between 2011 and 2016. Incidentally the Mayor who also doubles up as the State Fire Minister was shown in the Narada video tapes accepting cash from a journalist posing as a prospective investor. Similarly the assets (immovable property) of Firhad (alias) Bobby Hakim the State Urban Development Minister and a key member in Mamata Banerjee's

Cabinet has up from ₹1.48 crore in 2011 to ₹2.52 crore in 2016. The net worth of her wife's immovable property has jumped more than three times. Hakim is also seen the Narada video tapes apparently telling the sting journalist that ₹5 lakh is a small amount just enough only for his followers (Bacchhas). The resources (read assets) of State Water Resources Minister Soumen Mahapatra have increased to ₹1.97 crore whereas in 2011 it was just about ₹69.50 lakh. Similarly the assets of Paschimanchal Development



A man holds tridents and shouts slogans as he attends a Hindu convention organised by the Vishva Hindu Parishad in Ahmedabad **PTI**

# Swamy: Rajiv Gandhi only good human being in Nehru-Gandhi family

**PTI ■ PATNA**

Senior BJP leader Subramanian Swamy on Sunday praised former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi as the only good human being in the (Nehru-Gandhi) family and said he had contributed to awakening of the Hindus. "Rajiv (Gandhi) was the only good human being in the (Nehru-Gandhi) family and had contributed to awakening of the Hindus," he told reporters here.

Swamy, a Rajya Sabha MP, recalled that the former Prime Minister had allowed telecast of popular mythological serial Ramayana on Doordarshan and later got the locks of Ram temple at Ayodhya opened for prayers. "Rajiv (Gandhi) allowed telecast of the mythological soap Ramayana on Doordarshan, the national tele-



BJP MP Subramanian Swamy with former Sangh ideologue KN Govindacharya during inauguration of a lecture on 'Ram Mandir and Hindu Punarjagran' at Nrltya Kala Mandir in Patna on Sunday **PTI**





POINTCOUNTERPOINT

**This (a Shiv Sena MP's conduct on a flight) is in bad taste. If an elected person behaves like this, it is a setback to people's trust.**

—Union Minister  
**MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI**



**I have been defamed. I will file a case against the airline. They will have to come to court and apologise. I will not sit quiet.**

—Shiv Sena MP  
**RAVINDRA GAIKWAD**



# Defence is not a part-time job

In his 27-month stint, Parrikar set the reforms ball rolling on many fronts. While Arun Jaitley, holding additional charge of the Defence Ministry, can be expected to proceed along the course set by his predecessor, he will be hard-pressed for time to manage it well



SHYAM KHADKA

**FIRST COLUMN**

## Holistic approach to tackle nutrition

Because India faces a double-burden of malnutrition, (over-nutrition and under-nutrition), there is need to adopt a multi-sectoral nutritional approach

India has witnessed noteworthy improvement in health and nutrition in the last decade, especially among children. The recently released fourth round of National Family Health Survey (NFHS) 2015-16 data, compared to the third round of NFHS (2004-05) data shows that stunting (low height-for-age) levels have reduced by seven per cent (from 45 to 38); underweight (low weight-for-age) by five per cent (from 40 to 35) and wasting (low weight-for-height) by two per cent (from 23 to 21). These declines are encouraging but not substantial. More than a quarter of the children in the country continue to suffer from one or the other type of malnutrition.

Further, anaemia continues to affect 50 per cent of women, including pregnant women, and 60 per cent of children in the country. While anaemia prevalence has decreased in children by 20 per cent points, from 79 per cent to 59 per cent, the change is not so significant in women (three per cent decline) or in pregnant women (eight per cent decline). Anaemia is also on rise among men, currently at 22 per cent.

The problem of malnutrition and undernutrition on one hand, is compounded by the rising trend of obesity among Indians. Latest NFHS data show an upward increase in the levels of obesity among both men (seven per cent increase from 12 to 19) and women (six per cent increase from 15 to 21). Furthermore, around six per cent of women and eight per cent of men suffer from diabetes; seven per cent and 10 per cent of women and men suffer from hypertension respectively. This double burden of undernutrition and growing percentage of obesity, hypertension and diabetes puts a dent on the country's growing asset (healthy human resource).

Another indicator highlighting malnutrition in India, is its ranking in the Global Hunger Index (GHI). India ranks lower than other developing countries from the region on global indexes measuring hunger and malnutrition. It ranked 97 out of 118 countries (scoring 28.5 falling under serious category) in the GHI 2016. Though this score has improved from the earlier score of 36 in 2008, the nation is still one of the worst performers in the region. Out of a total of four components for calculating GHI, three are nutrition parameters (underweight population, wasting and stunting in children) indicating the highly unsatisfactory state of nutrition in the country. As per the Global Nutrition Report (2016), India ranks 114th out of 132 countries on under-five stunting and 120th out of 130 countries on under-five wasting and 170th out of 185 countries on prevalence of anaemia.

To address the problem of malnutrition and under-nutrition, the Indian Government has taken important steps, such as the release of fortification standards for five staples by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) to fight micronutrient malnutrition, release of food composition tables by the National Institute of Nutrition to increase focus on dietary diversity, and now, the release of nutrition data to address the issue of malnutrition more holistically.

The Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)-2 goal, which aims to "end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture", is a priority area for India, which can offer key solutions for hunger and poverty eradication and also tackle the issue of malnutrition and undernourishment in the country. To achieve the SDG target, a number of steps are being taken globally and in the country by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO). One of FAO's strategic objective is to help eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition globally. The FAO looks at nutrition from the perspective of food and agriculture-based approaches as the sustainable long-term solution to hunger and malnutrition. A pilot harnessing the power of modern day technology for improving the health and nutrition behaviours among tribal populations in the state of Odisha has just been initiated.

Because India is facing a double-burden of malnutrition: Over-nutrition and under-nutrition existing simultaneously, there is a pressing need for a multi-sectoral approach along with nutrition-sensitive and nutrition-specific interventions to address the problems holistically. For this, there is a need to reiterate the priorities which may include, spreading of knowledge and awareness regarding safe food, diversifying food baskets, putting women and children at the centre of any nutritional intervention and leverage on modern technologies to impart nutrition-linked messages and sustainable agricultural practices.

(The writer is FAO representative in India)



PK VASUDEVA

**The bureaucracy may try to claw back to regain the ground lost under Manohar Parrikar. He had rubbed many officials the wrong way by creating a procurement policy that was both transparent and pragmatic. He realised that since middlemen were indispensable to deal-making, their commissions should be above board**

The sudden departure of Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar to Goa as Chief Minister, has surprised many. Now, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) needs a full-time Minister to fill in the void left by Parrikar in the modernisation of our defence services.

In his 27-month stint at the MoD, Parrikar set the reforms ball rolling on many fronts. While Arun Jaitley, holding additional charge of the Defence Ministry, can be expected to proceed along the course set by his predecessor, he may find it hard to address the needs of a Ministry as crucial as defence while holding the other equally important portfolio of finance.

To get an idea of the magnitude of the tasks at hand, defence deals worth ₹50,000 crore are stuck for want of documentation on strategic partnerships. This entails spelling out the specialisations of Indian corporate players so that foreign partners can forge tie-ups without running from pillar to post for the requisite information. Negotiations on the \$12-billion single-engine jet fighter deal could lose momentum (100 of these aircraft are expected) as Jaitley may take some time to familiarise himself with the issues involved.

