

October 04, 2018

Symbiosis International (Deemed) University,  
Pune



An Initiative by Journalism Students of SIMC

## INK SHORTS

### INDIA WIN ASIA CUP, DEFEAT BANGLADESH BY THREE WICKETS

India exerted total dominance in the 2018 Asia Cup, with a 3 wicket win over Bangladesh to lift the trophy. Rohit Sharma and his men finished the tournament undefeated and clinched their second successive Asia Cup. This was also India's seventh Asia Cup title.

### PM MODI AWARDED UN'S CHAMPIONS OF EARTH AWARD

Prime Minister Narendra Modi received the UNEP Champions of the Earth award, UN's highest environmental honour, from the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres in New Delhi on 3rd October. Guterres said PM Modi not only recognises the fact that climate change is an existential threat, but also acts on it.

### PHRITHVI SHAW MAKES INDIA CUT

India's teenage batsman Prithvi shaw will make his debut in the upcoming series against west indies. the 18-year old mumbai batsman led india to the u-20 world cup previously.

## Rahul Gandhi walks on the path of his father's soft Hindutva politics

*Congress President Rahul Gandhi visited 27 temples in Gujarat and 14 temples in Karnataka during his election campaign in 2017 before he went on Mansarovar yatra*



Rahul Gandhi's temple run, during Gujarat State Elections

Source: Twitter

**HARSH SHUKLA**  
Karnataka, October 04

Rajiv Gandhi, former prime minister of India started his election campaign of 1989 from Faizabad which is just a few kilometres away from Ayodhya with the promise of Ram Rajya to woo the Hindu voters. He also supported Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) to perform Shilanyas on disputed temple site in Ayodhya on 9, November 1989 just a few days before the general election of 1989 to counter the narrative of Muslim appeasement set by opposition parties with reference to Shah Bano case.

Rahul Gandhi took a leaf from the book of his father as he started his Gujarat campaign with the visit of famous Dwarkadhish Mandir at Dwarka and carry on the temple run throughout his Gujarat and Karnataka election campaign to woo Hindu voters across both the states during election campaigns in 2017. He also visited the Dargah and church during Karnataka election to strike a balance between voters of other religions. Rahul also visited the Hanuman Garhi temple in Ayodhya as he was the first member of Gandhi family to visit

Ayodhya after 1992 Babri Masjid demolition.

Dr Anand Pradhan, Associate professor at IIMC said, "Congress never neglected religion and used to play soft Hindutva before the independence period also as Gandhiji used to call him sanatani Hindu and his public gatherings also used to start with prayers. Indira Gandhi also used wear rudraksha and visited temples during election campaigns as she knew the power of symbolism in politics."

"There was minority politics at centre during the period of Congress Government from 2004-14 but after the loss of 2014 elections Congress went back on the path of soft Hindutva", He added that.

Congress changed its election campaign strategies on the basis of a report by the Antony committee. The committee stated that one of the reasons for the 2014 Lok Sabha rout of Congress is party's minority appeasement policy which proved counterproductive election. Congress will look forward to play soft Hindutva card in upcoming state elections as Kamalnath, Madhya Pradesh (MP) Congress

President said that Congress will build a cow shelter in each of 23,026-gram panchayat of MP if Congress returns to power. Congress leader Randeep Surjewala also made a statement that the blood of Brahman samaj's DNA is present in the Congress party while addressing the Brahmin seminar at Kurukshetra in Haryana. The statement by congress leaders shows their shift towards a soft Hindutva politics.

Vikas Pathak, Deputy Editor at The Hindu, "There is a fundamental difference between Hinduism and Hindutva. Congress has to move towards soft Hinduism to survive in these situations as there is a general shift towards the centre to right political thoughts among the lower class & middle-class Hindu voters."

Sajjan Kumar, Journalist said that Congress is trying to change the perception set by Bhartiya Janta party. Rahul Gandhi's recent temple run is all about changing perception as it is hard to say that whether this will garner the votes into the kitty of congress or not but it will help Congress to change public perception through religious and cultural symbolism.

Inputs: Chrystal Ferrao

## Pune's last surviving green patch under severe threat

**AAKRITI BHALLA**  
**ZARINE HOSSAIN**  
Pune, October 04

Dr. Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary, one of the oldest and probably the last green patch of the city, may soon be razed out because of municipal activities. This avian abode, also known as the Yerawada Birding point, used to have around 70 different species of migratory birds which has now declined to around 33, mainly because of the decreasing forest cover. To add to this, Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) have proposed to uproot 167 trees for the construction of a 17-km Nagar Road connecting Shivane and

In March this year, Panchshil Group, a construction company razed out more than 500 trees from the bird sanctuary, citing that they have private ownership over the land. After this incident, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis asked for a 'detailed report' and PMC issued a 'notice' to the construction company. Though no substantial action has been taken thereafter.



A destructed part of the sanctuary

Source: Aakriti Bhalla

Two months later in May this year, when PMC Commissioner Saurabh Rao visited the

sanctuary he promised to prohibit further cutting down of the trees and also ensured the safety of this green zone.

