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Two trains mow down over 60 of Dussehra crowd in Amritsar

The first such accident



Ravana is being
thrown at this
place

10 feet high ground
in the field

Ground is small. People
were watching Raviwan's
statue standing on the
railway tracks

Picture of the
accident

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US proposes changes to H-1B visa programme, move to hit Indian IT companies



Indian companies and IT professionals have been major beneficiaries of the programme cornering more than 70% of the 65,000 visas that the US grants to foreigners hired abroad every year and an additional 20,000 to foreign students passing out of US colleges and universities with advanced degrees

The Trump administration has reiterated once again its plans to redefine "speciality occupation" for skilled foreign workers who US companies seek to hire under the non-immigrant H-1B visa programme that has been immensely popular with Indian IT companies and professionals.

The department of homeland security (DHS), which oversees the agency that runs the programme, has also expressed the intention to implement other measures that the Trump administration has been considering to ensure, as the US president Donald Trump has said, Americans have the first right to American jobs. Indian companies and IT professionals have been major beneficiaries of the programme cornering more than 70% of the 65,000 visas that the US grants to foreigners hired abroad every year and an additional 20,000 to foreign students passing out of US colleges and universities with advanced degrees.

(Contd on page 19)

Singh brothers defrauded Fortis Healthcare of Rs 4 billion, must pay it back: Sebi

The regulatory action adds to an already long list of liabilities facing the Singh brothers, who once controlled a business empire in India worth billions of dollars that is now largely lost.



(News Agencies) Stock market regulator Sebi has determined the former owners of the India's second-largest hospital chain defrauded the company of Rs 4 billion (\$54.3 million) and ordered that they return it. (Contd on page 19)

Mueller's not being pressured to wind down his probe immediately after midterms, source says

(News Agencies) Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein has not given special counsel Robert Mueller a certain date by which his investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election must be completed, a source within the Justice Department familiar with the investigation said. But speculation that it will wrap up immediately after the November midterm elections is off the mark, the source said. Instead, the probe is expected to wind down by the end of the year. "Mueller and his team have to provide a confidential report to Rosenstein at the end of the investigation," the source said. "As far as timing, the investigation is obviously ongoing, and I'd expect it to continue well after the midterms." Rosenstein, who oversees the investigation, on Wednesday called the probe "appropriate and independent," in an interview with The Wall Street Journal, but declined to comment on when it would end. How and when exactly Mueller's investigation will finally conclude has captured significant public attention as President Donald Trump fiercely maintains that his campaign did not collude with the Kremlin. To date, the investigation has yielded guilty pleas from four former campaign officials, but Trump has complained that the investigation is unfounded and a waste of taxpayer money. (Contd on page 19)

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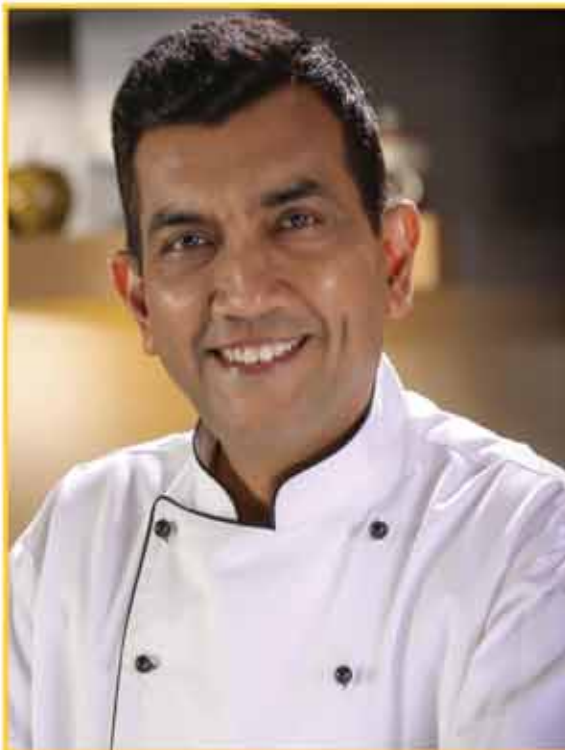
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External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj praises Jaipur Foot in front of Ambassadors around the world, Exhibition next year in Washington

Pali: Jaipur Foot USA expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj in a meeting held at New York. External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj not only praised the quality of Jaipur foot but also praised the founder of Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti Society, DR Mehta, in the meeting of the Ambassadors of various countries in New Delhi as mark of celebration of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the Nation. External Affairs Minister said that Jaipur Foot is light in weight and it is very cheap too. Jaipur Foot USA expressed gratitude to them for showing respect to Mehta and Jaipur Foot. Under the program of Humanity and India, the Ministry of External Affairs will provide Jaipur Foot, free of cost in collaboration with Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti. Welcoming the initial goal of providing artificial foot by organizing special camps in 12 countries, Chairman of Jaipur Foot USA, Prem Bhandari informed that since 1975, due to the devotion of our founder Dr Mehta's towards Divyangs, Government has chosen the Jaipur Foot to promote the ideology and principals of Mahatma Gandhi abroad. External Affairs Minister too praised the work done by D R Mehta for humanity and said that Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti has served around 17 lakh Divyangs by organizing camps in 30 countries till date. Bhandari said that in May this year, seminar and exhibition were held at New York in the United Nations under the auspices of Jaipur Foot USA, Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti in collaboration with Government of India. He praised India's permanent Representative to UN, ambassador Syed Akbaruddin and said that this program was successfully conducted due to his efforts only. As a result, many more countries of the world will also come forward. Bhandari said that in the beginning of the new Year, Jaipur Foot USA is going to organize Exhibition and Seminar soon in Washington in collaboration with its parent organization Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti. Bhandari said in foreign countries, up to Rs10 lakh is taken as cost of artificial leg while many time better jaipur foot cost only appx. five thousand rupees and it is given free of cost throughout the world. The meeting was attended by Dr. Raj Bihani, Hotel businessman Ramesh Bhatia, Secretary of Jaipur Foot USA, Rajendra Bafna, Advisor Ashok Sancheti, Member Vipul Shah, Meerul Shraif, Treasurer of RANA Chandra Sukhwai, Ashok Pandya and Ranjit Champawat and others. After the meeting of Jaipur Foot, USA a banquet was organized by Jaipur Foot USA to bid farewell to Air India's USA Head Vandana Sharma after completion of 3 years. This event was attended by Air India's new Head Bhubna Rao, RANA Chairman Haridas Kotewala, New York Police High Commissioner Captain George Stanley, IPS Officer Aditya Goenka, Akshay Patra and people associated with other social organizations.

Acharya Lokesh will address the Parliament of World's Religions in Canada

First Time Jain Festival Paryushan will be discussed in Parliament of World's Religions



*Founder of Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti eminent Jain Acharya Lokesh Muni will address Parliament of World's Religions organised from November 1-7, 2018 in Toronto, Canada. This year around 1000 representatives from 80 countries will take part in the POWR. This is the same Parliament of World's Religions in which Swami Vivekananda delivered his speech in 1893 at Chicago and attracted world's attention to Indian spirituality heritage. Acharya Lokesh had addressed the inaugural session of Parliament of World's Religions 2015 at Salt Lake City USA. *Acharya Lokesh will deliver speech on three contemporary topics first 'Global warming & depleting natural resources', second 'Peace & Love, Not War, Hate & Violence', and third 'The Spiritual Evolution of Humanity & Healing our Mother Earth Paryushan Parv'. For the first time important annual Jain Festival Paryushan will be discussed by Acharya Dr. Lokesh Muni, he will tell how this festival will uplift humanity. It is a matter of honor for India that by discussing these issues Acharya Lokesh will bring pride to Indian culture and Jainism. *Parliament of World's Religion is a platform on which Noble Prize winners, eminent Religious leaders, social workers, educationists, environmentalists, thinkers, philosophers etc, from different parts of the world come on one platform to discuss how to make this world a better place to live. The Parliament offers programming for all, from scholars and activists to families and children - lectures to interactive cultural experiences. Participants will be individuals whose profession or personal interests lead them to the Parliament or delegations from the guiding institutions like states, universities, or religious organizations. Parliament presenters include Nobel Laureates, Eminent Interfaith leaders, Religious Gurus, spiritual luminaries, prominent politicians, authors, students, globally-recognized entertainers, thought leaders, state actors, and more.*

Zee Americas Premieres "Break Through The Crowd" on Sunday, October 14th

First of its kind of reality show which allows 8 promising startups to fulfill these funding goals through crowdsourcing.

Break Through The Crowd premiered on Sunday, October 14 at media and entertainment megagiant ZEE Entertainment. A new series that will give a handful of lucky contestants a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to turn their entrepreneurial dreams into a reality by pitching their ideas to some of the sharpest minds in business. In the end, only one hopeful will "break through the crowd" and walk away with a team of prestigious marketing and crowdfunding gurus. "Each of the individuals profiled for this series has an important story to tell. Our goal is to inspire our viewers by sharing their experiences in a truly compelling and unique way," said Sameer Targe, CEO at Zee Americas. After narrowing down submissions from more than 100 hopeful contestants across the globe, only eight entrepreneurs were selected to compete on Break Through The Crowd. They will each be given a chance to showcase their businesses and concepts, which range from sophisticated lifestyle mobile apps, to thoughtful travel accessories - and even percussion instruments that double as an exercise routine. The highly-anticipated series, airing exclusively on ZEE TV, will follow the journeys of these aspiring moguls, who must persuade a panel of brutally honest judges that they have the chops to succeed in the cut-throat world of business. "Break Through the Crowd isn't about the judges and their larger-than-life personalities," said Director, Arka Sengupta. "Unlike other business competition shows on TV, Break Through The Crowd is focused on the entrepreneurs - many of whom are only just learning the ropes about what it takes to start a business." "We are giving viewers an honest look at the road to the finish line - and there are bumps along the way. Each episode explores a new aspect of the start-up process - from pitching the concept to investors, to manufacturing challenges, to marketing their product in our ever-evolving digital age," Kalpana Malviya added. "Fans will relate to the contestants on a deeper level and by the end of season one, they will be emotionally invested in the person behind the product." The seven episodes series will be divided up into phases, which will wean out contestants through a series of real-world business scenarios. In episodes one and two, contestants will pitch their ideas to a panel of business experts, which include Alan Brody, Founder of Blockchain Breakthroughs; Sanford Wolman, Co-Founder of Westchester Angels; Nick Adams, Co-Founder and Managing Partner of Differential Ventures; and Ramit Arora, President and Co-Founder of Biz2Credit. And while they often make facing American Idol's Simon Cowell seem like a walk through the park, each judge comes from a place of sincerity, having walked a mile in those shoes. After the judges have heard all eight pitches and offered their feedback, three entrepreneurs will be eliminated, and five will advance to phase two. The competition really heats up in the next phase, when, with the help of judges, contestants must condense their pitch to 60 seconds and tweak their business models to reflect actual flaws with their products. Contestants must find ways to overcome problems that vary from production costs, to manufacturing overseas. There are a number of twists and along the way - each designed to prepare contestants for the unexpected curveballs they might inevitably encounter outside of the show. And by the end of episode four, only two entrepreneurs will have secured a spot in the final crowdfunding phase, vying for their chance to "break through the crowd."



Trump administration moves to stop subsidizing Chinese mail



The Trump administration is moving to raise postage rates for foreign companies that ship packages to the United States.

Some countries, including China, currently benefit from subsidized postal rates set by the Universal Postal Union, a United Nations agency.

On Wednesday, US of-

ficials will initiate a withdrawal process from the UPU, which was established in 1874 and has 192 member countries. The process to withdraw will take at least a year, and the administration intends to negotiate new rates with the group during that time.

Under the current rules, the UPU sets lower rates

for developing countries. It makes it possible to mail a package from Beijing to New York for less than it costs to send it from San Francisco to New York, for example.

China, Singapore, Germany, France and some other countries benefit from the policy, said a senior White House official on a call with reporters. The official called the current system a "major economic distortion" that affects trade flows and puts American businesses at a competitive disadvantage.

The move comes as the Trump administration is pressuring China to change its trade practices, which

US officials and businesses claim are unfair. President Donald Trump has imposed tariffs on \$250 billion of Chinese goods this year.

A White House official on the call said that while China accounts for a large portion of mail coming in at a subsidized rate, addressing the postage issue is not solely about putting more pressure on China.

"This is a situation where the strategy is simply to stop the harm being done through a multilateral organization ... not just China," the official said.

The damage is being felt by both American businesses and the US Postal

Service, which has been losing money for years.

Trump has frequently blamed Amazon for taking advantage of USPS and contributing to its revenue shortfall. He claims the USPS doesn't charge the retail giant enough to cover what it actually costs to deliver its packages.

But US businesses have complained about the subsidized international shipping rates, and raising them could benefit retailers — including Amazon.

Earlier this year, the National Association of Manufacturers sent a letter to Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin urging him to end the "almost unbelievable

practice whereby our own postal service subsidizes Chinese imports."

While the Trump administration intends to negotiate with UPU members, it will also move forward with a domestic process that would allow the USPS to set its own rates on international packages. The new rates would at least reimburse the United States for the cost of the service.

The United States already has its own rates in place for packages that weigh more than 4.4 pounds. The new rates would apply to lighter packages and would not take effect for at least six months.

New York witches plan to cast spell on Brett Kavanaugh

The planned casting of an anti-Kavanaugh spell, one of the more striking instances of politically disgruntled Americans turning to the supernatural when frustrated by democracy, has drawn backlash from some Christian groups but support from like-minded witch covens.

Melissa Madara was not surprised to receive death threats on Friday as her Brooklyn witchcraft store prepared to host a public hexing of newly confirmed United States Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh this weekend.

The planned casting of an anti-Kavanaugh spell, one of the more striking instances of politically disgruntled Americans turning to the supernatural when frustrated by democracy, has drawn backlash from some Christian groups but support from like-minded witch covens.

"It gives the people who are seeking agency a little bit of chance to have that back," Madara said. The ritual was scheduled to be livestreamed on Facebook and Instagram at 8 pm EDT

on Saturday (1200 GMT Sunday).

Seated at a desk phone among bird skulls and crystal balls at Catland Books, the occult shop she co-owns, Madara said the Kavanaugh hex is expected to be the most popular event the store has hosted since its 2013 opening, including spells aimed at President Donald Trump. Madara declined to provide details of what the latest ritual will entail.

More than 15,000 people who have seen Catland Books promotions on Facebook have expressed interest in attending the event, vastly exceeding the shop's 60-person capacity.

Not everyone is a witchcraft fan. Madara said she had fielded numerous irate

calls from critics, with at least one threatening violence. "Every time we host something like this there's always people who like to call in with death threats or read us scripture," she said.

As far as supporters go, some sexual assault survivors still angry that the US Senate confirmed Kavanaugh's lifetime appointment to the nation's highest court despite accusations that he had sexually assaulted multiple women. Kavanaugh has denied the allegations, and an FBI investigation failed to corroborate his accusers' accounts. Democrats hope lingering outrage over Kavanaugh, particularly among women, will translate into election gains for them on November 6.