A major procurement initiative is called for, in view of the squadrons being phased out. The Indian Air Force has 34 squadrons out of the 42 authorised. Each squadron consists of 18 aircraft. Apart from this, 11 squadrons of MiG-21s are required to be phased out as these have already completed more than 20 years of service and have become obsolete. These are in common parlance known as flying coffins due to large accidents and pilots bailing out/casualties.

However, at the heart of the new agenda is the Make in India dispensation for defence, bolstered by significant foreign investment and know-how — a shift away from large-scale imports. In this regard, the Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) policy, released in March 2016, must be taken to its rightful conclusion.

Parrikar had set an ambitious target of \$200 billion defence exports by 2019, against a mere \$330 million at present. He also worked out a formula, although not to the satisfaction of all concerned, to the vexed one-rank-one-pension (OROP) issue, which had been hanging fire for a decade.

The Justice Reddy Committee report on OROP, which was submitted in November last year, has not



been made public. The most important proposal to create the post of chief of defence staff (CDS), based on the recommendation of a Group of Ministers in 2001 after Kargil battle, under NDA Government and high powered Naresh Chandra Committee's recommendations in 2012 under the UPA Government, needs to be taken forward at the earliest for better higher defence management and appointment of a single advisor to the Government on defence and national security matters.

The bureaucracy may try to claw back to regain the ground lost under Parrikar. He had rubbed many officials the wrong way by creating a procurement policy that was both transparent and pragmatic. He

realised that since middlemen were indispensable to deal-making, their commissions should be above board and their functions seen as an extension of the ministry's operations. He relaxed the blacklisting rule (barring companies that had been indicted earlier for paying bribes) by excluding subsidiaries of tainted companies from their ambit. In doing so, he overcame the deal-freeze regime of former Defence Minister AK Antony, without, however, compromising on transparency in the process.

Parrikar's successor should not disturb the institutional balance of power between the Armed Forces and the Government, which has been one of the strengths of our democracy. Concerns in this

regard have arisen from time to time. A Defence Minister, besides being informed, clean and committed, should not overlook this aspect.

Moreover, Jaitley gets additional charge of the Ministry of Defence at a time when his hands are only too full with the Budget Session of Parliament still on. Jaitley has been busy with two key Bills, Finance Bill and the Appropriation Bill, in the Houses, while he also has to make focused efforts to ensure that whatever negative impact demonetisation has had on economy, is negated fast. He has to build political consensus to get supporting legislation on Goods and Services Tax (GST) Bill passed in Parliament and have the new tax regime rolled out

regard have arisen from time to time. A Defence Minister, besides being informed, clean and committed, should not overlook this aspect.

within the July 2017 deadline. Besides this, Jaitley also has institutional work in the BJP as he remains one of the key political strategists in his party and his opinion, both political and legal, are crucial for the BJP in situations like in Goa, Manipur and the forthcoming elections in Gujarat, Karnataka and so on.

And, as far as the Ministry of Defence is concerned, terror attacks such as the ones in Uri and Pathankot are a reminder that the ministry needs the full-time attention of a Defence Minister. Moreover, the Modi Government has laid special emphasis on better defence preparedness. As such, the three services have to make large-scale acquisitions, which again require meticulous evaluation of global bids.

While for the better part of around three years that the Modi Government has been in power, Jaitley has held the charge of two to three ministries, the arguments only go to show that the Prime Minister must quickly find someone full-time for the key job.

Jaitley himself has held the ministry for a brief while before the appointment of Manohar Parrikar as Defence Minister in November 2014. He has also held other additional portfolios as and when the need has arisen: Jaitley was given charges of Information and Broadcasting Ministry, along with the Corporate Affairs Ministry, but now the I&B Ministry has a full-time Minister with M Venkaiah Naidu at the helm.

Before this, during Atal Bihari Vajpayee's regime, Jaswant Singh was briefly given additional charge of the Defence Ministry while he was the External Affairs Minister. In the wake of a *Tehelka* report and subsequent political outrage, George Fernandes had to resign in March 2001, and Singh was given additional charge. But by November, Fernandes returned.

A full-time Defence Minister would be required to implement wide-ranging reforms including modernisation, besides being alert to geopolitical threats and changing realities. Hence, Modi must find a worthwhile replacement to Parrikar and relinquish Jaitley of the additional charge.

The problem, however, lies in finding a good candidate for filling the vacancy. It is clear that there is a talent crunch in the existing bench strength of the BJP. That was precisely the reason why Parrikar was hand-picked by Modi, shifted out of Goa, and asked to take charge as the Defence Minister.

(The writer is a defence analyst and commentator)

# One GST, but many taxes still

The GST was aimed at having a uniform rate. Even now NCR has rates different from that in Haryana, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh. This will continue. The consumer may not get any relief. He may have to actually pay a higher price



SHIVAJI SARKAR

## think now

**The rise of the buffered identity has been accompanied by an interiorisation; that is, not only the Inner/Outer distinction, that between Mind and World as separate loci, which is central to the buffer itself; and not only the development of this Inner/Outer distinction in a whole range of epistemological theories of a mediational type from Descartes to Rorty, but also the growth of a rich vocabulary of interiority, an inner realm of thought and feeling to be explored. This frontier of self-exploration has grown to the point where we now conceive of ourselves as having inner depths.**

—Charles Taylor

The indirect taxes are likely to come down as preparation for Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime roll-out begins. The GST in reality will not be one tax but a combination of many taxes and cess.

The rates also will not be one. The GST Council has decided on a four-slab structure — five, 12, 18 and 28 per cent. Further, there will be an additional cess of 12 to 15 per cent on luxury and sin goods, including luxury cars! "The cap on cess on demerit goods on top of peak rate of GST has been kept at 15 per cent, but effectively it will be only 12 per cent," says Union Minister for Finance Arun Jaitley, who is also the Chairman of the GST Council.

The GST is said to bring uniformity in taxes across States. But the definition of demerit goods leaves a wide chasm. Sin tax is to be levied on

goods like tobacco and alcohol.

The current taxes like excise duties, service tax, custom duty etc will be merged under Central GST (CGST). Taxes like sales tax, entertainment tax, VAT and other State taxes will be included in State GST (SGST) and inter-State deals under the Integrated GST. A compensation draft law to enable the Centre to compensate the losses for the first five years is also on the anvil.

But it would not include the very basic of the lifeline — petroleum products. It is likely to leave a wide window for the States and the Centre.

In short the indirect taxes would be around 40 per cent and on petroleum type products, not covered by GST, taxes are likely to go up. For instance, Uttar Pradesh is planning to hike it by five per cent more as it plans to waive farms loans worth about ₹27,000 crore. It

may happen in other States as well, since the window for levying taxes come down.

Petroleum products may have higher levies in some States. It is likely to add to inflation when the crude prices are coming down.

The Union Government has decided to abolish 16 cesses that bring ₹65,000 crore revenue in its preparation for GST roll out. This includes Krishi Vikas and Swachh Bharat cesses.

It seems this would reduce the tax burden. In reality, it may not be so, as the new laws have enough provision to maintain the rates near the high current level to 'neutralise the losses to the States and the Centre'.

The GST is collected on value-added goods and services at each stage of sale or purchase in the supply chain. The GST paid on the procurement of goods and services can be set

off against that payable on the supply of goods or services. The manufacturer or wholesaler or retailer will pay the applicable GST rate but will claim back through tax credit mechanism.

It is a consumption-based tax targeting the 'destination' — the final consumer. So whatever the levies at whatever the stage, it would finally burden the common man. It is not easy to presently estimate the total impact on the citizen.

The multiplicity of taxes may add to the problem of traders and industry. Finally, the rates on individual goods may not be one. If goods are traded from one State to another, the provision of inter-State tax under GST can end up having different prices at different places.