When asked about the stand of the activists, Sameer Nikhan, member of Clean River Society, which has been actively engaged in protecting the greenery and waterways of the city, said, "All the promises that he made were a mere show. He said he will pass an order to protect the land and the river in the bird sanctuary, but what we see now is completely different". He further added that if PMC continues to behave like this they will be compelled to take the case to the court. The city activists also claim that this is the first time such a larger number of trees are planned to be razed out and the government seems oblivious to it. As a reply to this, PMC Tree Officer, Ganesh Sonune assured that the department plans to reach out to citizens before finalizing anything. In between all the clashes among the activists the PMC and the private builders, coupled with the state government's indifferent attitude, Dr. Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary continues to perish.

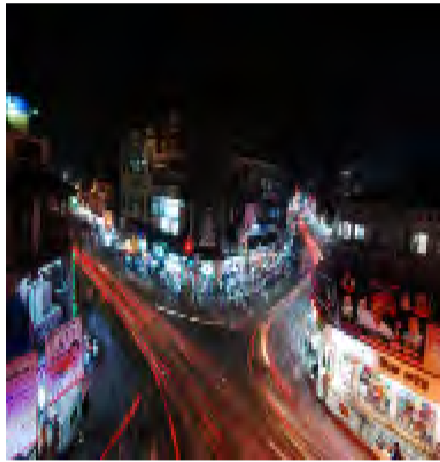
## Pune to get 'lighthouse city' tag

AAKRITI BHALLA  
ZARINE HOSSAIN  
Pune, October 04

Though Pune continues to be one of the best cities to live in, mobility remains as a major problem. But, there is hope. In another year, some innovative and creative mobility solutions may emerge. After winning the Grand Challenge competition organized by the Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) based in Basalt, Colorado and NITI Aayog, Pune will be the first in India to be christened as a Lighthouse City. What that essentially means is that the city will be a test-bed for experiments on urban mobility solutions by engineers of the RMI, Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) and other corporates. One of the first initiatives will be what will be called the Urban Mobility Lab. This will aim at solving complex mobility problems. These emerging solutions will initially be implemented locally.

Then, it will be replicated nationally and then, globally. These solutions will also be dovetailed into India's ambitious Smart Cities Mission. It will include eco-friendly mobility solutions. Colorado based RMI representative Ryan Laemel told INK, "Pune was selected for its government and civil society leadership, demon-

strated action on key aspects of urban mobility, progress on the Smart Cities Mission and also as it had the appropriate size ideal for mobility solutions. The city also has an early adopter culture, given its strong presence of universities, IT, auto manufacturing and a growing economy". Laemel also mentioned that organizations ranging from a multi-stakeholder group to a single to independent experts and academics will all be participating



Pune, first Lighthouse City Source: Punit

in the workshop. The PMC and RMI will work together to select the final six project teams, who will eventually take forward the work. "We are seeking solutions that can be implemented in the near-term, i.e., 6-18 months. These experiments will help India identify the key barriers and solutions enabling it to adopt a shared, clean, and connected mobility nationally," he added. RMI will be administering the Urban Mobility Lab with the support of the Government of Maharashtra and PMC. The first workshop under this initiative will be held this month from 15 to 17.

The solutions are expected to cover public transit and shared mobility, transit data, traffic management, enforcement and road safety. It will also examine mobility oriented development including non-motorised transit infrastructure, efficient freight, vehicle electrification and charging infrastructure.

## Drowning in Noise

*Pune's initiative to curb rising noise levels this festive season*

SUCHARITA GANGULY  
SUBHIKSHA MANOJ  
Pune, October 04



A Dhol group in Pune practices before a festival Source:

As noise levels rise to frightening levels in Pune, the city authorities decided to call for a 'No Horn Day' last month. Predictably, it was a dismal failure. Earlier this year, the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) reported that noise pollution was increasing in India. As opposed to World Health Organisation's set standard of 45dB, most Indian metropolitan cities record an average noise level of more than 90dB. The festive seasons may look exciting and colourful, but blaring speakers and loud firecrackers disturb both the young and the old.

During Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations, even the police find themselves helpless as they are unable to stop the nuisance created by dhol groups and loudspeakers blaring music as most organising committees have permits to conduct programmes till midnight. "The actual aarti lasts for five to ten minutes. After that it's just blasting Bollywood music playing over loudspeakers till midnight or even after," says Vishal (name changed), a resident at Pune Cantonment. Noise pollution is known to cause many physical impairments including several psychological distress. According to the Sovereign Health of California, a 2003 study showed that exposure to excessive levels of

mental tasks that rely on memory, like speaking and reading. It can also induce annoyance which is expressed through fear, anger and the belief of harm coming onto oneself. Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is also a widespread effect of higher sonic stimuli. The Pune Municipal Corporation with the Pune Police has set up a citizen's grievance redressal centre following the Bombay High Court's order to provide a platform for noise pollution complaints. An online service of the same has also been made available. Manaswini, a resident of Aundh, says, "My society has rules and timings for the programmes and so most of our complaints go to the board of our society. I never had to lodge an official complaint."