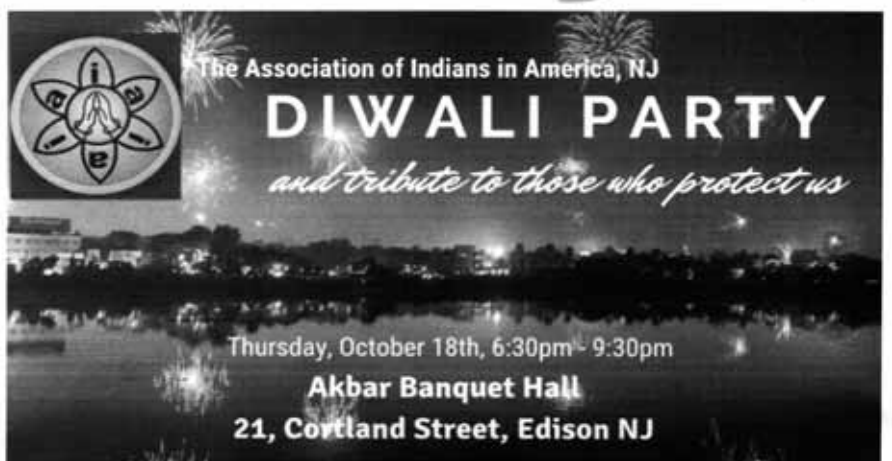
US Ambassador to India attend Durga Puja

Diwali Festival Baps Hindu Temple In Melville, Lond Island

On November 8th, the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Melville, New York will be celebrating the Diwali Festival. The Annakut Thaal will be held at 10:30am, with Murti Darshan from 11am to 7pm, and hourly Aarti starting at 11am and going until 7pm, with dinner to follow. There will be ample parking, so come receive blessings from the Saints for the New Year. It is a community event to pray, meet and greet and enjoy the food and festivities. So, please come and join us to celebrate our most auspicious holiday, Diwali. Diwali, traditionally a five-day celebration of various rituals and Hindu practices associated with each day, brings

in the New Year for Hindus and celebrates the triumph of good over evil. The main celebration is the Annakut festival. Annakut, as practiced throughout BAPS Mandirs worldwide, is a unique and awe-inspiring sight of devotion wherein numerous vegetarian food dishes are prepared by devotees and offered to the Mandir's sacred images. The events for children and families will provide an opportunity for community members to engage with spiritual and cultural themes, thereby bringing positive energy into the New Year, learning about scriptural narratives related to Diwali, and participating in rangolis and other traditional decorations

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Stop the democratisation of misinformation

Both the Election Commission of India and social media companies are acting to curb fake news. But to what extent?



About a decade ago, an infant social media almost brought about democratic revolutions in countries such as Egypt, Iran and Tunisia, by connecting people and allowing an exchange of ideas in unprecedented ways. But as it grows in its reach, influence and against social media have

grown to subvert democracy itself. With the number of Internet users in India going up, this poses a threat here too. And, anticipating that, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has wisely taken precautionary measures. In the last few months, it has organised regional workshops for poll officers, appointed cyber security nodal officers, and plans to have security audits of third-party poll-related applications and websites. It also plans to propose the inclusion of election data as critical information under the IT Act, 2000. But if the allegations of Russian

interference in the US elections have any substance to them, it's indeed an alarming thought for democracies, more so for the ones like India which are undergoing a tremendous social and economic transformation. Such a threat won't be boundary-specific; manipulation can come from outside as well as inside the country. Not that India is any stranger to rumours and fake information, or that the physical vandalism in elections is new. These are the issues that the ECI had successfully dealt with over the years. The modern avatar of these digital manipulations don't coerce you physically, but, by its nature, it allows anyone anywhere to easily spread misinformation and affect the outcome — the Internet-led democratisation of information knows no boundary; so does, it would appear, the Internet-led democratisation of misinformation. What complicates things further is the social media companies' failure to stop applications hosted on their platform from slyly extracting personal information, which can help them chart out the user's world view without her knowledge, and feed

her back apt information in order to nudge her towards a desired political view. Major social media companies have pledged to join hands with the ECI. Fake information is unquestionably bad but we must not lose sight of the larger picture — like governments, we can't trust social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter, almost monopolies now, to be the arbiter of truth or the final word on privacy. The ECI's measures, and social media's promise, appear enough, prima facie. But to what extent? We will have to wait till 2019 for the answer.

India's neighbourhood first policy needs a strong push

At a time when India's relations with its largest neighbour, Pakistan, are completely in a deep freeze and there has been an uptick in the violence in war-torn Afghanistan, New Delhi can ill afford the fraying of ties with any of the other countries in the region



The controversy over a purported bid to assassinate President Maithripala Sirisena blew over after the Sri Lankan leader telephoned Prime Minister Narendra Modi and rejected reports about alleged Indian involvement in the plot. Ideally, such a controversy should never have arisen, given the long-standing ties between the two countries. The reports about the alleged plot hint at some sort of lack of communication between the leadership of the two countries, especially at a time when India's relations with some of its key neighbours appear to have been affected by various irritants and developments in the region. China has already established a considerable

foothold in Sri Lanka, having taken over the strategic Hambantota port and 15,000 acres of land around it after the island nation was unable to repay Chinese loans. China now has a presence in territory located just hundreds of kilometres from India and overlooking important commercial and military sea lanes. In Nepal, despite the scrapping of several big ticket infrastructure projects involving Chinese firms, Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli has indicated he expects both China and India to play a role in development projects. India is now in a race to match China's efforts to develop infrastructure, including a railway line that will link Tibet with Kathmandu. In the Maldives, former president Abdulla Yameen was able to defy pressure from India and other countries opposed to his autocratic ways largely because he believed the Chinese had his back. In Bangladesh, there is growing disquiet among the political leadership over threats by Indian politicians to push back people excluded from the National Register of Citizens to the neighbouring country as well as India's perceived silence on the issue of Myanmar taking back hundreds of thousands of Rohingya refugees now living in Bangladesh. One cannot help but get the feeling that while India has been able to take the lead on major global issues such as climate change, trade and building a multipolar order and defy pressure from powers such as the US on strategic matters such as the acquisition of the S-400 air defence system from Russia, somehow the country's immediate neighbourhood has slipped from the radar of policy planners and decision makers. This is all the more surprising in view of the government's stated "neighbourhood first" policy. At a time when India's relations with its largest neighbour, Pakistan, are completely in a deep freeze and there has been an uptick in the violence in war-torn Afghanistan, New Delhi can ill afford the fraying of ties with any of the other countries in the region.

Voters in assembly polls must not get distracted

In a country that is used to fight elections every now and then, why are a few individuals getting nervous about the electoral contest about to take place in five states? The answer is obvious. Before the 2019 general elections, the voters in these five states will also deliver a verdict on the performance of the central government. In that sense, these assembly elections are a trailer of the general elections. In this scenario, the question that is bound to be asked is: which party will the 13 crore voters in these five states go with? On what basis should almost 17% of the nation's electorate choose its government? When they press the button on the electronic voting machine, will the statements and actions of the politicians influence their decision,

or will they be guided by the ideological opium proffered during the election season? We need to debate this question because despite the flaws in our system, we still take pride in describing ourselves as citizens of the world's largest democracy. Over the last 70 years, belying the rest of the world's expectations, if India has kept this invaluable democratic process alive, then the credit for this should go to the citizens of the country and not to its political class. Now let us come to the people to whom we assign the responsibility of running this system. Let me begin with Madhya Pradesh. When the Congress promised to open a gaushala (cow shelter) in every block of the state, on the eve of elections, the chief minister

promised a full-fledged ministry for cows in response. Without doubt, cow holds a special place in Hinduism, but shouldn't the people of Madhya Pradesh be assessing the state's development and their own well-being while making up their minds? They should contemplate why the BJP, after a reign of 15 years and the Congress, which has been facing such a long exile, need to resort to playing politics in the garb of religion. Why do we allow our faith to be used as an opium for the masses? If you recall, during the Uttar Pradesh elections, the prime minister himself, while talking about electricity and development, gave the example of shamshan and kabristan (crematorium and graveyard).

(Contd on page 18)

It is make or break time for the Congress

The Congress needs to erase the perception of being a party in terminal decline in the next two months to offer a realistic nationwide challenge to the Modi-led BJP in 2019

For four years and a bit, every time there has been a major state election, the dominant narrative is to call it a "test" for Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Amit Shah. The truth is, barring defeats in Bihar and Delhi in 2015, and a 'stolen' mandate in Goa in 2017, the BJP leadership has successfully passed almost every election test (in Punjab, it was the BJP ally, the Akali Dal, which was the big loser). The time, therefore, has now come to reverse the storyline: the 2018 winter elections are, above all else, a stern examination of Rahul Gandhi and the Congress president's credentials to lead an anti-Modi front in 2019. In the past 12 months, Mr Gandhi has got away by claiming to have scored a 'moral victory' in Gujarat by bringing the BJP down to double digits and then scraped through with a post-poll jugaad in Karnataka. Now, he and the Congress party are faced with a prospect of a battle in five states where there can be no more excuses for failure.

This isn't just about 'momentum' before the big general elections. Remember, the BJP won in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh in the winter of 2003 and yet lost the 2004 general elections. You need momentum at times in sports to succeed; in politics, you need it to stay relevant. The next round of elections is a challenge for the Congress to avoid being pushed into near irrelevance, where victory in two, if not three of the five states is critical to re-emerge as a potential magnet for new alignments.

Four months ago, in the afterglow of its post-poll alliance in Karnataka, the Congress seemed poised to craft a maha-gathbandhan or grand alliance against the BJP. That alliance is now rapidly coming apart because of a mix of regional contradictions and national aspirations. The decision of the Bahujan Samaj Party's Mayawati not to align with the Congress in the state elections is, unarguably, the biggest blow to opposition unity. Not only is she a key player in Uttar Pradesh, where her potentially game-changing alliance with the Samajwadi Party still seems on track, but she has a single digit, significant vote share in half a dozen other states, including MP and Chhattisgarh. In a bipolar fight in these states between the BJP and the Congress, she could have added a crucial incremental vote to the latter, apart from raising the intriguing possibility of a pan-India Dalit consolidation around the Opposition.

But for Mayawati, the key to power — her mentor Kanshi Ram called it the master key or guru killi — has always revolved around staying unpredictable and making short-term deals. Whether her choices are occasioned by the pressure of the numerous cases she and her family members face, or a conscious strategy to keep her options open till the Lok Sabha elections, the fact is, Mayawati has sent out a firm message: the Congress today isn't a bankable deposit that can guarantee fixed returns.

It is precisely that perception of being a party in terminal decline that the Congress needs to erase in the next two months to offer a realistic nationwide challenge to the Modi-led BJP in 2019. In each of the three BJP-ruled states of MP, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, there is ample evidence, anecdotal and psephological, of a creeping local anti-incumbency to varying degrees. In Telangana, too, KCR's decision to go in for a snap poll reflects a measure of anxiety. In Mizoram, the Congress remains the principal national player despite the BJP pushing for a strategic alliance of regional forces. In effect, the Congress for once, actually, has half a chance in each of the five state contestations.

And yet, the overwhelming impression is that the Congress could end up squandering the opportunity because of a frayed election machine that appears like a rickety second-hand car when compared with the resourceful BJP Formula One model. The BJP does have the hefty advantage of being financially well-endowed but money power is not always a decisive factor. The Congress must look within too and ask why its deeply factionalised state units have struggled to get their act together. Most crucially, there is the ultimate Kaun Banega Crorepati question: can Rahul Gandhi deliver a major state to the party as its chief campaigner? In recent months, the Congress leader has shown some spunk in taking the fight into the Modi camp. The rhetoric may have got him the headlines but it hasn't yet got him voter endorsement. In that sense, November-December 2018 could be make or break for the Congress leadership. Post-script: At a recent media conclave in Kolkata, a Congress spokesperson insisted that the maha-gathbandhan was a media creation and the party was only pushing for state-wise alliances. The Trinamool Congress leader on the panel retorted, "In Bengal, we don't need any allies." The BJP representative on the debate just smiled. As turf battles intensify, who will have the last laugh?

Lifting the time bar will act as a deterrent to sexual abusers

This is in keeping with the opinion of the WCD ministry that the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Pocso) Act, 2012, does not lay down a time limit. It adds clarity to the Act which was earlier somewhat ambiguous.

In recent times, a lot has been done in India to protect the rights and dignity of women and children. The latest is the ratification by the Union ministry of law and justice of the proposal from the women and child development (WCD) ministry to do away with the time bar and age limit for reporting cases of sexual abuse among children (anyone below the age of 18 years). This is in keeping with the opinion of the WCD ministry that the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Pocso) Act, 2012, does not lay down a time limit. It adds clarity to the Act which was earlier somewhat ambiguous. It also comes a few months after India joined eight countries in setting up a public sex offenders list.

According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), the average reporting rate of rape is 6.3 per 100,000 people. A government-commissioned survey conducted in 2007 showed that 53% of children had been sexually abused. This move helps in many ways: One, the victim may not have had the mental capability to fully understand until much later that what they were going through was, in fact, a violation of their bodies. Two, memories can sometimes remain suppressed until various triggers lead them to resurface, a common occurrence among those suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. Although some may want to address the issue immediately, the aftermath can be discouraging, since over 50% of the children who are abused know their perpetrator.

While the burden of proof on the victim continues to remain heavy since considerable time can pass between the incident and the complaint, it may still prove to be a deterrent, as perpetrators can be held accountable for their actions many years later by being jailed, fined, or both, and added to the public registry of sex offenders. Those who sexually violate children under the age of 12 can be handed the death penalty. This move should be complemented with measures to help survivors deal with a number of things: the repercussions of reliving trauma; address the triggers for sexual assault; combat mental health effects; and find ways to ensure psycho-social rehabilitation (assisting them in leading a normal life).



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impossible for him to deny the truth and resist the demand any more. He was in the wrong, both in the original act and then in the denial of it. He resigned with the following sentence written in his letter of resignation to his prime minister: "To my very deep regret I have to admit that this was not true, and that I misled you and my colleagues and the House."

Macmillan, in accepting the resignation said: "This is a great tragedy for you, your family and your friends." There was civility to the resignation and its acceptance. Profumo's wife, the actress Valerie Hobson, stood by him for the rest of his life which was devoted to quiet philanthropic activity. Politically, he had been given — or he gave himself — the death sentence. He was to die 42 years later, at age 91, neither unmourned by beneficiaries of his charity work, nor ostracised by his party, the Conservative Party. He had rehabilitated himself. But that was wholly because he owned

up, confessed his action and took the punishment for it. Macmillan's role in the entire episode also comes through as most admirably decorous. He did not go by the allegations at once or in a hurry. But when it was clear that Profumo had to go, he let him do that with grace. And he called the whole thing exactly what it was for Profumo, his family and his friends: a tragedy. Allegations such as surrounded Profumo must lead to the resignation of the minister in question, but if the resignation is delayed, resisted, the need for it rebutted, it forfeits the chance of a later redemption. On the other hand, if it comes betimes, a hovering tinge of honour redeems it. Scandals of a sexual nature are rare in cabinets. Other types of controversies, involving financial probity, are more frequent. RK Shanmukham Chetty, India's first finance minister, was asked, it is believed, to resign by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru after

allegations, never conclusively established, of favours done by him to "mill-owners". Chetty, to his credit, left without making a scene. And when he died not long thereafter of a heart attack, there was sadness for him, his family and, one must add, for the great woman who had become his partner — the Bharatanatyam diva, Balasaraswati. Another finance minister, TT Krishnamachari, had to go after a much debated charge of "complicit involvement" in the 1958 Mundhra scam after Justice Vivian Bose, in his enquiry report, indicted TTK for "lying". Nehru at first did not call for TTK's resignation. But when Feroze Gandhi, MP for Rae Bareilly, and incidentally, the PM's son-in-law, would not yield, TTK did go. The resignation was a kind of political death but one from which he resurrected himself. Indeed, the resignation was seen as punishment enough. He was to be back in government. Defence minister

VK Krishna Menon's resignation was demanded by the entire Opposition after India's losses in the 1962 war with China. Menon was defended by Nehru, to start with. But the demand was intense. He was first reduced to being minister for defence production. 'Not enough by half' said The Hindustan Times in a front page editorial. The demand for his ouster only intensified. And then, it is said, Lal Bahadur Shastri, the seniormost minister in Nehru's cabinet, told the PM that he must let Menon go, else the demand will escalate into one for the PM's own resignation. Menon's resignation followed. 'Menon Goes!' said The Hindustan Times in another front page editorial. From being a minister who would not go, Menon became a man who gave up office, power, pelf. He was suddenly free, free not just of office, but of guilt. Giving up office gracefully can mean finding a new role for oneself from within oneself.