Cigarettes, currently taxed at 53 per cent, would attract a cess rate of 15 per cent. But if cess rate of 15 per cent each is levied by the Centre and the

State and, say there is also one per cent IGST, the total taxes would be around 28 plus 60 plus one per cent — that is 89 per cent.

The basic principle is to have taxes at the current level. So, if the current rate of taxation on a product is higher than the GST rate, the cess will make up the difference.

At the moment, the Government levies a different rate of tax on items such as luxury cars, high-end watches apart from tobacco. The highest proposed tax slab is likely to be equal to the difference between the current tax incidence and the highest tax slab along with a cess.

This means that there will be a separate cess on each of these items. It is likely to complicate the GST tax structure. Even gold is likely to attract a tax of four per cent

If there are six different levels of cess, it means 10 differ-

ent rates of GST. The cess are supposed to be removed after five years — the period States are supposed to be compensated for their losses. But this country does not have a good record on removing cess. The lure of having more revenue also impacts decision-making.

One good aspect is that it allows the business to take credit on taxes, a new concept. It is aimed at reducing the burden. But all the same, it complicates book-keeping.

Then the taxation on cars and automobiles is likely to be more complicated at the State level. The GST was aimed at having a uniform rate. Even now NCR has rates different from that in Haryana, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh. This will continue. The consumer may not have any relief. He may have to pay a higher price for almost every good.

(The writer is a senior journalist)



**JSW is in a position to consolidate this industry. And in case, anywhere in the world, if steel industry has to remain consolidated, there cannot be too many players**  
**JSW STEEL CHAIRMAN SAJJAN JINDAL**

**BUZZ FROM CORPORATES**

**I think we just need to make sure that we are focused on growing the economy, getting the private sector's animal spirits back and that will create jobs**  
**BANKER UDAY KOTAK**



**GIC may be 1st PSU general insurer to launch IPO next fiscal**

**NEW DELHI:** General Insurance Corporation (GIC Re) is likely to be the first PSU insurer to tap the capital market as the Finance Ministry has started scouting for merchant bankers to manage its IPO.

Two months after the Union Cabinet gave a go ahead to the listing of five general insurance companies, the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) has set the ball rolling for listing of GIC Re.

The Government holds 100 per cent stake in GIC Re, which provides reinsurance support to 54 general and life insurance companies, both public and private, in the Indian market.

The authorised and paid-up share capital of the reinsurance company was ₹1,000 crore and ₹430 crore, respectively, as on March 31, 2016.

"GIC Re will be going for an initial public offer (IPO) of equity shares with face value of ₹5 each to the public in the domestic market," the DIPAM said while inviting merchant bankers to bid for managing the share sale.

The state-owned reinsur-



shall be decided by the Government or the company in consultation with selected bankers and legal advisors.

Besides underwriting the IPO, the merchant bankers would advise GIC Re and the government on the timing and the modalities of the IPO.

They would also undertake due-diligence activities and prepare the draft prospectus, among other things.

The bankers would also organise both domestic and international road shows and ensure best return from the IPO to the government and the company.

The Government has set a steep disinvestment target of ₹72,500 crore for the next fiscal, of which ₹11,000 crore is expected to come from listing of PSU general insurance companies.

DIPAM has come out with guidelines for mechanism and procedure for time-bound listing of CPSEs on stock exchanges under which the Government has mandated launch of initial public offer (IPO) within five-and-a-half months of a nod from the ministry concerned. **PTI**

**Kotak wants Govt to bring 'animal spirits' out of India Inc**

**MUMBAI:** Banker Uday Kotak has said the BJP's win in the recent state polls is positive for economic reforms and the government should now focus on re-activating "animal spirits" of the private sector to invest.

"I think we just need to make sure that we are focused on growing the economy, getting the private sector's animal spirits back and that will create jobs," Kotak told the news agency over the weekend.

Termining BJP's landslide victory in the crucial state of Uttar Pradesh as a positive development, Kotak said it is a "big signal" for stability and continuity in economic policies.

A two-thirds majority in the country's most populous state, that sends the maximum number of Parliamentarians (80 to the Lower House and 30 to the Upper House, where Opposition Congress is in majority), will help BJP gain upper hand after the 2018 elections to the Rajya Sabha. **PTI**

**CAG to audit fallout of demonetisation**

**NEW DELHI:** The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) plans to audit the impact of note ban and the effect it has had on the Government's tax revenues, said CAG Shashi Kant Sharma.

In an interview to the news agency, he said the auditor is gearing up to audit tax revenues under the new Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime and has started capacity building and reorienting its audit methodology and procedures.

Among the special audits, CAG has already completed audit of agricultural crop insurance scheme and flood control and flood forecasting and is now engaged in several important audits like Right to Education, National Rural Health Mission, defence pensions and Ganga Rejuvenation, he said. "These reports should be ready by the end of the current year."

Sharma asserted that CAG has audit jurisdiction over any body or authority which has any relation to Government revenues and expenditure and resistance by some like city development bodies, DISCOMs and metro corporations will wither away.

"We plan to audit certain issues related to fiscal impact of demonetisation, largely its impact on tax revenues," he said.

**CAG has audit jurisdiction over any body or authority which has any relation to Government revenues and expenditure and resistance by some like city development bodies, DISCOMs and metro corporations will wither away. We plan to audit certain issues related to fiscal impact of demonetisation, largely its impact on tax revenues**



**Comptroller and Auditor General of India Shashi Kant Sharma**

provides the details of the mandate and scope of audit available to us."

Stating that there are no lacunae in CAG's empowerment, he said that with advent of time, the governance models have undergone changes.

The September 2014 judgement of the Supreme Court in the telecom case "reinforced an important principle that wherever public resources are being used by private companies for revenue generation, CAG will have a duty to examine as to whether the Government is getting due share of such revenue," he said.

"So, I can say that the bodies and authorities which have any relation to government revenues and expenditure are under the audit jurisdiction of CAG," he said.

City development bodies, electricity distribution companies and metro corporations "resist" CAG audit on the ground of being autonomous or on the ground of getting no support of the Government although they perform the functions which were earlier being performed by the government departments, he said.

"I believe the situation will settle down with passage of time and such resistance will wither away," he added. **PTI**

**Niti readies draft note on methanol blended fuel**



**NEW DELHI:** Government think-tank Niti Aayog has prepared a draft cabinet note to enable 3 per cent blending of methanol with petrol with a view to reduce dependence on imported fuel.

"A Niti Aayog expert committee has prepared a draft cabinet note on methanol blending of petrol and is going to send it to the Transport Ministry for their comments. The Aayog has suggested 3 per cent methanol blending in petrol," a senior Government official told the news agency.

"Countries like China are using methanol blended fuel successfully," the official added.

He said methanol can be a good replacement for petrol.

Last year, V K Saraswat, member, Niti Aayog, and also chairman of Methanol Committee had said the methanol economy promises to help India mitigate its petroleum import costs and at the same time, counters problems associated with global warming.

"India is in the cusp of a gigantic transformation towards a developed nation. The country can use its abundant coal reserves to produce methanol through gasification. Abundant non-edible biomass can also be gasified to produce methanol," Saraswat had said.

According to latest estimate, methanol production could cut India's huge crude oil imports bill, which is pegged at ₹6 lakh crore per annum.

Methanol is a clear and colourless liquid produced from natural gas, coal and wide range of renewable feedstocks. Also known as 'wood alcohol', methanol is naturally occurring and biodegradable.

India has already introduced blending of petrol with ethanol.

According to the Methanol Institute, USA -- an industry consortium, China is using 15-20 per cent of its fuel mix with methanol. **PTI**

**Sajjan Jindal keen to snap up troubled steel cos for expansion**

**PTI ■ JAIGAD (MAHA)**

JSW Steel is keen to capitalise on the stress in the sector by acquiring distressed alloy companies so that it can expand its capacity faster, a top official has said.

"We are looking at distressed companies for acquisition," JSW Steel Chairman Sajjan Jindal told a select group of mediapersons at an event here to commission the group's port project over the weekend.

He was replying to a question on whether his company would be looking at acquiring distressed steel companies like Monnet or Bhushan Steel.

"JSW is in a position to consolidate this industry. And in case, anywhere in the world, if steel industry has to remain consolidated, there cannot be too many players," Jindal said.

He said the steel sector is "passing through a difficult phase" with companies facing problems due to a collapse in prices following the 2008 financial crisis from which the global economy is yet to come out.

The billionaire industri-



alist, however, hinted that the worst is behind the steel makers with a recent surge in demand and prices, which is reflected in the numbers showing a jump in exports.

"I wouldn't say the problems are behind us fully, but as of today the industry is doing well," he said.

Jindal also thanked the Finance and Commerce ministries for measures, like anti-dumping duties and minimum support price, taken over the past year which have all helped the sector.

It can be noted that the sector is one of the most stressed leaving banks with a pile of dud assets.

In some cases, banks have replaced the management

capacities.

JSW Steel is on course to achieve its 40 million tonne capacity expansion by 2025 from the present 18 mtpa, he said.

"All the plans are on track to achieving the goal of having 40 mtpa capacity," he said.

This will call for both brownfield expansion and at least one greenfield project, he said but did not elaborate.

Asked if the group is keen on working in Iran's Chabahar Port, Jindal replied in the negative.

"Well, those are geopolitical ports and difficult areas," he said, talking about Chabahar where India has committed to build a port as part of its foreign policy initiatives.

"We're not so big as of now in port infrastructure. We do not have the management bandwidth to take up too many projects," Jindal said.

He said his company will work only in the UAE's Fujairah port, where it has already announced a greenfield project, for the time being. **PTI**

**HAL finalises major plan to speed up aircraft production**

**NEW DELHI:** State-run aerospace behemoth Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has finalised a major plan to manufacture nearly 1,000 military helicopters and over a hundred planes, in tune with government's focus on speeding up defence indigenisation.

HAL Chairman and Managing Director T Suvarna Raju said the company has also ramped up its infrastructure to deliver 123 Tejas Light Combat Aircraft to the India Air Force with an annual delivery of 16 jets from 2018-19 onwards.

In the next five years, the HAL will also carry out major upgrade of almost the entire fighter fleet of IAF including Su-30MKI, Jaguars and Mirage jets, making them more lethal, he said.

"Next five years will be really vibrant time for HAL. We are upgrading almost every major platform including Sukhois, Jaguars, Mirage and Hawks.

"We are going to build around 1,000 helicopters including Kamov 226, LCH (Light Combat Helicopter) ALH (Advanced Light Helicopter) in the next 10 years," Raju told the news agency in an interview.

The HAL and Russian defence firms have finalised a Joint Venture agreement for production of light weight multi-role 'Kamov 226T' helicopters in India which will replace the aging fleet of Cheetah and Chetak choppers.

The inter-government agreement for the deal was signed during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Russia in December, 2015.

On manufacture of Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas, the HAL chief said its production will be doubled from current eight aircraft per year to 16 from 2018-19. Tejas, the smallest and lightest of its class, was inducted into the IAF in July last year.

The HAL has an order from IAF to supply 40 Tejas. The Government has also approved the procurement of 83 Tejas Mk-1A taking the total number of the aircraft to be manufactured by HAL to 123.

Raju said besides enhancing infrastructure for redouble manufacturing of Tejas, HAL has also outsourced manufacture of some major components including wings and fuselage of the jet to private industry which will further speed up rate of production.

Calling Sukhoi upgrade a major programme, he said the fleet will be equipped with missiles, avionics and sensors. Both India and Russia have been in negotiation for upgrade of the Su-30MKI to a near fifth-generation level. **PTI**

**Arbitration on compensation demand in RIL-ONGC row**

**NEW DELHI:** A three-member arbitration panel has started hearing validity of the Government's demand of \$1.55 billion as compensation from Reliance Industries for "unfairly" producing ONGC's gas.

The panel, headed by Singapore-based arbitrator Prof Lawrence Boo, had its first hearing on March 3 where the timetable was drawn, sources privy to the development said.

RIL will first file its statement of claim, followed by a statement of defence by the Government. This will be followed by rejoinders, counter-rejoinders and oral hearing, sources said, adding that the panel plans to wind up the hearing in a year.

The Central Government has named former Supreme Court judge G S Singhvi as its nominee on the three-member arbitration panel while RIL and its partners BP Plc of the UK and Canada's Niko Resources have named former UK High Court Judge Bernard Eder to the panel.

RIL-BP-Niko had slapped an arbitration notice on November 11 last year.

This was against the oil ministry's November 3, 2016 notice to RIL, Niko and UK's BP seeking \$1.47 billion for producing about 338.332 million British thermal units of gas in the seven years ended March 31, 2016 that had seeped or migrated from the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation's (ONGC) blocks into their adjoining KG-D6 in the Bay of Bengal.

After deducting \$71.71 million royalty paid on the gas produced and adding an interest at the rate of Libor plus 2 per cent, totalling \$149.86 million, a total demand of \$1.55 billion was made on RIL, BP and Niko.

RIL is the operator of the KG-D6 block with 60 per cent interest while BP holds 30 per cent. The remaining 10 per cent is with Niko Resources.

The Government's compensation claim flowed from the report of the Justice (retired) A P Shah Committee.

The Shah panel, in its August 28, 2016, report, concluded that there has been "unjust enrichment" to the contractor of the block KG-DWN-98/3 (KG-D6) due to production of the migrated gas from ONGC's blocks KG-DWN-98/2 and Godavari PML.

The Government, sources said, accepted the recommendations of the committee and consequently, decided to claim restitution from RIL-BP-Niko for "the unjust benefit received and unfairly retained."

So, a notice was sent, they said, adding that the government is also pressing RIL to pay \$174.9 million of additional profit petroleum after certain costs were disallowed because of KG-D6 output being lower than the target. **PTI**

**Inclusive growth to feature in G-20 meet in Varanasi**

**NEW DELHI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi's high-profile Lok Sabha constituency Varanasi will this week hold a two-day G-20 working group meeting where participants will weigh in on evolving global economic scenarios, with inclusive growth on top of the agenda.

The Framework Working Group (FWG) is one of the core groups of the G-20, which is a group of 19 nations and the European Union that deliberates on global economic issues and other key developmental challenges.

"In the forthcoming meeting in Varanasi, the G-20 FWG will discuss the current global economic situation as well as deliberate on the policy options that countries can pursue to counter the important development challenges," the finance ministry said in a statement.

One important focus, it said, will be the inclusive growth agenda and formulating a framework that will enable countries to frame country-specific policies.

The third meeting under the G-20 German presidency is being co-hosted by the Department of Economic Affairs, Finance Ministry, and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in Varanasi on March 28-29.

The first two under the German presidency were held in Berlin in December 2016 and Riyadh in February 2017.

The mandate is to deliberate on the challenges facing the global economy and the policy options that countries can use to address the same. India, along with Canada, has been co-chairing this group.