Why we need to think about stress among young doctors

Psychological morbidity — the condition of being diseased — among medical students eventually deteriorates their academic performance, and at the same time, increases the risk of substance abuse



Who will treat those who treat others? Many doctors are depressed, drinking heavily, popping stress-relieving pills casually and are often suicidal. They need medical attention — and, urgently. More so the young among them.

In India, we have close to eight lakh allopathic medical practitioners, one of the highest in the world. With an excess of 60,000 students graduating every year, their number is growing steadily. They play an active part in the success or the failure of the health system, but their own mental health condition is

alarming — what the Indian Medical Association calls a "public health crisis".

Reasons for the meltdown among doctors could be many.

Before they graduate to become registered doctors, they undergo an intensive four-and-a-half-year training, followed by an exhausting one-year internship. Thereafter, a select few get an opportunity to reach post-graduate level where they negotiate an equally rigorous process that matches with an unorganised sector blue-collar job in terms of work hours and a call centre's in its schedule. Add

to that the stress of saving lives and seeing trauma from close quarters.

Not everyone can take it. According to a survey published in the Indian Journal of Psychiatry, as many as 30% of doctors in India are suffering from depression, while 17% of them have even thought of committing suicide.

Another study by the Indian Journal of Critical Care Medicine suggests that 21% of doctors consume alcohol in higher volumes, 18% are dependent on antidepressants, 14% are heavy smokers, and doctors as well as nurses who work in the Intensive Care Unit routinely report auditory hallucinations.

Things complicate further when we talk about resident doctors, who are in their phase of the course. Suicide has now become the second leading cause of death in 15 to 29 year olds in India and there is no significant reason the young in the medical profession would find themselves completely unscathed.

Psychological morbidity —

the condition of being diseased — among medical students eventually deteriorates their academic performance, and, at the same time, increases the risk of substance abuse. Attrition from the profession, inability to maintain an effective doctor-patient relationship, failure to establish healthy interpersonal relationships, suicidal thoughts, despondency, feeling of worthlessness and guilt are some of the complications that eventually creep in. In the long run, they end up contributing to the failure of the healthcare system in the country.

The neglect of medical students — and a general disregard for — mental ailments by most around us is a sign of a deeper systemic failure. There are few reliable studies conducted among young medicos, making constructive response to the crisis a difficult task. The solution, however, lies in the basics. If we wish to deliver effective universal health care in the long run, we need to bring in an academic plan that not only trains the medical workforce to

deliver better services to patients and communities but which also radically reforms the way we address the factors contributing to mental ailments among young doctors. In short, students' psychology needs an immediate attention. Our medical institutions must have an accessible counselling service, and, to augment that, a functioning helpline.

In their quest to serve society, doctors invariably suffer, and most of the times, ironically, they have no one to turn to. Mental ailment still remains a social stigma; and as surprising as it may sound, many doctors find it equally hard to defy social norms — including for reasons such as doctors being seen as incapable of treating others as they are suffering from a mental health condition.

We already have a relatively low doctor to patient density — only one allopathic doctor for 1600 patients as compared to the WHO prescription of 1 for 1000. That should be the reason enough to make us think about the issue more than ever.

Ties with India improved, says China's military; floats some new ideas

Important decisions at the border should be left to the front-line forces, the PLA has suggested in a rare article on Sino-India military ties published this week in the influential PLA Daily.



Indian and Chinese militaries should expand engagement between front-line units including training for border guards at each other's universities and open a defence hotline between adjacent military regions to "resolutely" ensure that Doklam-like standoffs don't recur, the People's Liberation Army (PLA) has suggested.

Further, the two countries should establish a regular border meeting mechanism for the

generals of the respective theatre commands.

Important decisions at the border should be left to the front-line forces, the PLA has suggested in a rare article on Sino-India military ties published this week in the influential PLA Daily, the official newspaper of the Chinese military.

It further called for "cooperation between

navies, increase exchanges of young military officers, promote university, academic, and

public affairs exchanges, expand new areas of cooperation, and strengthen cooperation in multilateral frameworks such as the SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organisation)". It was jointly written by Zhao Xiaozhuo and Wang Yu from the War Studies College of the Chinese PLA Academy of Military Sciences, and the Joint Service Academy of the Chinese PLA National Defence University. The article was published under the headline "China-India Military Relations Improve Markedly" in the context of the armed forces' standoff last year near the Sikkim border. Border troops were locked in a standoff for 73 days in the Doklam area, known

as Donglang in China, near the Sikkim border, which is under China's control but claimed by Bhutan. Protracted negotiations between the two countries resolved the problem end of August last year.

"Border disputes such as 'tent confrontation' and 'Donglang event' have all plagued the development of bilateral relations. Since this year, the relationship between the two militaries has improved markedly with the rapid recovery of China-India relations," it said. A slew of suggestions followed to maintain the momentum of peace. "Looking forward to the future, the two sides should promote the establishment of a regular border meeting mechanism for the generals, open the border defence hotline of the

adjacent military regions, carry out personnel exchanges between the adjacent theater commands and the corresponding services at all levels, strengthen exchanges between the front-line units, carry out exchange and training for border guards in the other's colleges and universities, and resolutely put an end to similar incidents as 'Donglang event'," the article said. It added that as long as the consensus reached by the two countries could be extended to "...an action level and pass the upper-level decision to the front-line forces as well as properly control their differences, the two militaries can promote the win-win cooperation,

making their military relations serving as a positive factor for their stable bilateral ties". The authors said the "biggest problem is the pending border issue" but a number of agreements between the two governments and their militaries, New Delhi and Beijing have managed to control differences. In what is rarely recollected by the Chinese government, the authors mentioned: "India was one of the first countries to recognise the new China and to propose restoring China's legitimate seat in the United Nations (UN). China, India and Myanmar jointly advocated the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence and achieved a pioneering work in the history of international relations."

'Can't admit rape survivor', Dehradun school allegedly told girl's parents

A private school in Dehradun allegedly denied admission to a 16-year-old girl because she was gang-raped in a boarding school last month, the rape survivor's lawyer has said.

A private school in Dehradun allegedly denied admission to a 16-year-old girl because she was gang-raped in a boarding school recently, the rape survivor's lawyer has said, demanding cancellation of the school's CBSE affiliation.

Advocate Aruna Negi Chauhan wrote a letter on behalf of the minor's par-

ents to the chief minister Trivendra Singh Rawat and state education minister Arvind Pandey, urging them to take "strict legal action" against the school.

"Her parents tried to get her admission into many private schools of the city, but they all refused. While the other schools did not give the parents any explanation, one private school cat-

egorically told them that they cannot give admission to her as she is a rape victim," Chauhan said. The girl had been allegedly gang raped by four students of her former boarding school on August 14. Although she had informed school authorities, they tried to hush it up. The matter came to light in September, when the girl

thought she was pregnant and informed her elder sister, following which Dehradun's senior superintendent of police (SSP) Nivedita Kukreti was tipped off.

The four boys were taken into custody and the boarding school's director, principal, administration officer, his wife and hostel caretaker were also arrested for



alleged destruction of evidence and trying to hush up the matter. Police later confirmed that the girl was not pregnant.

The CBSE had discontinued the school's affiliation as its response to a show cause notice was "evasive and insensitive", according to reports.

Advocate Chauhan has written to senior superintendent of Uttarakhand police as well, demanding an investigation into how the girl's identity was revealed.

"The biggest question is that how did the school get to know the child was a rape victim? By law, her identity has to be protected. We want the police to investigate who is behind this," she said.

The school authorities were not immediately available for the comment.

Chauhan also demanded the cancellation of the school's affiliation by Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).

However, regional officer of CBSE Ranveer Singh said he has not received any such letter.

"It is the school's prerogative to give admission or not. There are many factors which influence a school's decision. It is not right on the parts of parents and the lawyer to make such allegations," Singh said. Chauhan said the "defeated" parents of the girl wanted to shift her out of Dehradun from the next academic session, but were "left with no choice" and got her admitted to a school in a different state. Despite efforts, the parents of the rape survivor could not be contacted immediately.

Patiala chaat wala raided, tax officials say he earns over Rs 1.2 crore

The search on Wednesday comes close on the heels of a Ludhiana pakorawala declaring an undisclosed income of Rs 60 lakh to the tax department 10 days ago.

When income tax sleuths came calling at Patiala's famous chaatwala, they had a big surprise in store for them: Rs 1.20 crore undisclosed income.

The search on Wednesday comes close on the heels of a Ludhiana pakorawala declaring an undisclosed income of Rs 60 lakh to the tax department 10 days ago.

"The owner had not filed IT returns for the past two years. After conducting a discreet survey, trac-

ing the footfall at his shop and monitoring his supplies to other shops and marriages, we raided



his Focal Point shop and found that he had made investments running into lakhs in real estate,"

said an I-T official, who was part of the raiding team.

The chaat wala also has booking offices on Sirhind road where he takes bulk orders for marriages and other functions. "In our survey, we have found that famous eateries are making huge money but not paying taxes according to their income. Thus, we have decided to launch this drive against tax defaulters", said another official, who was part of team that raided Ludhiana pakorawala and other eateries recently.



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Antigua and Barbuda examining request for Mehul Choksi's extradition: MEA

Foreign minister of Antigua and Barbuda had conveyed to Sushma Swaraj the assurances of his Prime Minister for fullest cooperation of their government in the matter of Choksi's extradition to India, MEA said.

The request for extradition of fugitive diamantaire Mehul Choksi is being "examined" by Antigua and Barbuda, the Ministry of External Affairs said Thursday. Answering a question on Choksi, MEA Spokesperson Raveesh Kumar at a briefing said, "According to the information that I have, the extradition request by the CBI (Central Bureau of Investigation) and the ED (Enforcement Directorate), is being examined by them (Antigua and Barbuda authorities) and after they have

examined it, they have said they will convey their response to India." External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj had met Foreign Minister of Antigua and Barbuda E P Chet Greene last month on the sidelines of the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly and raised the issue of extradition of Choksi, who is currently in the Caribbean island. Greene had conveyed to Swaraj the assurances of his Prime Minister for fullest cooperation of their government in the matter of extradition of Choksi to India,

Kumar had said after the meeting. Choksi is one of the alleged masterminds of the \$2 billion scam in state-run Punjab National Bank and is an uncle of fugitive diamantaire Nirav Modi. He is wanted in India by the CBI and ED probing the fraud. On a question on absconding businessman Vijay Mallya and Nirav Modi, Kumar said that in the case of Nirav Modi, extradition requests from the CBI and ED are pending with the UK authorities. "The requests are under consideration," he said.



"We are committed to take this question on dissident Saudi matter forward and to bring back journalist Jamal Khashoggi's the economic offenders," he mysterious disappearance, said. On Mallya, he said the Kumar said, "I think I have Westminster Magistrates' Court seen media reports that this has fixed December 10 as the matter is still under date for verdict in the case. investigation and so at this stage I have no comments."

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"The owner had not filed IT returns for the past two years. After conducting a discreet survey, tracing the footfall at his shop and monitoring his supplies to other shops and marriages, we raided his Focal Point shop and found that he had made investments running into lakhs in real estate," said an I-T official, who was part of the raiding team. The chaat wala also has booking offices on Sirhind road where he takes bulk orders for marriages and other functions. "In our survey, we have found that famous eateries are making huge money but not paying taxes according to their income. Thus, we have decided to launch this drive against tax defaulters", said another official, who was part of team that raided Ludhiana pakorawala and other eateries recently.

Withdraw case against woman journalist: Editors Guild asks MJ Akbar

Many women journalists have accused MJ Akbar, a former editor of The Asian Age newspaper, of inappropriate behaviour, joining the global #MeToo campaign.



A day after minister of state for external affairs MJ Akbar resigned over sexual harassment allegations against him, the Editors Guild of India has put out a statement asking Akbar to withdraw his defamation case against the woman journalist who has accused him of sexual misconduct. At least a dozen women journalists have accused 67-

year-old Akbar, a former editor of The Telegraph, Deccan Chronicle and The Asian Age newspapers, of inappropriate behaviour, joining the global #MeToo campaign. Denying all the allegations, Akbar responded by suing journalist Priya Ramani, who was the first one to accuse him of sexual misconduct. "We hope that Mr Akbar will also display the grace to withdraw the criminal defamation case he has filed against one of these complainants. While Mr Akbar is entitled to all legal instruments available to a citizen to seek vindication, it would be paradoxical for a veteran editor to employ the instrument of criminal defamation. More so for Mr Akbar who happens to be a former

president of the Guild," the editor's body said in a statement. The criminal defamation case against Priya Ramani comes up for hearing in Delhi court later today.

Extending support to the women journalists, the statement said, "if he doesn't, or in case he files such cases against other women too, the Guild offers its support to them. If any of them were to need legal advice or assistance, the Guild will do the best it can to help and also appeal to eminent lawyers to represent them pro bono." The allegations of sexual misconduct against Akbar date back to the years he was a journalist and newspaper editor in the 1980s and the 1990s.

Won't disconnect mobile phones issued through Aadhaar, says Centre

The UIDAI clarified that the top court orders state that it cannot keep authentication log for more than six months but the telecom companies have to keep the data as per Aadhaar regulations to resolve grievances of consumers.

Mobile phone connections that were issued on the basis of Aadhaar documents will not be disconnected, the government said on Thursday, rubbing news reports that 50 crore numbers, almost half of the phones in India, were at the risk of disconnection. These reports are "completely untrue and imaginary", the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) and the department of telecommunications (DOT) said in a joint statement.

"The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its judgement in Aadhaar case has nowhere directed that the mobile number which has been issued through Aadhaar eKYC has to be disconnected. Therefore, there is absolutely no reason for panic or fear at all. People should not believe in such rumours," it said. The statement clarified that the top court has said UIDAI should not keep authentication log for more than six months but the telecom companies

have to keep the data as per Aadhaar regulations to resolve grievances of consumers. "Further, in the light of the SC verdict, if anybody wishes to get her/his Aadhaar eKYC replaced by the fresh KYC, s/he may request the service provider for delinking of her/his Aadhaar by submitting fresh OVDs as per earlier DOT Circulars on mobile KYC. But in any case her/his mobile number will not be disconnected," the statement said.