Since the inception of the FWG in 2009, this is the fourth occasion India is hosting this meeting. Previously, India had hosted the G-20 FWG meetings in Neerama, Rajasthan (2012 with Mexico at the helm), Goa (in 2014 under Australian presidency) and Kerala (2015 under Turkish leadership). **PTI**

**NPA resolution policy gathers pace, likely announcement soon**

**NEW DELHI:** To deal with mounting bad loans afflicting banks, the Government is likely to come out with a set of measures for faster resolution of non-performing assets within a fortnight.

"Policy is being given final touches. It should be announced by the month-end or early next month," a senior finance ministry official said.

Broadly, the policy should contain the processes relating to haircut and one-time settlement to be carried out by banks for faster resolution of high-value cases, the official said, adding that the big loan defaults constitute about 70 per cent of the total NPAs.

This will provide a clear direction on the NPA front and the Government will be able to take the bull by horns, the official said.

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley last week had said NPA resolution mechanism was being worked out with the RBI which will put enough pressure on borrowers to settle dues.

"You see, the amounts are large, but the amounts are restricted. It's not that hundreds and thousands of businesses have created this problem. The problem of big NPA is confined essentially to 30-40, at best 50 companies, and therefore, those 40-50 accounts need to be resolved," he had said.

During resolution of NPAs, several issues like finding buyers and strategic partners come up, the minister had said.

"...I think you wait for a few days... There is some policy decision between the RBI and the government which we will implement, which will put adequate pressure on people to settle..." he had said.

Jaitley had gone on to say that "if you look at the whole structure, there are enough instruments available for settlements as far as the banking system is concerned. There are different legislations where action can be taken."

According to sources, the joint lenders' forum (JLF) is expected to be overhauled to facilitate quick decision making.

Instead of being a resolution mechanism, the JLF has become a delaying tool for big defaulters because as per the guidelines, restructuring needs approval of 60 per cent of consortium lenders which more often than not eludes, sources added.

As per the existing JLF guidelines, if a restructuring package is approved by 75 per cent of creditors by value and 60 per cent of creditors by number, other banks have to go along with it.

Besides, the sources said there could be provision which will make wilful default a criminal offence.

As far as haircut issues are concerned, bankers have a fear of 3Cs -- CAG, CBI and CVC -- when they want to sell bad assets at substantially low value, the sources added. **PTI**





**Trend**  
*Slazer*

**'I'm part of changing cinema'**

**TAAPSEE PANNU**, who will next be seen in the forthcoming movie *Naam Shabana*, says she is proud to be part of the changing phase of Indian cinema where women-centric films are becoming a reality. "When I entered the film industry, it was going through the change and I knew that people are ready to receive experimental content, but never thought I will become part of that change with a film like *Pink*. I feel proud to witness and be a part of new age Indian cinema. I think I am very fortunate," Taapsee said.



**'Anil Kapoor is a delight to work with. The one thing that I admire most about him is his warmth... He makes it a point to greet everyone on set, brings this amazing energy and you enjoy the work.'**

—**NEHA SHARMA**



**BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH** has become a father for a second time. Cumberbatch is yet to formally announce the news. The actor's wife, Sophie Hunter, gave birth to their second son at Portland Hospital in London on March 3. The baby's full name is Hal Auden Cumberbatch and is a brother to Christopher, who was born in June 2015. Cumberbatch has named his son after a Shakespearean hero. Hal was the nickname Henry V had before he became the hero of Agincourt.

**Pamela offended by her old image**

**PAMELA ANDERSON** reportedly stormed off the set of TV show *Celebrity Juice* after host Keith Lemon embarrassed her by showing an old school photograph of her. According to Lemon, Anderson grabbed her faux fur stole and left the set without saying goodbye, reports a source. "(Anderson) just suddenly picked up her fur stole and stormed off home. At first I thought it might be because she didn't want to play a game that involved putting chips up her nose, but it wasn't, it was because we showed an old school picture of her and she didn't like it," Lemon told a source.



# Love verified?

Aadhaar documentation boosts customers' confidence in the authenticity of profiles on matrimonial sites, reveals a survey

According to the survey conducted by matrimonial website Loveviva.com, maturity and compatibility of life partner lies high on agenda rather than their social status. The survey was conducted on 2000 active users of the matrimonial website, read a statement.

The survey highlights the importance of Aadhaar based verification. As many as 74 per cent users believe that adding the Aadhaar verification as a check has increased the authenticity. Another finding is that 80 per cent of users feel that online matrimonial sites are unsafe, insecure and full of fake profiles.

"One of my friends in Mumbai registered herself on a matrimonial website and provided with her personal contacts details. She found few matches and she started checking their profiles. On checking she realised that there was no real information about the profiles and soon after which, she started receiving lewd emails and messages from the matches she found. All this stopped only after she lodged an FIR. It is quite unsafe if these websites allow anyone and everyone to register without verification," said Praveen Gupta, a bank manager.

Govar Aggarwal, founder of LoveViva.com, said that their initial analysis showed that despite the matrimonial sites being a convenient option for many, has loopholes like such which are dangerous if not looked upon.

"A major challenge faced by the online matrimony sites is the inflow of fake profiles, i.e. people creating profiles with false info and details, or on behalf of others without their consent. We have tried to put a check on this by incorporating online Aadhaar verification process as part of the registration procedure," he said.

"Our tie-up with UIDAI has enabled us to verify and cross-check in real time if the Aadhaar card



details mentioned by the user are correct or not. We can guarantee the existence and authenticity of the user who has created a profile," he added.

One more important number that came out of this survey was the fact that the popularity on online matrimonial websites is also increasing with every passing day. According to the number compiled, 14 per cent of the users, who took part in the survey, found their life partner through online matrimonial sites.

"Many of us are so consumed in the work lives that thinking about finding a life-partner through old ways, can be very difficult. The matrimonial sites have made the task easy. I found my partner through one of these matrimonial sites and given they are now having pre-verification, it will be trusted more," said Akansha Sangwan, an IT professional.

For 32 per cent, maturity and compatibility are the most important factors when searching for a life partner, followed by educational qualification (20 per cent), financial independence (18 per cent), looks and appearance (17 per cent) and finally family or social status (13 per cent).

"Remarkably, the new generation, which is tech savvy, independent and open-minded, is more inclined towards the online mediums for choosing their life partner. This has clearly come out as the result of the survey," said Govar.

"Moreover, another thought-provoking fact that was revealed through the survey is that the younger generation gives higher weightage to maturity, compatibility and education level of their life partner than the mere looks or social status. This transition in the thought process of new generation is going to prove really beneficial in long run and will help create happy and successful marriages," he concluded.

Art flourishes under the right patronage. Just ask any of the emerging artists who've participated in the Glenfiddich Artist in Residence Programme. Every year since 2002 (and 2012 in India), budding artists are invited to participate in this £10,000 residence programme. What it includes, though, is a three-month stay at the Glenfiddich distillery estate in quaint Dufftown, Scotland, and the chance to work on some seriously innovative projects that are inspired by the local rural, yet industrial setting.

Ten artists from across the world — including Swain Sitaram from India, chosen via a collaboration with Indian online art gallery Bestcollegeart.com — have been handpicked for this year's residency programme.

Amidst a pantheon of newcomers participating in Residence Programme Swain Sitaram stands out with his untitled work which is a painted and carved brick of wall.

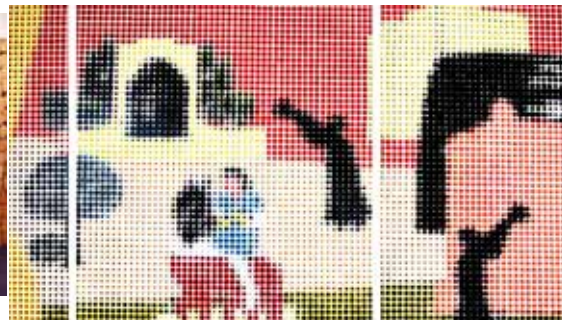
Swain, who hails from the city of beautiful landscapes, Odisha, looks at the beauty from a realistic point of view. For him landscapes are not just a natural set-up, but acquire importance and meaning only due to the external influences of politics, economics and social conduct. All these in turn influence the architecture of the place. So architecture becomes the focal point in his

## Brick as a canvas

**SWAIN SITARAM** confined space through his installation. By **ANKITA JAIN**



paintings. "Architecture is visually challenging and recites the social and political background. I present my own home town Odisha and I'm closely associated with the architectural materials like stones, bricks, cement et al. The visual abstractions in the arrangement and overlapping layers of imagery are the interpretations of human beliefs and myths into the particular space. We find the conceived or unperceived influences that make an impact on people and my paintings represent this juxtaposition," explained Swain. He further added, "This will be an opportunity for me to widen and explore my creative bound-



aries outside of my traditional work space. It's a once in a lifetime opportunity to interact with some great artists from around the world in the heart of the Glenfiddich distillery in Scotland."

Emerging Artist Awardee Swain was picked by a 13-strong jury, which included familiar names like Swapan Seth (art collector), Sunil Sethi (president, FDCI), Veer Munshi (artist), Kapil Chopra (mentor, Bestcollegeart.com and president, The Oberoi

Group) and Peter Nagy (director, Nature Morte), who had the tough job of sifting through 2,600 artworks uploaded on the website by 810 emerging artists. They've picked well, though. Swain's got the right art credits. "Our globally recognised forum Artists in Residence (AiR) provides a unique and inspired platform for artists from around the world to showcase their talent and to gain international recognition. India has become

a world-class centre of excellence for creativity, given the diversity and talent it houses. Through this programme, we are trying to recognise and encourage the emerging talent of India. We annually host a small group of visual artists from around the globe, who work in a diverse array of media from print and photography to animation, performance and installation. The historic setting, deep in Scotland's highlands has inspired many amazing artists in the creation of original art work for over a decade," said Andy Fairgrieve, the global coordinator and organiser of the AiR programme.

Adding to this, Kapil Chopra, one of the jury members said, "We are delighted to host the sixth edition of the Emerging Artist of the Year award. This is India's most consistent art award and the most important initiative for the growth of Indian contemporary art for the last six years. The award not only seeks out the next generation of artists but also nurtures and supports emerging talent. At the BestCollegeart.com gallery we believe in showcasing the best of Indian art, culture, design to the world and this initiative reiterates our commitments towards the goal."

**TECH TAKE**

## Phone-in

Here are a few launches that hit the tech world this week



Varun Krishnan

**APPLE INTRODUCES NEW IPADS, RED IPHONE 7 AND UPDATES IPHONE SE**

Apple has launched its most affordable iPad range with the introduction of the latest 9.7-inch iPad starting at ₹28900 for the Wi-Fi version and ₹39900 for the 32GB Wi-Fi + Cellular version. The device is powered by the Apple A9 processor and come with a fingerprint sensor. The iPad mini 4 is now available at ₹34900 for the 128GB Wi-Fi version and ₹45900 for the 128GB Wi-Fi + Cellular version.



Apple has announced iPhone 7 and iPhone 7 Plus (PRODUCT)RED Special Edition in a red aluminium finish, to mark a 10 years of partnership between Apple and (RED). Customers who purchase this device will be contributing to a global fund to fight AIDS.

The new special edition iPhone will be available in India in April. The company has also updated the iPhone SE by doubling the capacity and is now available in 32GB and 128GB versions. The updated iPhone SE will be available from March 24 at a price of ₹27200.

**SELFIE FOCUSED PHONES**

Oppo has launched a selfie focussed smartphone the F3 Plus which features the brand's first dual front camera including a first-ever 120-degree wide-angle Group Selfie Camera.



The Oppo F3 Plus is priced at ₹30990 and will be available from 1st April 2017 both online and offline. Pre-order are open till 31st March 2017 and will come with a gift pack. Gionee has also launched A1 selfie phone priced at ₹19999 and as expected there is a bigger 16MP camera on the front and a 13MP camera on the rear.

**XIAOMI REDMI 4A LAUNCHED, CREATES A RECORD**

Xiaomi has launched its most affordable 4G smartphone in India the Redmi 4A at ₹5999. The phone packs a 5-inch display, dual sim



functionality and is powered by a Qualcomm Snapdragon 425 processor. It packs 13MP/5MP cameras and has a 3120mAh battery. The phone is available on Amazon and mi.com and they sold more than 250,000 units within four minutes of launch. Amazon.in witnessed huge interest with more than five million hits per minute on the site and orders spiked to a record 1500 per second during the period of the sale.

## A French affair

Drawing inspiration from the rich, refined and cultivated genre of Parisian art and architecture Diva'ni, India's first cinema inspired fashion label, unveiled its Spring Summer 2017 couture collection. Amidst all the glamour and sheen, this new collection salutes the free spirit of dressing in effortlessly stylish ensembles that suit the palate of a care-free yet elegant summer bride.

The Ivory Kiss is Diva'ni's interpretation of the great Parisian legacy. It essays the richness of Parisian architecture, heritage, art and culture. It has harnessed its



creative flair and outdone itself by recreating the flavour of a region through these ensembles. Through this showing, it also forays into bespoke men's wear and unveils Diva'ni Man. This exquisitely designed line will aim at catering

to the fashion needs of the Indian metropolitan man.

With the spring summer couture launch, the fashion label aims at taking the audiences through a never before destination wedding ensemble trail. The silhouettes range from short dresses to drape sarees to gowns to contemporary bridal lehengas. Intricate handwork using zardozi and aari, along with usage of elements like metal blades, mother of pearls, kundan, sequin, elaborates the grandeur of Parisian architecture and heritage at its best. Carefully embroidered floral appliqué, rather the signature vintage rose lends that perfect zing to the collection.