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DOT Circulars on mobile KYC. But in any case her/his mobile number will not be disconnected," the statement said. It also said that the top court has prohibited the issue of new SIM cards through Aadhaar eKYC authentication process due to the lack of a law and that there is no direction to deactivate the old mobile phones. It added that the department of telecom and UIDAI are in a process of bringing out a "hassle-free and digital

process" for issuing new SIM cards through a mobile app which will be fully compliant of the Supreme Court judgement in Aadhaar case. "In the proposed process, a live photograph of the person with latitude, longitude, and time stamp will be captured. The photo of her ID such as Aadhaar card, voter ID, etc., will be captured. The SIM card agent will be authenticated through OTP and SIM card will be issued."

'Can't admit rape survivor', Dehradun school allegedly told girl's parents

A private school in Dehradun allegedly denied admission to a 16-year-old girl because she was gang-raped in a boarding school last month, the rape survivor's lawyer has said.



A private school in Dehradun allegedly denied admission to a 16-year-old girl because she was gang-raped in a boarding school recently, the rape survivor's lawyer has said, demanding cancellation of the school's CBSE affiliation. Advocate Aruna Negi Chauhan wrote a letter on behalf of the minor's parents to the chief minister Trivendra Singh Rawat and state education minister Arvind Pandey, urging them to take "strict

legal action" against the school. "Her parents tried to get her admission into many private schools of the city, but they all refused. While the other schools did not give the parents any explanation, one private school categorically told them that they cannot give admission to her as she is a rape victim," Chauhan said. The girl had been allegedly gang raped by four students of her former boarding school on August 14. Although she had informed school authorities, they tried to

hush it up. The matter came to light in September, when the girl thought she was pregnant and informed her elder sister, following which Dehradun's senior superintendent of police (SSP) Nivedita Kukreti was tipped off. The four boys were taken into custody and the boarding school's director, principal, administration officer, his wife and hostel caretaker were also arrested for alleged destruction of evidence and trying to hush up the matter. Police later confirmed that the girl

was not pregnant. The CBSE had discontinued the school's affiliation as its response to a show cause notice was "evasive and insensitive", according to reports. Advocate Chauhan has written to senior superintendent of Uttarakhand police as well, demanding an investigation into how the girl's identity was revealed. "The biggest question is that how did the school get to know the child was a rape victim? By law, her identity has to be protected. We want the police to investigate who is

behind this," she said. The school authorities were not immediately available for the comment. Chauhan also demanded the cancellation of the school's affiliation by Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE). However, regional officer of CBSE Ranveer Singh said he has not received any such letter. "It is the school's prerogative to give admission or not. There are many factors which influence a school's decision. It is not right on the parts of parents and the lawyer to make such allegations," Singh said.



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#MeToo movement launched by people with perverted minds, says central minister

Union minister Pon Radhakrishnan has said the #MeToo movement was started by “people with perverted minds” and wondered if it was fair to level accusations over incidents that happened years ago.



In potentially controversial remarks that could provoke a backlash, Union minister Pon Radhakrishnan has said the #MeToo movement

was started by “people with perverted minds” and wondered if it was fair to level accusations over incidents that happened

years ago.

The BJP leader made the comments on the sidelines of an event in response to questions by reporters Wednesday amid the raging #MeToo storm which has demolished the carefully cultivated reputations of many distinguished personalities in the field of media and entertainment industry including celebrated journalist M J Akbar.

Akbar, who edited many

mainstream publications before joining politics, resigned as Union Minister of State for External Affairs on Wednesday after a host of his former women journalist colleagues accused him of sexual harassment.

“If someone makes an allegation that such a thing happened....when the incident happened we were playing together while in class 5....Would it be fair? “This (MeToo movement) is

the result of the behaviour of some people who have perverted minds,” Radhakrishnan, Union Minister of State for Shipping and Finance said. Noting that the ‘MeToo’ movement had sullied the image of the country and women, he wondered if it would be right for men to start “making similar accusations like them”. “That will be such a big insult....Will it be acceptable?” Radhakrishnan

said. The #MeToo movement has gathered steam over the past few days with a number of women speaking about sexual harassment at workplace and outed their alleged tormentors. Several celebrities including actors Nana Patekar, Alok Nath, filmmaker Subhash Ghai, author Chetan Bhagat, singer Kailash Kher and Tamil lyricist Vairamuthu are among the few who have been called out by their alleged victims.

In Sabarimala temple politics down south, BJP and RSS see an opportunity



With the Sabarimala protests reaching a peak, the focus has now shifted to the political impact of the movement as Lok Sabha elections are not far away. The RSS-BJP combine sense an opportunity to ride on this tide and turn Sabarimala into an Ayodhya of the South to reap electoral dividends; meanwhile, the ruling CPI(M)-led Left Democratic Front and the Opposition Congress are trying their best to deny the saffron brigade any political space.

As rallies and protests by groups opposing the entry of women of all ages into the temple gained ground, the BJP changed its position. This, despite the apparent difference of the local unit (which had first welcomed the Supreme Court verdict as one that paved the way for gender equality) with the stance of the party's national leadership.

The saffron party's job was, in part, made easier by the LDF government, which has no other option but to implement the court verdict. And though the BJP maintains it was not spearheading the agitations, its leaders were at the forefront, lending credence to the CPI(M)'s charge that the Sangh Parivaar instigated the protests to gain political mileage through communal polarisation.

“The BJP is only supporting the protests. The party is not involved in either organising or leading them,” says senior BJP leader Muraleedharan, while denying the charge that its intent is to reap electoral dividends in the Lok Sabha polls.

Squarely blaming the RSS and the BJP for the current situation, CPI(M) MP MB Rajesh says: “It is an ideological and political fight and we are carrying it forward. While the RSS-

BJP brigade is instigating the protests, the Congress has betrayed its historical legacy by supporting them.” He is not convinced the BJP can convert this angst into votes.

The state government itself is partly to blame, according to activist and analyst Civic Chandran, a former Naxal leader. The Pinarayi Vijayan government failed to resolve the issue through dialogue, he adds. While, admitting that the government should implement the court verdict, he points out where similar verdicts like the one on Adivasi land have not been acted upon with same urgency.

In his view, the Sabarimala protests will certainly find an echo in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, with the BJP gaining more ground and possibly snatching one or two parliamentary seats. Interestingly, people from the other backward classes

The RSS-BJP combine sense an opportunity in the Sabarimala temple row to turn it into an Ayodhya of the South for electoral dividends; the Left Democratic Front and the Congress are trying their best to stop that.

or OBCs have stayed away from the protests. And the Ezhava community leadership has come out openly against the protests as has tribal leader CK Janu. The OBCs account for about 32% of the state's population, the Ezhavas 22.6% and tribals 1.45%. As such, hopes of communal polarisation yielding any tangible gains remains to be seen.

Vijayaraghavan Cheliya, who has written on

Sabarimala, says, “In the absence of continuity and genuine conversation, there is a lack of credibility which allows the ground to the saffron brigade to exploit the present situation.” As for the Congress ambivalence, his rationale is that it is a tactic preventing the RSS-BJP from occupying the entire political space offered by the Sabarimala impasse. Further, he is dismissive of the BJP

making a rich harvest out of this in the general elections, given the social dynamics of Kerala. Meanwhile, the situation in Pampa and Nilakal has been brought under control. But the organisations spearheading the protests haven't given up and have called for a shutdown to press for their demand. Since, it is supported by the Sangh, the Congress has distanced from it.

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1. **Introduction**

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1. **Introduction**
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Two trains mow down over 60 of Dussehra crowd in Amritsar

Fireworks drowned train's siren; scores battling for life in various hospitals.

Punjab govt announces state mourning, schools to remain closed today.

Rail minister Piyush Goyal cancels his US engagements for quick return



Will personally supervise relief and rescue in tragic accident. My government will give ₹5 lakh to kin of each deceased and free treatment to injured. District authorities have been mobilised on war footing

— AMARINDER SINGH, PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER



The effigy was burnt and I had just left the site when it happened. Priority is to get the injured treated. People who are doing politics over it should be ashamed

— NAVJOT KAUR SIDHU, WIFE OF AMRITSAR (EAST) MLA NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU



Can I plz request people to stop blaming each other or parties.. it's not a political thing..it's a very sad incident which has happened...it's time for all the political parties and people to come together and help each other..STOP THIS BLAME GAME

— HARBHAJAN SINGH, CRICKETER

(News Agencies) Over 60 people were killed and several injured Friday evening as two trains speeding in opposite directions mowed down people standing on the tracks near a railway crossing watching a Ravana effigy being burnt at a Dussehra celebration here. There were at least 300 spectators at the Dhobi Ghat ground barely 2 km from the Amritsar station. Many of them stood on the tracks close to the Jaura Phatak crossing to get a better view and were taking videos of the burning Ravana as the first of the trains ran them over. The gates at the crossing were closed at the time. It was only after the train had flashed past did the stunned survivors realise what had happened. Most of the casualties appeared to be of those killed by the first train, 74643 Jalandhar-Amritsar DMU, said a senior Railway official. The second train, the 13006 Amritsar-Howrah Express, sped past seconds later and some of those who had jumped on the second set of tracks to escape the first were caught under it, he said.

At 6.50 pm, it was already dark when the incident took place. Bodies were strewn on the tracks and until late tonight, people, many of them crying and screaming, were looking for their missing relatives and friends. There was anger too and many were shouting slogans of protest against the Railways, the state government and the police. Chief Minister Amarinder Singh, who was to leave for Israel Friday evening, cancelled the trip and announced he would fly to Amritsar on Saturday to assess the damage and meet families of the victims. Minister of State for Railways Manoj Sinha, Railway Board chairman Ashwani Lohani and Northern Railway general manager Vishwesh Chaurse are rushing to the spot while Railway Minister Piyush Goyal said immediate relief and rescue operations are being conducted. The state government announced an ex-gratia payment of Rs 5 lakh as compensation to the next of kin of those who were killed and has

declared Saturday a day of mourning in the state. Offices and educational institutions will remain shut. President Ram Nath Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi condoled the loss of lives. Modi announced Rs 2 lakh compensation for the family of the dead and Rs 50,000 for the injured. He also directed officials to provide immediate assistance. "Extremely saddened by the tragedy is heart-wrenching," he tweeted. "My deepest

condolences to the families of those who lost their loved ones and I pray that the injured recover quickly. Have asked officials to provide immediate assistance that is required," he said.

The CM also announced that he had ordered an inquiry into how a Dussehra celebration was being held next to a railway crossing. He has asked all his Cabinet members to reach Amritsar on Saturday. Additional police forces were deployed to assist in the relief work and maintain law and order at the site. The Army also pitched in with ambulances.

The incident took place soon after former MLA Amritsar East Navjot Kaur Sidhu, who is also wife of Punjab Cabinet minister Navjot

Singh Sidhu and the present MLA of the area, arrived and the effigy of Ravana was set on fire. Sidhu said the Railways should have ensured that trains slow down near that section of the track during Dussehra celebrations. "Every year, Dussehra celebrations take place there," she said, adding she had left the place before the incident took place. Amritsar Police Commissioner S S Srivastava said that the injured were taken to the civil hospital and Guru Nanak Dev hospital. Punjab Cabinet Minister S Soni who arrived at the spot soon after the incident had to face angry crowds and was roughed up. The crowd also raised slogans against Navjot Kaur Sidhu and the local administration.



Voters in assembly polls must not get distracted

But believing that the BJP's majority came just because of these symbols is to do an injustice to the voters' intelligence. Didn't Uttar Pradesh's unfulfilled wish for progress drive the idea of change? Wasn't the splintered Opposition trying to justify itself with a meaningless debate? There could be a number of reasons to put their case forward but our politicians assume that religion is the easiest formula. As a result, religious leaders and places of worship have flourished. Politicians, too, have a right to exercise their faith in the manner that they want, but why is this exercised only at the time of elections? Consider Rahul Gandhi's recent Amethi trip. As soon as he reached, enthusiastic party workers began raising slogans about his personal faith. Naturally, the Congress president was perturbed. Three

overzealous party workers have been suspended over this, but the incident is an indicator of the direction national politics is headed in. Politics has become an affair where warped logic has become a potent weapon. The latest example is the recent murder of an Apple executive in Lucknow. He was deliberately shot dead by the police in the heart of the city. It was a subject on which every political party should have put their differences aside and expressed solidarity with the victim's family. But an attempt was made to lend a political colour to it. A tweet by Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal reflects this. Even his admirers were puzzled by this: How does religion come into this repulsive act? Like religion, Pakistan is also frequently used as an electoral ploy. The two countries share a contentious relationship which resembles old family ties. Disputes about borders have led

to attempts to break this bond, to no avail. Despite this, our politicians refuse to give up. People on both sides of the border may not want to sever these ties, but politicians have been fanning hatred every election season since 1947. Here I would like to make a request to India's political parties: It will be good if they didn't sling so much mud on each other in these elections. The last 70 years are evidence that only those politicians who let their actions speak for them have proved to be successful. Why don't they approach voters with a balance sheet of their achievements? Identities on the basis of caste, language, region and religion are important, but striking a harmony among all these makes India the nation it is. It is rare to find such an example of unity in diversity anywhere else in the world. Why should we unsettle it just for the sake of political power?

US proposes changes to H-1B visa programme, move to hit Indian IT companies

The DHS proposes "to revise the definition of specialty occupation to increase focus on obtaining the best and the brightest foreign nationals" via the H-1B programme, the agency said in the Fall 2018 Unified Agenda, a twice-yearly summary and plans of the federal government, published Wednesday.

It also proposes to "revise the definition of employment and employer-employee relationship to better protect US workers and wages. In addition, DHS will propose additional requirements designed to ensure employers pay appropriate wages to H-1B visa holders".

The purpose of these changes, it added, was to "ensure that H-1B visas are awarded only to individuals who will be working in a job which meets the statutory definition of specialty occupation. In addition, these changes are

intended to ensure that the H-1B program supplements the US workforce and strengthens US worker protections".

Among other proposals, and reiterated, in the Unified Agenda, was the elimination of work authorization for spouses of H-1B holders who are waiting for their Green Card (permanent residency, which is a step away from citizenship), a programme that also mainly benefits Indian workers. Another change proposed in the agenda, and slated for early implementation, is to require employers planning to hire cap-mandated H-1B workers — 85,000 — to register with authorities before hand. And only those picked will then go on to submit completed H-1B applications. Critics of the H-1B programme have long argued that it has used to displace American workers with cheaper foreign

workers. Agreeing with them, president Trump, who had himself used it in his businesses before, has ordered its review and measures to stop its abuse and fraud. Redefining "speciality occupation" to raise the bar for those eligible for H-1Bs, raising salaries for foreign workers and some other measures, it has been argued, would force American companies, including local affiliates of Indians IT giants such as TCS, Infosys and Wipro, to go with American workers. The Trump administration first proposed the redefinition in the Unified Agenda for Fall 2017, which was released around the same time last year, using the same language. The target date for implementing it was October 2018, which the administration missed, without ascribing any reasons for it. The proposal as reiterated in the Spring Unified

Agenda, the document is published twice every year, with a new target date of January 2019. And now the proposal in into its third iteration with the stated implementation goal of August 2019. It could even be announced before, if it's ready. The US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), the DHS agency that directly administers the H-1B programme, refused to discuss timelines or proposals. "USCIS can't comment on alleged proposals until they are made public," an official said on background. "We continue to review all employment-based visa programs, including H-1B. Any proposed regulatory changes will not be final until the rulemaking process is complete and the published rule takes effect." USCIS's Michael Bars, a spokesperson, said, "The

administration has been relentlessly pursuing merit-based policy and regulatory immigration reforms, including a thorough review of H-1Bs and employment based visa programs so they benefit the American people to the greatest extent possible in fulfillment of the President's Buy American, Hire American Executive Order." Changing the definition "has great potential to reform the program", said Sarah Pierce, an expert with the Migration Policy Institute, a leading US think tank. "However," she added, "there are a lot of factors in these definitions that are set by statute (the Immigration and Nationality Act, the overarching law), which the administration cannot change without the approval of Congress." And that will make the proposed change a long and complex process.