# Of hardship, valour and resilience

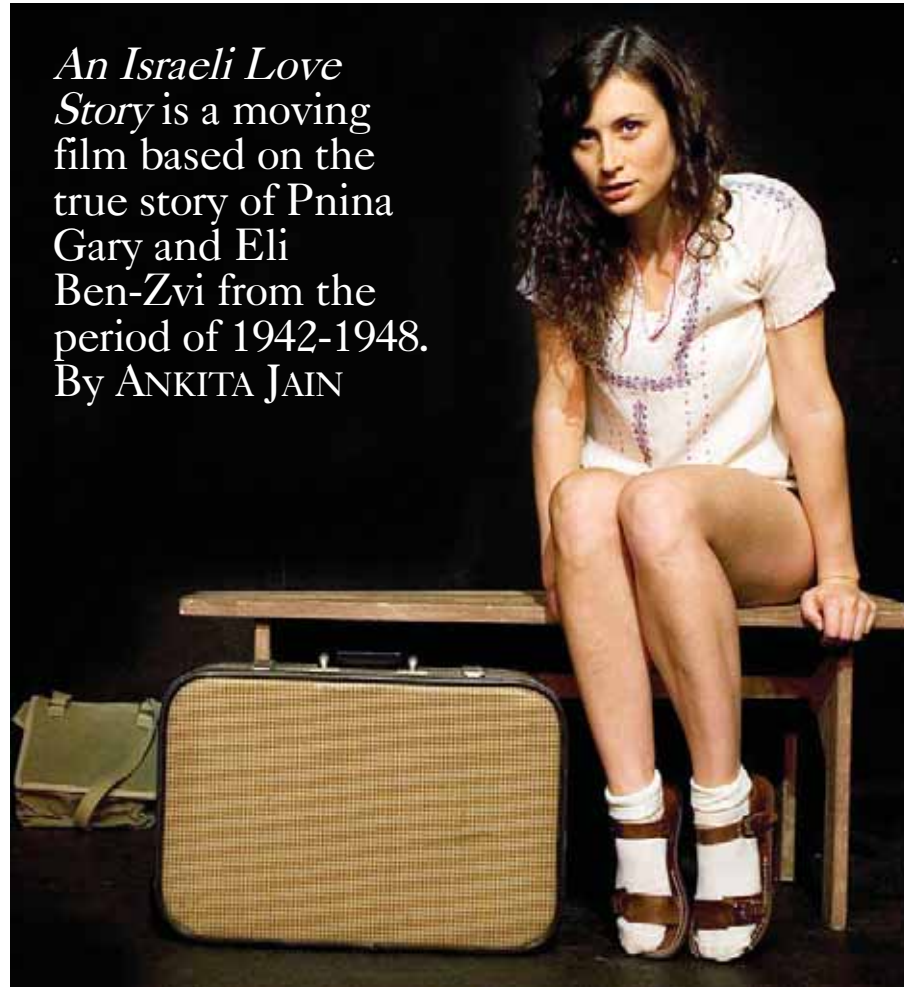
An Israeli Love Story, starring Israeli actors Adi Bielski and Aviv Alush, is set in 1947. It tells the story of 18-year-old aspiring actress Margalit, who lives in northern Israel. She falls in love with Eli Ben Zvi from Kibbutz Beit Keshet. On the day they were supposed to get married, tragedy strikes. The film is adapted from a play written by Pnina Gary. The storyline is based on the real-life incident of Gary (now 89), who was supposed to marry Eli, the son of Rachel Yanait and Yitzhak Ben-Zvi (later to be the second president of Israel). In 1948, during Israel's war for independence, her would-be husband was killed in an Arab ambush.

"Gary was looking for a producer to make this film. She approached me because she thought I am a specialist in making low-budget films. I read the story and was touched by it. The film talks about the period of 1947 when Arabs and Jews were fighting over the land of Palestine. I tried to make a balanced film. It is told from the point of view of an Israeli woman, who had a tragic story to tell," says Dan Wolman, director of the film.

He is a veteran Israeli filmmaker whose films has been presented at Cannes, Venice, Berlin and many other film festivals winning awards and prizes the world over. His films cover a big range from the very commercial youth comedy *Lemon Popsicle* to the very personal *The Distance* and *Foreign Sister* both of which won the Volgin Award for "Best film" at the Jerusalem International Film Festival.

When asked how challenging was it to adapt a screenplay from a play and make a feature film out of it, Dan says, "The real challenge was to bring this period film alive and also to match up with the real story. Eighty-four-year-old Israeli actress and playwright Pnina Gary waited 60 years to write *An Israeli Love Story*, a 70-minute monodrama about coming of age in pre-state Israel. Her personal story of unrequited adolescent love — gained and then lost again. After spending decades in the theatre as an actress and artistic director, adapting others' work to the stage, this was Gary's first foray into creating her own work for the stage."

He further adds about what inspired Garry to write her own story after 60 years. "Inspired by her grandson's sixth grade *Roots* project, *An Israeli Love Story* evokes the nostalgia and values of pre-state Israel. She told him about her adolescent years in Nahalal, the moshav in the Jezreel Valley where she was born and raised. Afterwards, her grandson's



**An Israeli Love Story is a moving film based on the true story of Pnina Gary and Eli Ben-Zvi from the period of 1942-1948.**  
By ANKITA JAIN

essay was read out in class and his classmates didn't believe that was how life had really been. The disparity between the values on which Gary was raised on the moshav and those of her grandson's city friends was so vast that she decided it was important to tell them more about what happened here in the beginning. For them, even the War of Independence is distant Jewish history." Dan says that until the end, which is heartbreaking, it



is a very joyful story. It has a lot of humour and a lot of funny characters.

It focuses on first love, and for older audience members, it brings back memories of the '40s, while for younger theatre goers, it's the love story that catches them." *An Israeli love story* tells the story of how Margalit met and fell in love with a young

fighter of the Palmach (the unofficial army of the Jewish settlement in pre-state Israel), and how he died a day before they were to be married.

While the film is an adolescent love story that anyone can relate to, the backdrop of the play is the battle of Israeli immigrants idealistically fighting to establish the state of Israel in 1948. And how the thousand people who were invited for the wedding came to a funeral, and the food that was prepared for the wedding was served at the funeral."

He adds, "The struggle of the pre-state period from 1942-1948 is truly depicted throughout the play. Because Margalit's family lived on a moshav (an Israeli town or settlement) in the Nahalal Village, they were granted private property and belongings. On the other hand, Ami, from Kibbutz Beit Keshet was granted no private property or possessions. During this time almost everything had to be shared. Couples had to share their money, beds, and clothing with others. It was a time where blankets and shirts were scarce, and a radio was considered a rare treasure."

The desire to expose youngsters to the atmosphere and values of pre-state Israel was the attraction for the director, to bring the play to the first Habitat Film Festival. "Since the film focuses on Israeli history, society, culture, and politics, I thought it would be interesting for youngsters to learn about the early days and values of the state."

The director, who made films such as *The Dreamer* and *Floch*, said that in the last 15 years there's been a tremendous progress in Israeli cinema. He also says that Israel has nearly 18 film schools, thus increasing the competition among filmmakers.

"Imagine a country, with eight million population, has approximately 18 film schools? Every year 100-150 women and men come out of these schools. They are writing screenplays and making films. So, there's a lot of competition too," explains Dan.

The moving story truly shows the struggles during the early stages of the state of Israel, and the suffering that many had to undergo so that Israel and its people could enjoy its independence today.

Performed with feeling, passion, and magic, Bielski was able to bring Pnina and Eli's story to life, making the audience feel as if they were actually re-living the formative years of Israel, and bearing witness to its creation.



## Master of your own fortune

Whether our days are good or bad, we should always concentrate on our actions and state of mind, says RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJJI

We all have good days and bad days. What amounts to a good day for one person may equate to someone else's bad day. Just like some days are hot whereas some are cold, depending on whether it is summer or winter, one has to bear with all these changes. We must understand, changes do take place often, else life would be dull and boring. Days can thus be of many kinds if we consider them from different points of view. We have all heard some people saying that "I have fallen on bad days". However, in actual sense, the days are neither bad nor good because a day is just a name given to a period of 24 hours, so it is just a unit of time but still we have a meaning when we say: "I am on bad days" or "That fellow is on good days".



When a person says that he is on bad days, what he generally means is either some people are criticising him bitterly or are accusing him without any basis. It also might be whatever role he plays and the job he does, turns into a complete failure and he flops. He does his best and yet success eludes or evades him. He loves some people and has good wishes for them and yet these people get estranged from him or turn into his enemies or rivals. Those very people whom he had helped in their dire need have now turned their back on him and show not even a little concern for his well-being. There is no one even to encourage him up or at least to utter a word of sympathy. On the other hand, they, unashamedly, point to his shortcomings and hit hard at his weakness and try to open or scratch his wounds. He feels that people do not misbehave with him and that he generally meets success whatever be the venture he embarks upon.

History is full of examples of even kings becoming beggars or of ordinary men ascending on thrones. But, what we need to remember is that the shift in our fortunes or the change in our days is brought about by the change that took place in the past in the quality of our own actions. The change in days, some say, is due to change in our stars, but even stars in the sky change due to action of souls which also are the stars now on earth. Remember! The whole nature is influenced by our own actions and, so, we are the makers of our own fortune. We determine our own destiny. So, basically, bad days are those days when a person has bad thoughts or does bad actions

and good days are, basically, those days, when a person thinks good and does good.

We should also keep in mind, during the days of stress and strain or tests and tribulations, that these odd days also will change because nothing, in this world stays for ever. Just as night is succeeded by day and, so, also good days will follow bad days sooner or later and we should, therefore have patience and faith in ourselves. Since our bad days are consequence of our actions, we cannot, therefore, run away from them but have only to bear with them happily or a heavy heart even as we choose. We have to adopt a posture, a strategy, a tactic, a line of action, a plan or a strategy to remain as much unaffected as we possibly can. There is no use cursing our stars or wailing over our misfortune. On the other hand, we should take lessons from these hard tests and consider these as exercises for self-development or causes for crisis management. Also, when anyone is on good days, he should not boast of his wisdom or adventures or knowledge and circle of friends. Because one never knows when one will be hauled up on live coals. So, let us, therefore, not be proud to the point of boasting, bragging or praising the self. Instead we must always keep in mind that whether our days are good or bad, we should always be good in our actions, our state of mind. Also with our dealings and relations with others, our attitudes and our response to various situations. If we follow this process, then we can turn even bad days into good ones. So, let's stop thinking about good or bad days, and be a master of our own fortune.



Indian kids are mostly under a lot of academic pressure throughout their school days. Parents want their kids to be either a doctor or an engineer and that results into an Olympics of academics. Putting on the school uniform in the morning feels like wearing a track suit and going to a zone where they have to deal with the hurdles of expectations of parents and relatives.

In order to highlight this issue, Bengaluru-based band Swarathma has joined the *Release The Pressure* movement in collaboration with *Mirinda* for their *No More Pressurepanti, Only Pagalpanti*, campaign. "The song is rooted in our experiences, much like every other academics oriented middle-class Indian family's. There was always pressure to perform academically, but don't get us wrong on the song. We're not against parents, who almost always mean well. It's just that sometimes though they want the best for their kid, the way they end up making it happen doesn't always work well. It is this sense of isolation that kids go through that we've tried to talk about," said bass guitarist of the band, Jishnu Dasgupta. He believes that their song is another way to give

## Take it easy

A music video titled, *Beta Sweater Pehno* by SWARATHMA urges parents to not put their kids under the pressure of academics, in a humorous way. By TEAM VIVA

vent to what students go through at this difficult time.

The band is known for their inclination to perform for social causes and their music speaks of a change which must be bought. "I have always believed that music and art are the two things which are capable of adding positive value in the society. So through our music we try and speak of the topics which need people's attention. And since we are lucky enough that our voice is heard by many, then why not make them hear something they really should listen to," said Vasu Dixit, vocalist and rhythm guitarist in Swarathma.

The music video features the band members of Swarathma in school uniforms going through the motions of school life with comic melancholy. It highlights the struggles every student has to face on a daily basis because of an over competitive environment at educational institutions. "The video idea came while we were jamming. The initial idea was to have five teenagers dressed like us and have them play/sing the song. But then the logistics of getting that done seemed farfetched. We decided the costume for the video as uniforms, though initially we all were to wear differ-

**'MUSIC AND ART ARE THE TWO THINGS WHICH ARE CAPABLE OF ADDING POSITIVE VALUE IN THE SOCIETY. SO THROUGH OUR MUSIC WE TRY AND SPEAK OF THE TOPICS WHICH NEED PEOPLE'S ATTENTION'**

ent costumes but then it wouldn't have looked like a 'uniform'. And also we didn't want to represent any one particular institution. So, white was the next best bet. At the same time we wanted them in a very tight fit, as if we've grown wearing them. Hence, we got a tailor who usually stitches for shoots, we gave him reference of the 80's styling, which is what most of us relate to," shared Vasu, who has also directed the video.

Swarathma makes music for their personal joy ultimately, unlike films, where the beats and tunes are attuned for particular reasons and to impress an audience. "This makes more sense when we call ourselves independent. We're expressing our feelings more organically," said Vasu.

The band has an undeniably unique sound, combining Indian folk music with western rock. Vasu believes that since all the members of the band come from different background of music, the mix of all that makes for unique 'Swarathma sound'. While the music video takes the viewers back to school days, Vasu hope that it will make parents and teens talk to each other more openly regarding this unwanted pressure.

**Health is the condition of wisdom, and the sign is cheerfulness — an open and noble temper.**  
— RALPH WALDO EMERSON

### HEALTHY WEIGHT GAIN IN INFANTS

With nearly 10 per cent of infants considered 'high weight for length', researchers want to help babies achieve a healthy weight starting with their first months of life. Preliminary findings have shown that babies on a cow's milk formula have accelerated weight gain, compared to babies fed a hydrolysed protein formula, who have weight gain similar to breastfed infants. "Growth is a sign of nutritional intake and development, an insight into health," says Jillian Trabulsi, associate professor of nutrition and a registered dietitian. While the benefits of breastfeeding are well known — breastfed babies tend to be better protected against rapid weight gain and obesity.



### SOCIAL MEDIA SITES TIED TO DEPRESSION

Compared with the total time spent on social media, use of multiple platforms is more strongly associated with depression and anxiety among young adults, researchers have found in a national survey. People who report using seven to 11 social media platforms had more than three times the risk of depression and anxiety than their peers who use zero to two platforms, even after adjusting for the total time spent on social media overall. "This association is strong enough that clinicians could consider asking their patients with depression and anxiety about multiple platform use and counseling them that this use may be related to their symptoms," said lead author and physician Brian A.



### BRAIN CELLS PREFER ONE PARENT'S GENE

In at least one region of the newborn mouse brain, the new research shows, inequality seems to be the norm. About 85 per cent of genes in the dorsal raphe nucleus, known for secreting the mood-controlling chemical serotonin, differentially activate their maternal and paternal gene copies. Ten days later in the juvenile brain, the landscape shifts, with both copies being activated equally for all but 10 per cent of genes. More than an oddity of the brain, the disparity also takes place at other sites in the body, including liver and muscle. It also occurs in humans. The investigators screened thousands of genes in their study, quantifying the relative levels of activation for each maternal and paternal gene copy and discovered that expression of the two is different for many genes.



### EFFECTS OF GUT FLORA REVISITED

An unhealthy diet changes the composition of the gut flora and it is generally assumed that this maladaptation called "dysbiosis" triggers disease. A study by Matteo Serino and his colleagues at the Université Paul Sabatier in Toulouse, France, now challenges this view. Using mice as a model organism, the researchers show that dysbiosis may have beneficial effects on liver metabolism and may protect against metabolic disease. The researchers reasoned that axenic mice are ill-equipped to deal with dysbiotic microbiota. Their gut barrier is impaired, favoring an uncontrolled spread of bacteria throughout the body. In addition, their immune system is not well developed.



### SUNBED USERS GET MELANOMA

Melanoma is the most dangerous type of skin cancer with the strongest increase in incidence in the last decade, and the incidence rates have never been as high. The World Health Organisation based International Agency for Research on Cancer has classified UV-emitting tanning devices as "carcinogenic to humans" in 2009, however, sunbed use is still popular in western countries, especially among young women. The study followed 141,000 Norwegian women for the average of 14 years. Women who had 30 or more indoor tanning sessions were at 32 per cent increased risk of melanoma compared to never-users.