Singh brothers defrauded Fortis Healthcare of Rs 4 billion, must pay it back: Sebi

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said on Wednesday it will continue to investigate the alleged fraud at Fortis Healthcare Ltd. to determine the role other parties may have played. In the meantime, it has given the founders and former majority owners Malvinder and Shivinder Singh, and their related corporate entities, three months to pay the money back. Sebi began investigating the matter in February after a Bloomberg report on the issue, according to the order. A spokesperson for the Singh brothers' main holding company declined to comment on the regulatory order. The regulatory action adds to an already long list of liabilities facing the Singh brothers, who once controlled a business empire in India worth billions of dollars that is now largely lost. Lenders seized their Fortis shares earlier this year and Malaysia's IHH Healthcare Bhd. has since agreed to acquire the company. An Indian court has also ordered they pay about \$500 million to Japanese drug firm Daiichi Sankyo Co. to settle another fraud case. And the results of a separate probe into financial irregularities at the Singhs' companies by India's fraud office have yet to be released. Sebi's order details

the results of its months-long investigation and alleges that the brothers used a complex web of shell companies and financial transactions to hide that they were the ultimate beneficiaries of loans made by Fortis. The regulator claims the Rs 4 billion was used to return money their holding company had borrowed from India Bulls Mutual Fund and HDFC Ltd, or routed to their financial-services company, where India's central bank has found they diverted funds previously. In total, the regulator found that Fortis's cash balances were inflated by about Rs 4.7 billion, according to the order.

US proposes changes to H-1B visa programme, move to hit Indian IT companies

One of the complicating factors surrounding its completion date, however, is the fact that his legal team is still working on providing written answers to Mueller's questions. Additionally, his team has not reached a final agreement on whether the President will sit down for an interview about possible obstruction of justice related to his firing of FBI Director James Comey.

Meanwhile, behind the scenes the special counsel's team

How the Hedge Fund Manager Running Sears Cut His Losses

Edward S. Lampert, who leads the struggling retailer, has taken control of valuable real estate and businesses.

The hedge fund manager Edward S. Lampert has spent the last 14 years steering Sears as it spun off businesses, took on debt and, this week, filed for bankruptcy protection. It has been a long, and often painful, trip, but how has Mr. Lampert fared? His hedge fund, ESL Investments, appears to have racked up a much more modest loss than the company's Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing would suggest, according to corporate filings and interviews with analysts and investors. ESL's nearly 50 percent stake in Sears will probably be wiped out in bankruptcy. But that loss is



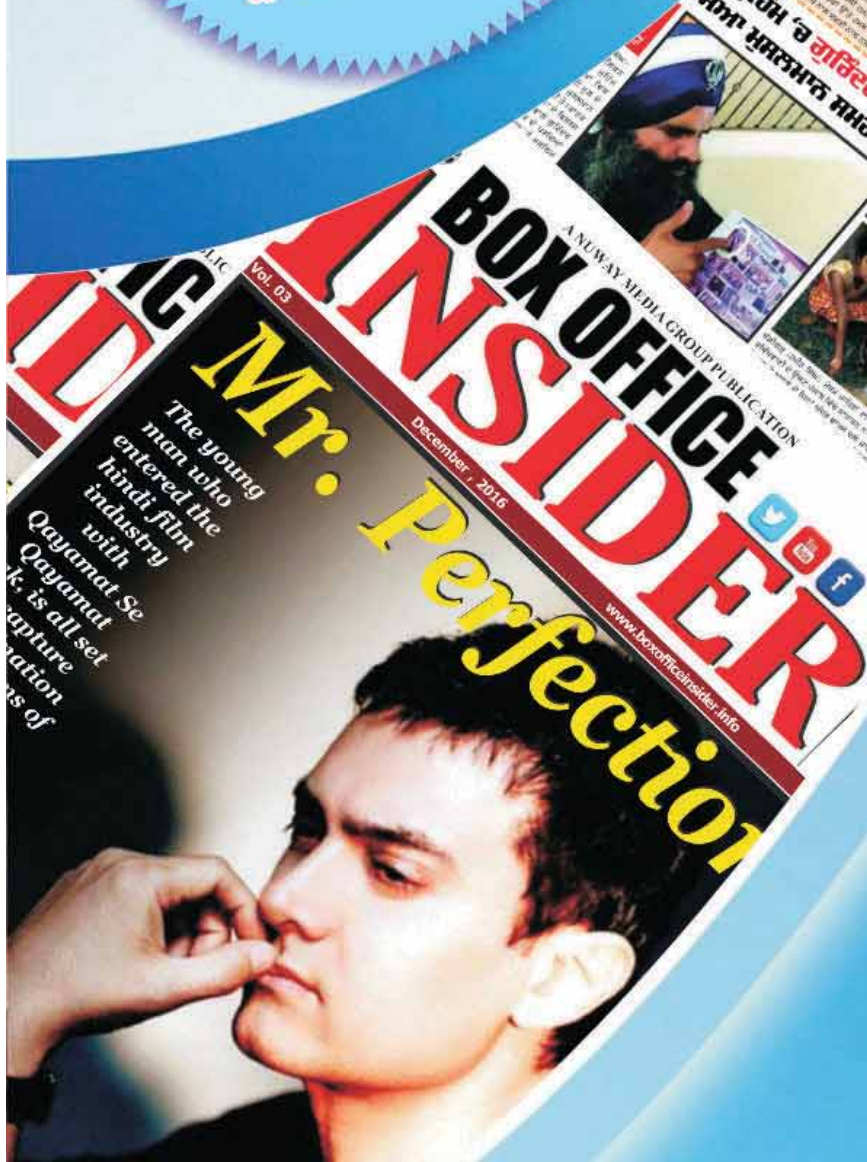
offset by gains elsewhere. For example, Mr. Lampert has collected hundreds of millions of dollars in interest and fees from Sears. He also took stakes in businesses that were spun off from the company, and some of those investments are doing well. He and his hedge fund played an unusual role at Sears. In addition to being the company's controlling shareholder, ESL was one of its biggest lenders. Mr. Lampert is the retailer's chairman and, until Monday, he was also its chief executive. For years, the company warned investors in regulatory filings that his interests "may be different than your interests" — a disclaimer that few publicly traded companies make. But Mr.

Lampert said he had always acted in the best interests of Sears. During a speech on Tuesday at the company's headquarters in Hoffman Estates, Ill., he told employees that he could have cashed out years ago. Instead, he said, he "doubled down." "I did everything I could think of to try to make this company great again," Mr. Lampert said, according to an audio recording of his remarks obtained by The New York Times. In 2005, Mr. Lampert orchestrated one of the biggest retail mergers in history by using the discount retailer Kmart to buy the department-store giant Sears & Company. A few years earlier, he had started buying up Kmart's debt after the company filed for bankruptcy protection.



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Saudi former diplomat called 'pivotal' in Khashoggi's apparent killing

Saudi intelligence officer and former diplomat Maher Abdulaziz Mutreb played a "pivotal role" in the apparent assassination of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi, a source familiar with the Turkish investigation has told CNN. The source said that Mutreb was fully aware of "the plot" of the operation. Mutreb, who was the first secretary at the Saudi embassy in London and has been described as a colonel in Saudi intelligence, is closely connected to

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. "He was seconded to an elite protection brigade within the Royal Guard to serve as the personal security force of [the crown prince]," a Saudi source told CNN. Mutreb appeared in photographs alongside bin Salman during the crown prince's tour of the United States earlier this year. Several US officials have told CNN that any operation involving members of the crown prince's inner circle could not have happened

without his direct knowledge. Security camera images that purport to show the movements of Mutreb, one of 15 Saudi men believed by Turkish authorities to be connected to the disappearance and apparent death of Khashoggi, were published Thursday by a Turkish newspaper. Turkish investigators continue to hunt for clues to what happened to Jamal Khashoggi amid growing indications that some of the men allegedly responsible for the journalist's

killing have close ties to the highest levels of the Saudi government. The four images, which pro-government paper Sabah said it obtained from Turkish security sources, purportedly show Mutreb in Istanbul on October 2. Khashoggi, a Washington Post columnist, visited the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on October 2 to obtain papers that would have allowed him to marry his Turkish fiancée. The insider-turned-critic of the Saudi government has not been seen since.

U.S. merges consulate in Jerusalem with embassy, in a blow to Palestinians

The Trump administration is merging the U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem into the new U.S. Embassy there, a move critics say is the latest U.S. slap at the Palestinians and one that could further undermine hopes for a two-state solution. The U.S. Consulate General effectively functioned as a direct point of contact for the Palestinians, whose leadership did not want to go through the U.S. Embassy in Israel. Much of its work is expected to be handled by a Palestinian Affairs Unit. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, in announcing the change Thursday, said the U.S. ambassador to Israel, David Friedman, would guide the merger. A former Trump administration official had told POLITICO that Friedman was pushing for unifying the two

missions. Pompeo implied that the move was a cost-saving measure and insisted it had no bearing on U.S. policy. "This decision is driven by our global efforts to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our operations," he said. "It does not signal a change of U.S. policy on Jerusalem, the West Bank or the Gaza Strip." But former officials and analysts disagreed with that assessment. Dan Shapiro, who served as the U.S. ambassador to Israel during the Obama administration, argued that the decision downgrades diplomatic relations with the Palestinians. "It is not consistent with the goal of achieving a two-state solution, and that is how it will be understood by both sides," he said in a statement. "It is very unlikely that the

Palestinian Authority will engage the U.S. government through the embassy to Israel."

Saeb Erekat, the secretary general of the Palestinian Liberation Organization, said in a statement that the Trump administration was working with the Israeli government to create "Greater Israel." He noted that President Donald Trump had made other moves that appear to undermine the Palestinians, including recognizing Jerusalem as the Israeli capital, not doing enough to stop Israeli settlement construction in land claimed by Palestinians, and cutting funding for Palestinian refugees. "The U.S. administration has fully endorsed the Israeli narrative, including on Jerusalem, refugees and settlements," Erekat said.

Kamala Harris proposes big new middle-class tax break



Sen. Kamala Harris, a potential 2020 Democratic presidential candidate, today proposed a big new tax break for average Americans. The California Democrat wants to create a new \$6,000 tax credit for

families earning up to \$100,000. The break would be "refundable," which means people could claim it even if it exceeded their tax liabilities, by receiving a check from the government for the difference. She wants to allow recipients to claim it throughout the year, up to \$500 per month, rather than having to wait to get a lump sum after they file their taxes.

Harris says it's intended to help families cope with the cost of living, though it's also surely designed to contrast with Republicans' recent tax-code rewrite. "We should put money back into the pockets of American families to address rising costs of childcare, housing, tuition and other expenses," Harris said in a statement. "Our tax code should reflect our values and instead of more tax breaks for the top 1 percent and corporations, we should be lifting up millions of American families." The plan would be pricey, and it comes at a time when the government is already running a nearly \$800 billion budget deficit. Harris's office said it doesn't yet know exactly how much the plan would cost, but that Harris would finance it in part by repealing the parts of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that benefit people earning more than \$100,000. She would also impose a new bank tax on institutions with more than \$50 billion in assets. The plan would increase the number of Americans — currently about 44 percent — who are effectively excused from paying income taxes.

'It's dead on arrival'

Former Brexit minister savages Theresa May's plan to extend Brexit transition period as BOTH wings of her party 'mobilise to overthrow her' amid growing Tory anger at new concession

Theresa May is facing the most dangerous week of her premiership after angering Tories of all stripes over her proposal to extend the Brexit transition period, an idea one former Brexit minister called 'dead on arrival'. Remain Lord Bridges, who served in the Department for Exiting the European Union between July 2016 and June 2017, joined a chorus of criticism last night after the Prime Minister raised the possibility of the new concession.

The news has unleashed a new frenzy of plotting against the Prime Minister, with former Brexit secretary David Davis calling round ministers to call for a change in the negotiations - prompting rumours of a leadership challenge. 'He is definitely on

manoeuvres,' one recipient of a call told The Times.

Although friends of Mr Davis insist he is only seeking a reversal of policy, not a change in leader, there are said to be a small but growing group of Tory MPs who would like to install him in a caretaker capacity.

One senior Conservative said the 'current was flowing' against Mrs May as Brexiteer MPs met to discuss submitting letters of no confidence - with 48 needed to dislodge her.

Eurosceptic Nadine Dorries urged MPs to follow her own lead by submitting a letter of no confidence in the PM.

Jacob Rees-Mogg said a longer transition was a 'poor attempt at kicking the can down the road', while a source on the European

Research Group said Tory MPs were 'on a hair trigger' to call for Mrs May to go.

On the Remain side, groups representing more than 100 pro-EU Tory MPs held a meeting to discuss ways of blocking a no-deal Brexit. Former minister Nick Boles, who campaigned for Remain, warned that Mrs May was 'losing the confidence of the party'. Extending the transition - which is due to finish at the end of December 2020 - means the UK would continue to accept EU laws and the free movement of people, and would involve billions more in payments on top of the £39 billion divorce bill. Critics said



an extra year could cost £16 billion. There were indications in Brussels that Mrs May's gambit could break the deadlock over the issue of the Irish border, which has threatened to derail hopes of a deal. German Chancellor Angela Merkel was reported to have told EU leaders it was time to show 'flexibility' in Brexit negotiations.

The \$41 billion wealth gap that divides Ambani brothers

The sale of RCom assets to Reliance Jio brings the saga of Mukesh Ambani and Anil Ambani full circle and sets the stage for the next chapter in the story of one of India's greatest business dynasties

Over the past year, the fortunes of the two brothers at the helm of India's wealthiest dynasty have grown apart—to more than \$40 billion apart.

Elder sibling Mukesh Ambani, 61, toppled China's Jack Ma as Asia's richest man, after driving a telecommunications revolution with Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd that propelled his petrochemicals conglomerate Reliance Industries Ltd into the \$100 billion club. His net worth has swelled to \$43.1 billion, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, \$5.2 billion ahead of Ma and just ahead of Microsoft Corp.'s former chief, Steve Ballmer. Meanwhile Anil Ambani, two years his junior, has had a difficult year, with some of his businesses suffering legal and liquidity challenges that roiled stocks, cutting his personal fortune by almost half to \$1.5 billion, according to the index.

Neither the brothers nor their groups responded to questions for this story regarding their wealth or business operations. The tale of the two brothers' diverging fortunes began 16 years ago, when their rags-to-riches father Dhirubhai Ambani, whose life inspired a Bollywood film, died of a stroke without leaving a will. The industrialist, who started out as a gas station attendant in Yemen, had built a vast business empire, financing massive factories by selling so many shares to small investors that stockholder meetings had to be held in a football stadium. A feud between his two sons following their father's death dogged the group until their mother, Kokilaben, stepped in during 2005 and brokered a truce. Mukesh got control of the flagship oil refining and petrochemicals, while Anil got the newer businesses such as power generation and financial services. He also took over the telecoms unit, which under Mukesh had expanded aggressively by bundling phones with mobile connections at throwaway prices.

At the time, the wireless division seemed to give Anil some of the more promising opportunities. Crude oil prices had climbed to a then-record price of more than \$60 a barrel in 2005, sparking concern that refiners' margins may get eroded. India's burgeoning mobile-phone market was hailed as the future.

A non-compete clause between the brothers kept Mukesh out of



that arena until the agreement was scrapped in 2010. Mukesh quickly returned, pumping in more than ₹2.5 trillion (\$34 billion) over the next seven years to build a speedier 4G wireless network for his Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd.

"It was a very, very big bet," said James Crabtree, a professor at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy in Singapore and author of the book *The Billionaire Raj*, which examined wealth inequality in India. Reliance Jio also gave Mukesh the chance to forge his own legacy beyond the shadow of the businesses he had inherited, he said. "Jio in that sense was an all-in bet."

It took a long time to pay off. Reliance's shares lagged S&P BSE Sensex index for most of the past decade as investors watched Mukesh pour money into his telecom network with little sign of a return at first.

Price war

When it came in 2016, the impact was dramatic. By September this year, less than two years after starting the service, Reliance Jio had signed up 252.3 million users and was making a profit. Rivals were bleeding as Mukesh's upstart embarked on a devastating price war, offering monthly plans for as little as \$2.

"Reliance's strategy to diversify beyond the energy sector was the biggest game changer," said Sanjiv Bhasin, executive vice president at India Infoline Ltd. "Mukesh Ambani had the 10-year vision to foresee that data will be the next gold and he invested heavily."

What financed that investment was Dhirubhai's old oil and petrochemicals business, which, expanded by Mukesh, still accounts for 90% of Reliance's profit. Cash flow from the business, together with a blue-chip rating gave Reliance Industries access to a large pool of cheap capital. "Mukesh Ambani has very adroitly used this competitive advantage," said Saurabh Mukherjee, founder of Marcellus Investment Managers.

Meanwhile, Anil has been selling assets to quell investor concerns around the indebtedness of some of his companies that contributed to declines in his shares.

Like his brother, Anil invested billions to expand his portfolio, but the younger brother didn't have a cash cow like the oil refinery to finance growth. Instead, like other businesses in India and elsewhere, many of his companies increased debt. The borrowing spree by local companies caused India's banks to amass one of the world's worst bad-loan ratios and when the Reserve Bank of India started cracking down on the resulting \$210 billion mountain of stressed debt, highly leveraged companies came under pressure. "The only options any indebted company has is to sell assets, seek refinancing or get new investors," said Crabtree in Singapore. Of Anil's businesses, shares of Reliance Naval & Engineering Ltd. saw the worst decline this year, losing 75%. Bought in 2015 as part of his bet on defence as the next engine of growth, the warship and submarine maker has proven hard to turn

around. Its loan accounts have been "irregular or substandard" since 2014, the company said in March. The defence contractor is in arbitration with ex-owners over the latter's alleged breach of some warranties. Auditors in April cautioned against the firm's ability to survive and two creditors have an ongoing lawsuit to send Reliance Naval into insolvency. In a stock exchange filing in April that sought to allay the auditor's concerns, the company said it is engaged with its lenders and is confident on reaching a solution "to resolve the financial position of the company and to continue as a going concern."

Other group units have also faced difficulties.

Another of Anil's defence firms—Reliance Defence Ltd—has come under scrutiny over the 2016 negotiations between France and India for \$8.7 billion of Dassault Aviation's Rafale fighter jets. In a 20 August statement, Anil and his company denied allegations from opposition lawmakers that the deal unfairly benefited his com-

pany, saying the lawmakers had been "misinformed, misdirected and misled by malicious vested interests and corporate rivals."

Missed payment

Anil's Reliance Infrastructure Ltd, which built Mumbai's first metro line, missed a bond payment in August as it waited for proceeds from the sale of power transmission assets to fellow billionaire Gautam Adani's unit to cover the amount. It plans to be debt-free by next year, Anil said at a briefing in August.

Electricity generator Reliance Power Ltd, also part of Anil's Reliance Group, has failed to stem a decade of overall decline in its shares since its record IPO in 2008, just as the global financial crisis hit. The group's profitable financial services firm Reliance Capital Ltd has also seen its shares decline this year, despite staying away from bad news. But the biggest challenge for Anil's empire came from his brother's business. Reliance Communications Ltd, once the flagship of Anil's portfolio, was battered by the price war Reliance Jio started. Last month, RCom sold its 178,000km fiber-optic network for ₹3,000 crore as part of a disposal that will see it divest of almost all of its wireless assets and exit from the mobile phone business.

The buyer was Mukesh's Reliance Jio.

RCom "was the crown jewel given away to Anil Ambani after the family businesses split," said Bhasin. "Then the debt and interest burden spiraled." In May, Ericsson persuaded a court to begin insolvency proceedings for RCom before agreeing to an out-of-court settlement. The sale of RCom assets to Reliance Jio brings the saga of the two brothers full circle and sets the stage for the next chapter in the story of one of India's great business dynasties.



RBI refuses more time to Yes Bank CEO Rana Kapoor

The RBI had earlier curtailed the three-year term that the board had sought for Rana Kapoor, also one of the promoters of Yes Bank, to January 31, 2019, and asked the bank to find a replacement.



Reserve Bank Wednesday refused to grant more time to Yes Bank's long serving CEO and MD Rana Kapoor and asked the pri-

ivate sector lender to appoint his successor latest by February 1, 2019. Last month, the Yes Bank board had sought at least a three-month extension for Kapoor from the RBI beyond January 31, 2019, stating that finding a suitable successor is a "time consuming challenge". The central bank, however, has not agreed to the suggestion and insisted Yes Bank's board should find his successor within the stipulated time. "The Reserve Bank of India has reaffirmed that a successor to

Shri Rana Kapoor, MD & CEO, YES Bank should be appointed by February 1, 2019," the lender said in a stock exchange filing. The RBI had earlier curtailed the three-year term that the board had sought for Kapoor, also one of the promoters of the bank, to January 31, 2019, and asked the bank to find a replacement. Kapoor has been in his position since the inception of the bank in 2004. The bank's board has already established a search and selection committee comprising

three members from the existing nomination and remuneration committee along with two external experts to identify Kapoor's successor. Kapoor owns 10.66% share in the bank. Yes Bank shares dropped 6.85% to close at Rs 231.75 apiece on BSE. Kapoor is the second chief executive at a private sector lender after Shikha Sharma of larger rival Axis Bank to face regulatory wrath in terms of extension of CEO's tenure. Both the banks were found to have under-reported

non-performing assets by over Rs 10,000 crore each for two consecutive years in regulatory audits conducted by the RBI. The RBI has been maintaining a cautious stance with regard to heads of private sector banks in the recent months. Earlier this week, it gave approval for only three-year to Sandeep Bakhshi as CEO and MD of ICICI Bank, as against five-year term sought by the board of the country's largest private sector bank. PTI NKD CS BAL BAL

US could remove India from currency monitoring list

The rupee depreciated by around seven per cent against the dollar and by more than four per cent on a real effective basis in the first half of 2018, the report said.



The US could remove India from its currency monitoring list of major trading partners, the Treasury department has said, citing certain developments and steps being taken by New Delhi which address some of its major concerns.

India for the first time was placed by the US in its currency monitoring list of countries with potentially questionable foreign exchange policies in April along with five other countries – China, Germany, Japan, South Korea and Switzerland.

The Department of Treasury maintained the same monitoring list in its latest report released on Wednesday but said if India continues with the same practices as in the last six months, it would be removed from its next bi-annual report.

"India's circumstances have shifted markedly, as the central bank's net sales of foreign exchange over the first six months of 2018 led net purchases over the four quarters through June 2018 to fall to USD 4 billion, or 0.2 per cent of the GDP," the Treasury said in its latest semi-annual Report on Macroeconomic and Foreign Exchange Policies of Major Trading Partners of the US.

This represented a notable change from 2017, when purchases over the first three quarters of the year pushed net purchases of foreign exchange above two per cent of the GDP, it said.

Recent sales have come amidst a turnaround in foreign portfolio

flows, as foreign investors pulled portfolio capital out of India (and many other emerging markets) over the first half of the year, it said.

The rupee depreciated by around seven per cent against the dollar and by more than four per cent on a real effective basis in the first half of 2018, the report said.

India has a significant bilateral goods trade surplus with the US, totalling USD 23 billion over the four quarters through June 2018, but India's current account is in deficit at 1.9 per cent of the GDP. "As a result, India now only meets one of the three criteria from the 2015 Act. If this remains the case at the time of its next report, Treasury would remove India from the monitoring list," the Treasury said.

Amazon disputes data that Flipkart is ahead in festive sales

Bengaluru: Amazon India has disputed a market research report that claimed its arch rival and Walmart-controlled Flipkart received majority of orders during last week's festive season sales that was fiercely-contested by the country's biggest online retailers.

RedSeer Consulting said on Thursday Flipkart contributed more than half of the gross merchandise value (GMV), or the overall sale price of goods sold on a site, for the entire e-commerce industry during the sale. Overall, online retail surged more than 60% to \$2.3 billion during the five-day event, from \$1.4 billion a year earlier, RedSeer said in a report. "Flipkart accounted for more than half of GMV for the entire industry. Between Flipkart and Amazon, the share was 62-38. Higher share for Flipkart was driven by higher sales in both mobiles and fashion verticals," RedSeer said.

Strongly disputing the figures, Amazon said its gross sales nearly doubled from last year's Great Indian Festival sale. "We cannot comment on speculative reports that lack robust and credible methodology," a spokesperson for Amazon India said in an email. The company

"received an overwhelming response to the Great Indian Festival, with first 36 hours nearly surpassing the entire first wave last year and the entire wave growing by 96% versus last year", she said. "With orders from 99% of pin codes in just 4 days, Prime member sign-ups surging nearly 3x, over 60% new customer growth with more than 82% from lower tier cities, the festive season so far has exceeded our most aggressive plans," she said. Amazon India mostly runs neck-and-neck with Flipkart (on a standalone basis). However, Flipkart has traditionally stayed ahead of its rivals during big sale events such as the Big Billion Days (BBD).

This year, however, Amazon posted what was easily its best-ever performance during a festive sale since it entered India in 2013. Mint reported earlier this week that Amazon closed the gap with Flipkart, driven by strong sales of smartphones during the Great Indian Festival. While Flipkart continued its lead over Amazon in terms of GMV, or the overall sale price of goods sold on a site, Amazon exceeded its internal sales targets.

Android creator Andy Rubin's startup Essential cuts about 30% of employees

The cuts come several months after the company cancelled plans for a second version of its smartphone and paused development of a home smart device that would compete with Amazon and Google



Essential Products Inc., the startup founded by Android creator Andy Rubin, has cut about 30% of its employees, according to people familiar with the matter. The reductions affect staff in the company's hardware, marketing, and sales divisions, the

people said. They asked not to be identified discussing private moves. The company has about 120 employees, according to its website. The cuts come several months after the company cancelled plans for a second version of its smartphone and paused development of a home smart device that would compete with Amazon.com Inc. and Google. "This has been a difficult decision to make. We are very sorry for the impact on our colleagues who are leaving the company and are doing everything we can to help them with their future careers," an Essential spokeswoman wrote in an email. "We are confident that our sharpened product focus will help us deliver a truly game changing consumer product." Rubin launched a smartphone last year that pioneered the now-familiar all-screen look used by Apple Inc.'s iPhone and the latest Google Pixel phones. But the Essential Phone struggled to sell due to its relatively high price and software bugs. The Palo Alto, California-based company is backed by about \$300 million, making it Silicon Valley's most ambitious consumer-electronics startup in years.

Selfless acts of kindness makes you feel happier

Kindness is good for your brain, may activate reward areas of the brain and make you feel happier, says a new study.

The glow of kindness is real — even if it has nothing in it for you. Psychologists at the University of Sussex have confirmed the same by undertaking a major analysis of existing research showing the brain scans relating to over 1,000 people making kind decisions.

For the first time, they split the analysis between what happens in the brain when people act out of genuine altruism — where there's nothing

in it for them — and when they act with strategic kindness — when there is something to be gained as a consequence.

Many individual studies have hinted that generosity activates the reward network of the brain but this new study from Sussex is the first that brought these studies together, and then split the results into two types of kindness — altruistic and strategic.

The Sussex scientists

found that reward areas of the brain are more active — i.e. use up more oxygen — when people act with strategic kindness when there is an opportunity for others to return the favour. But they also found that acts of altruism, with no hope of personal benefit, activate the reward areas of the brain too, and more than that, that some brain regions were more active during altruistic generosity, indicating that there is something unique about being



altruistic with no hope of gaining something in return.

Lead author Dr Daniel Campbell-Meiklejohn said, "We know that people can choose to be kind because they like feeling like they are a 'good person', but also that people can choose to be kind when they think there might be something 'in it' for them such as a returned favour or improved

reputation." "The finding of different motivations for giving raises all sorts of questions, including what charities and organisations can learn about what motivates their donors. Some museums, for example, choose to operate a membership scheme with real strategic benefits for their customers, such as discounts," said co-author Jo Cutler.

Single and ready to mingle? Here's how to find a date without dating apps

Online dating may seem like the norm with modern relationships, but that's not the case. Here's how some millennials find dates offline. You may be able to relate, or you may get ideas on new places to meet people.

Like them or not, dating apps have become an acceptable way for younger generations to meet a potential love interest. As of 2016, Tinder, a popular location-based mobile dating app, had a staggering 9.6 million daily active users, accounting for some 1.4 billion swipes per day.

Tinder has been operating in India since 2013. On Wednesday, US-based dating app Bumble, Tinder's fierce rival, said it will foray into the country by the end 2018. The company has roped in actor Priyanka Chopra as an investor, she will also act as an adviser to the app. Yet, no matter how common dating apps and sites have become, they're not necessarily for everyone. Though definitely convenient for busy people, who don't have the time to look for a significant other in real life (IRL), online dating can

be tiring for some.

22-year-old Pritha Ghosh, an engineering student at Jadavpur University, Kolkata, finds the idea of internet dating a "tricky little business" and has no plans of being a part of it. Some of my friends have tried the infamous dating app, Tinder, and have gone on a few first and only dates. They found people very flaky on the apps. I prefer meeting future dates in person, without the help of an app," Pritha says.

After being addicted to them for almost a year, Sourav Chatterjee, 28, deleted all his dating apps and ended up loving it. As efficient as some dating apps are — you can message someone one minute and literally be out on a date with them the next — going to a friend's birthday party and hitting it off with somebody IRL is even more so, says the IT professional.

The biggest advantage of meeting potential dates in real life, according to him, is getting to experience their vibe right away, which is something no online dating platform can deliver.

"There's no better way to gauge attraction and chemistry than to be physically present with someone," Sourav says.

Kolkata-based psychologist Aparna Sengupta agrees that while meeting people as potential partners is possible on digital applications or social media, meeting people in person tends to yield better results. That's because physicality can help you figure out whether or not there are sparks.

"When meeting someone in real life, you have the benefit of eye contact, viewing nonverbal cues, and judging a connection," Aparna explains. That's hard to gauge



from just a few words on a screen. All the above said, the question is, how do people who don't like online dating actually go about meeting people?

Entrepreneur Abhinav Singh, 30, says he's had the most success while meeting up with friends from years ago. His two most meaningful connections with women he dated happened with old friends; in fact, he is currently dating a girl he knew in college, and it's going really well.

"Different lifestyles causes people to grow apart. After a random, 'What have you been up to?' message, we hung out and something clicked. Dating someone you've known for years has the advantage of skipping over the initial small talk. of meeting people. Since you have been friends for a while, you already have built-in mutual interests. I have found that generally, knowing the person from before can accelerate the relationship. This is good and bad at the same time, but if handled well, it can lead to a good,

meaningful relationship," says Abhinav. For Shruti Shah, a 19-year-old college student from St. Xavier's college, Kolkata, online dating sites are appealing because there's not as much stress as talking in person. But she thinks having a good conversation with someone in person, suits her better.

"It's nice to be able to go to a place where I can meet a lot of people I have things in common with. Many of the people I've ended up dating, or having a romantic relationship with, I've met through mutual friends at events. I like going to musical gigs and a lot of the times, I end up meeting people over there. Sometimes, it can be really hard to go out and find people with similar interests, so going to a gig, where we already have something in common makes it easier. Being in a group setting with friends who also share these interests has helped a lot in the past, too, since it makes it a lot easier to talk," says Shruti.



Why hydrogen water is the new health fad



Hydrogen water is the latest wellness trend to hit the US and UK. After vitamin-fortified water, health buffs are now buying hydrogen-enriched water with much-touted benefits such as reducing inflammation, wrinkles, bone loss and helping metabolise fat and glucose faster. These benefits can be achieved by chugging just about 500 ml (two glasses) of hydrogen-rich water a day, much less than the recommended 8 to 10 glasses a day of regular water, say studies.

Regular water which has two molecules of hydrogen and one molecule of oxygen is neither alkaline nor acidic. But when it is infused with hydrogen — by either adding magnesium or through the process of electrolysis — it becomes rich in antioxidants. A 2013 review published in the journal Medical Gas Research found that when ingested hydrogen acts as an antioxidant, mopping up free radicals — inflammation-causing molecules linked to everything from accelerated skin ageing to cancer.

While the US and UK are new to this trend, the Japanese have long been advocating use of hydrogen-rich water, or the Shin'nooru solution, as they call it.

Do you eat healthy?

Beware, you may still develop deficiencies and fall sick

Nowadays, people are becoming obsessive for losing weight and switching to healthy eating. But most people don't know what they actually are eating and this has become a common problem. A study has found that an obsession with eating vegetarian food may be endangering lives, reports The Independent.

Nutritionist Patrick Denoux believes that a purely vegetarian diet can lead to B12 deficiency which can cause various health problems. B12 is not made by the body and most people get the required nutrient from animal products like eggs, dairy products, meat or fish. If untreated, a vitamin B12 deficiency can lead to

vision loss, weakness, tiredness and light-headedness, heart palpitation, nerve problems, depression and memory loss. Earlier studies suggested that children who lacked this vitamin perform poorly in cognitive tests. The other issue with healthy eating is that it could be leading to orthorexia nervosa — a term first coined by physician Steven Bratman in the year 1990. Someone suffering from orthorexia is imprisoned by a range of rules which they impose on themselves. Orthorexia is not part of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, set down by mental health professionals in the United States that is also widely used as a benchmark



elsewhere.

Experts believe that orthorexia sufferers could be treated with cognitive behavioural therapy, which may involve learning how to deal with situations that can cause anxiety about eating, relaxation techniques and discussing excessive beliefs.

Want that glowing, healthy skin this Diwali? Then stop stressing out

You don't want a dull face, especially during festive season. Here's how to save your skin from side-effects of tension.

You can buy designer clothes for Diwali and wear the best of gems and baubles, but if your skin isn't healthy and glowing, you won't be able to look your best for festivities. We often blame bad diet and genetics for our skin problems, but stress equally harms it. In fact, with our increasingly hectic lifestyles, it has become a major culprit. Dermatologists Rajat Kandhari and Lokesh Kumar tell us how stress impacts our skin, and how to fix the

problem.

Cortisol disturbs the hormonal balance in the body. So, stress becomes one of the major reasons for acne breakout, as it causes inflammation of the skin. It can also upset the balance of good and bad bacteria in the gut, causing acne and pigmentation on the neck.

Fix: Avoid anxiety food such as sugar. Drink loads of water and consume a high-fibre diet. Your skin specialist will prescribe topical and



oral medicines, depending on the severity of your acne.

2) Dryness: When you are stressed, you drink less water, and consume more tea and coffee. This causes dehydration, leading to dry skin. Stress also increases the level of hormone cortisol, which reduces the skin's ability to retain water, again causing dryness.

Fix: First and foremost, consciously drink more water when you are stressed. You can opt for warm water to calm you down, besides it also helps your skin. Go for foods and drinks rich in antioxidants. Prunes, blackberries, amla juice, pomegranate, and green tea are all good choices.

3) Fine lines: When feeling stressed, we tend to frown or purse our lips. Facial muscle tension can cause wrinkles and fine lines. Cortisol also causes an increase in blood sugar, which through glycation (the bonding of a sugar molecule to a protein or lipid molecule without enzymatic regulation) harms collagen. Fix: Take a deep breath, and relax your facial muscles, especially those around the eyebrows and cheeks. Chewing gum can also help.

Trying to lose weight ?

Here's how you can consume fewer calories in a day



If you wish to shed those extra kilos, then skipping your breakfast and fasting until lunch may help you eat around 353 fewer calories every day, a recent study has found.

and 375ml of orange juice, for three days. Their overall diets were assessed via food diaries, while their physical activity levels were determined by acceleration devices. The results revealed that skipping breakfast causes people to eat 353 fewer calories a day. Although people eat around 115 more calories a day when they have breakfast, that meal alone contains on average 468 calories. The researchers noted that they do not know why eating breakfast is associated with a lower likelihood of being overweight or obese, or whether eating breakfast can be used effectively as a weight-control strategy. The findings are published in the Journal of Nutrition.

While there are many local superfoods that help you get in shape, sometimes skipping a meal may also help you trim your waistline. A recent study discovered that skipping your breakfast and fasting until lunch may help you eat around 353 fewer calories every day. According to researchers, fasting until lunch causes people to eat around 353 fewer calories a day, a study found. Study author Dr Keith Tolfrey said, "There is a common belief that breakfast is the 'most important meal of

the day". However, around one third of children and adolescents in many countries skip breakfast regularly. The findings from the Universities of Loughborough and Bedfordshire support a growing body of evidence that restricting calories, via fasting, boosts weight loss by reducing people's calorie intake and regulating hormones involved in fat storage. The team analysed 40 girls aged between 11 and 15 years old. The participants ate no breakfast or 6.3g of Weetabix with 188ml of semi-skimmed milk

Guys! Here's your grooming guide for the festive season

When stepping out this season, it's not just enough to wear your best outfit accompany it with glowing skin and well-styled hair.



At family gatherings and house parties during the festive season, the onus of looking good isn't just on women but on men as well. So, if the men out there are wondering what they can do to ensure that their skin radiates a natural glow, you can follow these simple suggestions from dermatologists Dr Rohit Batra and Dr Geeta Mehra Fazalbhoy.

1)Cleansing routine: A

cleansing routine to keep your face hydrated and clean is imperative. Avoid using soap on your face as it contains chemicals that are harsh for your face. Warm water opens up your pores and dries them out while cold water shrinks the pores and stops dirt from entering. Avoid washing your face more than twice a day; it will lead to dry skin. Before a party, opt for a scrub as per your skin type, or medi-facials.

Scrubbing will remove dead cells, improving your complexion. Medi-facials are facials which involve the use of chemical peels and laser machines. They're slightly expensive, but hydrate your skin, making it smooth and improving its tightness, besides preventing an acne breakout.

2)Moisturising routine: If you don't want your skin to look dead and tired when stepping

out for an occasion, then remember to moisturise. Without it, your skin tends to develop cracks, ages faster and of course it loses its sheen. Ensure your skin is adequately moisturised 48 hours before the occasion. For dry skin, opt for an oil-based moisturiser that will replenish your skin. For oily skin, opt for an oil-free or mattifying moisturiser. For normal/combo skin, opt for a moisturiser that contains oil in medium quantity. For sensitive skin, opt for a moisturiser that is devoid of alcohol, fragrances, dyes, and preservatives (parabens).

3)Beard routine: A dry, unkempt beard is a turn off. If you want your beard to look majestic at a party, then here's what you need to do. First, trim your beard and shape it according to your face cut, shampoo it and then hydrate it with beard oil.

4)Hydration and diet routine: Alcohol makes you dehydrated, which in turn dehydrates your skin, too. Hence, if you don't want your face to lose that glow during a party, hydrate yourself. Also, a

healthy stomach is imperative for healthy skin. You can't avoid eating out during the festive season but you can balance it out by eating fruits. Fibre aids in digestion and maintains a healthy metabolism. And this helps to keep your skin healthy.

5)Hair care: Most of us don't have time to wash our hair before a party or an event. But with the option of a dry shampoo, this is no longer a problem. A dry shampoo is a good quick-fix for lifeless dull hair. It reduces the greasiness, gives volume and makes your hair look fresh.

6)Lip care: The most ignored aspect of a man's grooming is his lips. No one wants to look at dry cracked lips during a conversation with you. Keep a lip balm ready in your pocket and apply it frequently during the party.

7)Perfume and cologne: If there is one thing that ruins your parade, it's bad smell. Choose a cologne/perfume as per the occasion. Opt for a subtle yet masculine smell, which should not be overpowering.

LMIFW SS'19 Day One Top trends at the India Fashion Week SS'19

The amalgamation of fashion, art and technology marked the first day of Lotus Make-up India Fashion Week SS'19.



Fashion is known for breaking barriers, mental and physical and day one at the Lotus Make-up India Fashion Week Spring/Summer 2019 tried to touch up those fences with dramatics, dialogue and narratives, old and new. As #MeToo was discussed on the sidelines and many tried

to interpret the movement in the context of fashion, the common thread that connected all the shows was the power of narrative and bringing together the past and the future to understand the present. As the repeating v/s reinventing collections debate continued after every show, what

was interesting to observe was the amalgamation of fashion, art and technology looking at fashion beyond clothes and accessories and more as a collective idea for the future. From the simplest things, the purest things like the underwater landscapes, exploring virtual reality as a form

of expression, breaking gender norms, celebrating the mountains, living the conflicted side of Kashmir and revisiting the hand-crafted traditions, #LMIFWSS19 was a winner with the choice of inspirations and embracing the vulnerable side of fashion. Designer Samant Chauhan's collection, 'Bombay - tomorrow you will lose everything forever' was an awaited walk down the memory lane, celebrating the city and the spirit of Bombay. The nostalgic hues, the structural silhouettes, the dreamy textures and the detailing reminisced about the beautiful objects of memory and the classic mood of Bombay. Dramatic yet elegant, the collection of celebratory separates was for every woman who knits a world within and who believes in herself.

As technology is getting involved with fashion on a multi-dimensional level, designer

Rimzim Dadu's fascination for textures and re-engineered fabrics stood out as she incorporated virtual reality to create an engaging art experience. Many talk of fashion and technology together and it seems like an over-fetching dream but Dadu touched upon the intricacies and psychology of old-age techniques with sculpted handmade chiffon cords, metallic cords and wires and the intersection of a variety of creative mediums was worth the experience including her choice of colours that synced well with the design language of the collection.

Péro with its new collection, rediscovered the domains of the unknown, looking at the underwater landscapes, colours in pastels and neutrals and the journey of going back to where one came from.

THE FASTEST ELECTRIC CAR EVER

***Elon Musk
reveals \$200,000
Tesla roadster
that does 0-60 in
1.9 seconds 'and
can hit 250mph'***



Tesla has unveiled the fastest electric car ever made, with chief executive Elon Musk bragging that he wants to 'give a hardcore smackdown' to gasoline vehicles.

A shiny red Roadster surprised everyone when it emerged from the trailer of the company's other big reveal - an electric truck named the Tesla Semi - during a presentation at an airport in Los Angeles.

The \$200,000 (£151,000) sports car - an updated version of Tesla's first production vehicle - can seat four and travel 620 miles (1000 km) on a single charge, a new record for an electric vehicle.

The car - which also features a removable glass roof - can go from 0 to 60 miles per hour (0 to 100 km/h) in 1.9 seconds and has a top speed over 250mph (400 kph). This would make it the quickest

electric car ever made, beating the Chinese-made NIO EP9 all-electric hypercar, which has a top speed of 194 mph (310 kph). The vehicle has three motors, one in the front and two in the rear, all-wheel drive and torque steering. The showmanship wowed the crowd although some analysts' heads started throbbing at the variety of new projects launched as the company is struggling to produce the more affordable sedan upon which its future depends. 'You'll be able to travel from LA to San Francisco, and back, at highway speed without recharging,' Musk said. 'The point of doing this is to just give a hardcore smackdown to gasoline cars. 'Driving a gasoline sports car is going to feel like a steam engine with a side of quiche.' The first 1,000 cars will cost \$250,000 (£190,000) each, paid in full up

front, with later models starting at \$200,000 (£150,000). It will be available to buy in 2020. Powering the car is a 200 kilowatt hour battery pack. The Tesla Semi truck, however, attracted the most attention last night. Musk has described electric trucks as Tesla's next effort to

move the economy away from fossil fuels through projects including electric cars, solar roofs and power storage. But some analysts fear the truck will be an expensive distraction for Tesla, which is burning cash, has never posted an annual profit, and is in self-described 'manufacturing hell' starting up production of the \$35,000 (£26,000) Model 3 sedan. 'Elon's showmanship remains intact, even as his customers' patience for Model 3 delivery wanes,' Karl Brauer, executive publisher of Kelley Blue Book and Autotrader, said by email. The specs on the new semi truck and sports car would put both vehicles at the top of their segments...assuming they can be produced and sold as part of a sustainable business plan. So far that final element

has eluded Tesla Motors, which makes it difficult to see these vehicles as more than 'what if' concept cars,' he added. Tesla also has to convince the trucking community that it can build an affordable electric big rig with the range and cargo capacity to compete with relatively low-cost, time-tested diesel trucks. The heavy batteries eat into the weight of cargo an electric truck can haul. The truck can go up to 500 miles at maximum weight at highway speed, Musk said, without giving the size of the payload. Musk said the Class 8 vehicle, the heaviest weight classification for trucks, in 30 minutes can recharge the battery enough to go 400 miles, and that Tesla would build a global, solar-powered network of 'megachargers.'



Survey finds 60% urban Indian women at risk of diabetes

According to the results of a new survey conducted across 14 Indian cities, despite being aware that diabetes is a serious health concern, urban women did not take steps to adopt an active, healthy lifestyle.

(News Agencies) Over 60% of urban Indian women do not follow a regular exercise regime, which puts them at increased risk of diabetes, according to the results of a new survey.

Released on the occasion of World Diabetes Day, the survey conducted by diabetes care company Novo Nordisk India also showed that 73% of urban women in the country are unaware of gestational diabetes and its related health risks for the next generation. For the survey, over 1,000 women, belonging to the age group of 18-65 years were

interviewed to draw insights on the level of awareness on risks emerging from diabetes. The survey was conducted across 14 cities in the country – Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Chennai, Ahmedabad, Bhubaneswar, Lucknow, Ludhiana, Indore, Guwahati, Kochi and Vijaywada. The findings showed that 78% women interviewed were aware of diabetes as a serious health concern and more than 70% women believed that a healthy lifestyle will help prevent diabetes

and its associated complications. While it is encouraging to note that 78% of the respondents were aware about diabetes and its complications, it is alarming to note that women are not taking concrete actions to address this challenge," Melvin D'souza, Managing Director, Novo Nordisk India, said in a statement. According to a study published in the journal Lancet, lack of physical activity is linked to an increased risk of diabetes, heart disease, and some cancers and is associated with more than five



million deaths per year. With 72.9 million people currently living with diabetes, India is known as the world capital for the disease. According to an estimate, the diabetic population in India is expected to grow up to 134.3 million by 2045.

Men more at risk of sudden cardiac arrest after sex. Women, learn CPR

According to a US study, men who have a history of cardiovascular disease may be at greater risk of experiencing sudden cardiac arrest during or soon after sex.



(News Agencies) Men with a history of cardiovascular disease may be more at risk of facing sudden cardiac arrest during or soon after sex, a study has revealed. Sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) is when the heart suddenly

stops beating. It usually occurs without warning. The findings showed that although the incidence of SCA is very rare, survival rates in such cases remain low. It is because, the partners failed to immediately perform

cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), which could save more lives, the researchers said.

"Even though SCA during sexual activity was witnessed by a partner, bystander CPR was performed in only one-third of the cases," said Sumeet Chugh, associate director at the Cedars-Sinai Heart Institute, LA, California.

For the study, published in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology, the team examined records of

more than 4,500 cardiac arrests over a period of 13 years in persons above 18 years. Out of these only 34 were during or within an hour of having sex, and 32 of those were men, who were already taking drugs for heart conditions.

Patients who experienced sudden cardiac arrest related to sexual activity also had a higher rate of ventricular fibrillation/tachycardia than those who did not. Only one-third of these SCA cases received

bystander CPR. This low bystander CPR rate accounted for less than 20% of patients who survived to hospital discharge, the researchers noted.

Moreover, some cases of SCA after sexual activity may also involve medications, stimulants and alcohol use, the researchers said. "These findings highlight the importance of continued efforts to educate the public on the importance of bystander CPR for SCA, irrespective of the circumstance," Chugh added.

World Diabetes Day: 8 fruits to include in your diet if you have diabetes

From apples, berries, guavas to amla and jamun leaves, here is a list of fruits that can help keep a diabetes patient's condition from worsening.

(News Agencies) Diabetes has come to become one of the most dreaded offshoots of modern and hectic

condition from worsening.

*Pomegranates contain the richest combination of antioxidants, protecting you from free-radicals and chronic diseases. They play an important role in lowering the levels of bad cholesterol and resistance, which the body has against insulin. *Apple is a hypoglycaemic fruit which contains plenty of fibre that is an impeccable ingredient for a diabetic.



lifestyles. In such cases, fruits play a major role and can go a long way in helping keep a diabetes patient's

It also contains the chemical Pectin, that has the capability of reducing blood sugar levels and the requirement

of insulin in the body by almost 50%.

*Berries have the capability to break glucose into energy, which reduces the increased glucose levels by a considerable amount. Further, they increase the release of insulin. Thus, regulating glucose levels in the body.

*Guava is very rich in dietary fibre that helps ease constipation (a common diabetic complaint) and can lower the chance of developing type-2 diabetes. Guavas are also high in vitamin A and vitamin C.

*Natural antioxidants in papaya make it a great choice for diabetics. As diabetics are prone to many ailments, like heart or nerve damage caused by irregular blood sugar levels, the diet

having papaya can obstruct future cell damage for a better and longer life span. *Jamun leaves are good for diabetics. They help convert starch into energy and keep the blood sugar levels in check. Jamun has a low glycemic index and reduces symptoms such as frequent urination and thrusting.

*The glycemic load of an orange is about 5, a low number that indicates a small rise in blood glucose. But avoid consuming orange juice.

*Amla is a good source of chromium which is good for the pancreas, where insulin is produced and therefore, helps to manage blood sugar levels.

MeToo effect: More women focus on healing after sexual harassment

#MeToo: By now, you've seen the hashtag, read the reporting, and likely heard personal stories.

We explore how survivors of sexual harassment and assault are undergoing therapy during #MeToo.

There's a good chance you saw someone you know post the hashtag #MeToo on social media in recent weeks. In the wake of sexual harassment allegations by actor Tanushree Dutta against veteran actor Nana Patekar (and now other powerful men in the public eye), the hashtag #MeToo has become a rallying cry of solidarity for survivors of sexual harassment and abuse.

Weeks after the #MeTooIndia hashtag first began to trend on Twitter and raise awareness for sexual violence, its movement is only continuing to pick up steam. And now that the hashtag has become something of a shorthand for naming experiences of sexual misconduct and assault, there's little doubt of its impact on survivors.

Therapists and psychologists are seeing a change in the way their patients open up about sexual harassment and assault since the movement took hold —

but it isn't so much that more women are going to therapy because of #MeToo. Rather, the psychologists we spoke to say that, for the most part, existing patients are more openly discussing experiences in ways that they perhaps hadn't before the hashtag came along.

"I haven't seen more women coming in with sexual assault stories, but I have seen a lot of them that said, 'Well, that happened to me, too,' and then tell me about it," says Dr Aparna Sengupta, a clinical psychologist who maintains a private practice in Kolkata.

Dr Sengupta says she's also noticed a pronounced change in how empowered sexual abuse survivors are when they're speaking out in therapy. She says that her patients seem to be experiencing "less shame-based emotions" in telling their stories.

"What I am seeing shift now is that women are starting to put the blame where it belongs: on the abuser," she says, adding,

"More people are openly admitting to having been sexually abused or sexually harassed."

Dr Sengupta says many of her clients say that they had no idea that they suffered from sexual trauma. Women carry a lot of shame, guilt, and confusion about their experience and need to know that there is nothing they did to cause the sexual violence, Dr Sengupta says. While she has had a few patients come into therapy citing #MeToo as a catalyst, her clients have been discussing their experiences with sexual violence — and parsing out the accompanying trauma — since well before the #MeToo

India movement began.

"I think that women come to therapy because they have symptoms that they do not know how to take care of. Many of my patients did not know that they face trauma symptoms and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) due to their experience and are shocked that their anxiety and depression might be linked to that. So many of them say they had no idea that they suffered from trauma. A few said they thought only rape survivors suffer from PTSD."

As the difficult, often polarising #MeToo conversations continue, it's important to remember that movements like these can take a toll on everyone involved.

Like Dr Sengupta, Anjali Mehra, a trauma and relationship therapist from Mumbai, says that she hasn't had any new patients citing #MeToo as a catalyst in starting

therapy, but some of her ongoing clients have actually been triggered by seeing the hashtag on their social media feeds.

"Initially, some women reported feeling overwhelmed and triggered by the large amounts of #MeToo appearing on their social media feeds, as this brought up experiences of feeling the chaos or intrusiveness around their own assaults or harassment," says Mehra, adding that on the flip side of this worldwide wake-up call, many survivors have also struggled with whether or not to open up about their stories.

"A few clients discussed the struggle of not posting #MeToo, because they did not feel ready to share about their abuse so publicly and felt a pressure to do so in order to be part of this movement," she says. "There can be a myth that telling one's story is fully cathartic and healing, and that is not necessarily the case."



Sexually engaging with your ex might not be as bad as you think

Studying the potential costs of sleeping with an ex is of broad interest because sexual experiences with ex-partners are quite common across all age groups and relationship types.

While your peers might advise you against jumping into bed with ex-partner after a breakup, a recent study shows that it might not be as bad you think. According to the finding of the study in Springer's journal Archives of Sexual Behavior, having sex with an ex doesn't seem to hinder moving on after the breakup. According to Stephanie Spielmann, lead author of the study, this is true even for those who continue to pine after their ex.

For Spielmann, studying the potential costs of sleeping with an ex is of broad interest because sexual experiences with ex-partners are quite common across all age groups and relationship types.

As part of the project, the team of researchers devised two studies. In one, the researchers analysed the daily experiences of 113 participants who had recently experienced a breakup. Two months later these participants completed a

further online survey. The survey questions asked whether participants had tried to have any physical contact with their former partners, how emotionally attached they still were, and how they felt after each day.

In a second study, 372 participants reported their actual and attempted sexual engagement with their ex-partner, as well as whether they were still emotionally tied to them.



The researchers found that pursuing sex with an ex, did not seem to stand in the way of people's subsequent recovery from a breakup on a daily basis or over the course of two months.

"This research suggests that societal handwringing regarding trying to have sex with an ex may not be warranted," says Spielmann, who believes that the findings challenge common beliefs. "The fact that sex with an ex is found to be most eagerly pursued by those having difficulty moving on, suggests that we should perhaps

instead of more critically evaluate people's motivations behind pursuing sex with an ex."

Most participants did end up in bed with their ex, but this did not influence how someone managed to get over the end of their relationship. Those pining after their ex-partner more often sought out sexual activity, potentially as a way of fostering closeness and connection. However, doing this did not leave them distressed or feeling depressed. In fact, it left them feeling more positive in everyday life.





Prachi Tehlan: A thrilling journey from sports to Bollywood

A basketball player-turned actress, Prachi Tehlan is a unique combination of many skills. And while sports, Delhi-born Tehlan says, has been a very enriching experience for her, movies are a whole different thrill altogether.

However, both her journeys weren't easy. Coming from a *Jaat* family, a career in sports was highly frowned upon. "Initially my family was completely against me playing sports," she says. Tehlan was captain of the Indian Netball

Team, which she led in the Commonwealth Games 2010 in Delhi and in other major Asian Championships in 2010-11. The Indian team won its first Silver Medal in South Asian Beach Games under her captaincy in 2011. For her feats, she is fondly known as "Queen of The Court" and "Lass of The Rings," titles given to her in the Indian media. After a 11-year career in basketball and netball, Tehlan decided to change paths. "There were not many career opportunities for me to take up in sports. No match fees, and hardly any scholarships. It was difficult to survive on the money I made as a sportsperson. But joining the film industry was never a plan, it was just destiny. Shashi Sumeet production house reached out to me on my Facebook fan page offering me a parallel lead in the daily soap *Diya Aur Baati Hum*," she says. She made her acting debut as an actor in the famous TV series, *Diya Aur Baati Hum* on Star Plus. She played the role of "Arzoo," famously known as "Mushtandi." The serial became an instant hit and with it Tehlan, a star. Tehlan had a lead role as "Nimmy" in the Punjabi Film "Arjan" directed by Mandip Singh. Next came "Bailaras" in October 2017. It was directed by Kshitij

Chaudhary. She will be seen in the lead role in a Malayalam film, due to be released in April 2019 with the megastar Mammothy. She considers working with Mammothy a golden opportunity and a challenging task. Tehlan is also in a lead role in "Ikyawann," a Star Plus TV, on air since November 2017. Tehlan graduated from University of Delhi

and has an MBA in Human Relations and Marketing. For Tehlan, getting the grip of her character is very important, she says. "I learned classical dance for one of my solo dances in the film, I memorized all my Malayalam dialogues. I also had to grow my eyebrows for a natural look since it's a period drama." Talking about her journey in the entertainment industry, she calls it an adventurous one. "It's one of the most beautiful yet challenging and

difficult industries to work in. It always keeps me on my toes because one does not have a permanent job here. After every project you need to start afresh. Over and above, I love travelling and meeting new people and this industry offers every kind of experience in that aspect" she quips. While she is loving her life as an actress, sport remains Tehlan's first love. "I would love to go back to sports but the entertainment industry is keeping me on my toes," she says.



Narcos Mexico trailer

Get high on power, money and a whole lot of weed with Netflix's new spin-off

The first full trailer for Netflix's **Narcos Mexico** is here and it is groovy, gory and grisly just like before.

The first trailer for Netflix's upcoming show, **Narcos Mexico** is out. The show is a fourth season in the series but essentially a spin-off of the hit show. The trailer shows **Rogue One's** **Diego Luna** as **Miguel Félix Gallardo**, also

known as **El Padrino**, the godfather of the drug business in Mexico. He is the main villain this season, which looks just as gory and grisly as all the ones that preceded it. The setting has of course changed to Mexico and the drug of

choice is now marijuana, but of course, the fan favourite cocaine also makes a banging appearance. Playing cat to Luna's mouse is **Ant-Man's** **Michael Peña**. He is the one in charge of putting **El Padrino** behind bars. The trailer is groovy

with a perfect blend of music and loud cuts to add to the thrill of **Narcos** that we have grown so accustomed to. Previously, in its first three seasons, **Narcos** told the stories of Columbia's drug cartels. The first two seasons



showcased the chase for misadventures of the Cali Pablo Escobar and the cartel. The new season third chronicled the premiers on November 16.

Helicopter Eela movie review

This soppy Kajol film never takes off

Being a tiger or helicopter parent often becomes a point of pride, and there is much to be said here but we must wait for a better film to say it. Rating: 2/5.

Helicopter Eela
Director Pradeep Sarkar
Cast: Kajol, Riddhi Sen, Neha Dhupia
Rating: 2/5

At the most emotional moment of this film, a defiant and teary-eyed Kajol strides up to the piano. Her character **Eela** is a musician and an instrument therefore appears like a natural place for her to vent, though her choice of song is utterly confounding. So far in the film we have heard the singer perform a **Ruk Ruk** remix and other Hindi tracks, but now she breaks into an impassioned and nearly off-key song in English, something that goes 'O Krishna, you are the greatest musician of this world.'

Helicopter Eela starts with a girl who admires

Baba Sehgal — I'm extremely on board with a heroine like that, I must say — who goes on to make something of herself as a singer, even if that something is a trivia question on **Kaun Banega Crorepati**. "Amitabh Bachchan took my name thrice," she exults, enjoying the attention only as long as it doesn't get in the way of the way she opens her front door before her approaching, college-going son can turn the handle. Her ear and senses are cocked for his arrival. **Eela** **Raiturkar** has chosen the career of an over-involved mother. She is a helicopter parent, hence the film's title, and she doesn't want to even try cutting the apron strings. Her son is all hers.

Director **Pradeep Sarkar**

has lucked out with his heroine. **Kajol** is full of verve, and her enthusiasm is infectious

Arun, who is struck by the coincidence that this **Eela** has a husband named **Arun**. One day,



even when her intensely eager character comes across as too chirrupy. She is embraced as a singer and applauded by stars of the 90s, all playing themselves, from **Baba Sehgal** and **Mahesh Bhatt** to **Ila**

Arun gets superstitious about a statistic and loses his head with paranoia, leaving **Eela** and their young child to fend for themselves.

This understandably makes **Eela** too protective, a different kind of paranoia. She fusses constantly over her son, smothering him, and it surprises me how rarely this subject has been tackled in Indian cinema given how many parents dictate their children's lives. Being a tiger or helicopter parent often becomes a point of pride, and there is much to be said here — but we must wait for a better film to say it. **Sarkar's** film is too melodramatic and long drawn out to hold



in a studio given the disarmingly honest name of **Autotune**. There are a couple of fun bits — a nosy neighbour who perpetually watches television, **Kajol** being shoved aside on a 90s red-carpet because people want to see (the ageless) **Shaan** — but this is basically the kind of film that believes saying "LOL" out loud counts as a joke. The idea of **Kajol** being too boisterous for a library is easy to accept, and the actor takes the role seriously enough to make **Eela** believable. The film doesn't work as hard, with college students using volumes of the **World Book** for research, and a young man with a thickly Bengali accent playing **Eela's** half-Maharashtrian, half-Punjabi son. In a throwback to **Kuch Kuch Hota Hai's** infamously unplugged electric guitars, **Kajol** even conquers a stadium with a song without needing a microphone. This **Mommy** may not know best, but she sure knows loudest.



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