Noise levels are usually higher during Diwali. In the Laxmi Road area of Pune, the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board reported a recorded average of 75.5 decibels during the first day of Ganesh Chaturthi in 2015 as opposed to the average noise levels of 79 decibels recorded during the first day of Diwali in 2016.

Noise levels are feared to rise next month during Diwali. A comprehensive report on the effectiveness of the redressal committee is expected after Diwali.

## LIVING A DREAM

POULOMI CHATTERJEE  
Pune, October 04

Pushkar Phadtare lives two lives. When he is in a classroom of eager management students holding forth on marketing principles at the Symbiosis Institute of Media and Communication in Pune, no one can imagine that he doubles up as an organic farmer when he is not teaching. Both the jobs excite him. But when he gets his hands dirty on the three acre farm, 28 kilometers from Pune, his eyes sparkle with joy and excitement.

His connect with the soil probably comes from the fact that his grandfather had around 4,000 acres of farmland in the city. But, it all changed after the Maharashtra Agricultural Lands (Ceiling on Holdings) Act was passed in 1961 and most of the land went to the government. The small plot that Phadtare is working on was supposed to be sold to developers at first. There were five others who owned plots there, but he was the only one doing something with the land. The first lesson he learnt was that farming was not easy. He learnt it the hard way. After investing eight lakh rupees in developing the land in the last two years, he today finds that he has not earned a single penny. He realises that it may take a few more years for profits to come in. "It has been an expensive learning curve," he says. Phadtare first got into building

two lakes to store water which is short in the area. But, as it is away from his farm, getting the water for irrigation remains a challenge. The three acres had to be made cultivable and so it needed to be flattened and dug up using a tractor.

He later found that the Rs. 40,000 he paid for it was too high as he had no clue about the rates. When the planting season started, he had to go to nearby villages to coax them to work as labourers. They did come but were most of the time shirking work and overcharging. He discovered strange rules. For instance, he could not grow leafy vegetables without government permission! It disappointed him as he loves healthy food. So, he settled to grow three kinds of dal-moong, tur and chana. He is also trying to grow rice. However, he was heartbroken when he discovered that rabbits and wild boars destroyed his crops. They came from a nearby forest. To stop that happening again, he put up a barbed wire fence. That was stolen by the nearby villagers. He has now hired a security guard increasing his operational costs. Phadtare has just started out and has no network to sell his produce and the maximum he has got is Rs. 35 a kilo while it costs more than double in the market. Phadtare was upset when re-

cent monsoons washed an eight-kilometre road leading to his farm. He found that though there was an informal committee in charge of managing the road, it was unresponsive.

However, it does not dampen his enthusiasm. "I want to turn my land into a spot for agritourism. I want to introduce farming to the children in the city who have never experienced or experienced the agricultural life. Some of these exasperating experiences may have shattered the confidence I had when I started out, but, I will not sell my land unless it becomes absolutely impossible." Phadtare refuses to be pessimistic. It has been an uphill climb. But he is not giving up. He has now started growing soya and hopes his journey into organic farming now takes off. "Rabbits and boars cannot eat soya," he says and laughs signalling that he will win the battle one day.



The soil dug out, before replantation.

# Ganesh festival in the wake of the plastic ban

MINAL MALLI  
DHRITI DATTA  
Pune, October 04



Plastic is still being used in bulk during the Ganesh festival despite the plastic ban being implemented three months ago.

Source:Local Press Co

Government bans hardly work. Violations are the norm. However, when a religious festival like the Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations in Pune also sees mass violations of the ban on plastic, it becomes a matter of concern.

Despite the ban being around for over three months, vendors across the city blatantly continued with the sale of thermocol and plastic decoratives that is amply used in the festival. While thermocol was the key element in the decoration of pandals, plastic was used in large quantities for packaging Ganesh idols.

In July, the Bombay High Court declined a petition filed by the Thermocol Fabricator and Decoration Association seeking relaxation of the ban during Ganesh Chaturthi. Regardless of the court's direction to

dispose off thermocol and plastic, vendors went ahead with the usage of the banned items due to the lack of an alternative.

Suhas Bhagwanrao Nimhan, the owner of the Nimhan Ganpati Murti Vikri Kendra on Sus-Pashan Road, vehemently said, "We have to use plastic to package the idols during festivals. It cannot possibly be done without it." Why have vendors in Pune refused to follow government directives? Nimhan says the idols will get soiled if they do not use plastic to package them efficiently.

The government imposed fines of up to Rs 5000 upon usage of plastic after the ban on June 23. However, this didn't prove to be an effective deterrent to stop idol vendors from using plastic in bulk during this festival. Aniket Nikunj, a customer at a store with idols of

Ganpati, said, "We have stopped using plastic bags for daily chores and trips to the market, but how are we supposed to carry the Ganesh idol in anything but a big plastic bag? The government hasn't come up with compelling alternatives."

Some vendors claimed that they were selling existing stock that was purchased before the ban. Others confessed that plastic and thermocol were cheaper and convenient. Though an awareness of the harm that plastic does has been created, people are yet to shun the harmful material.

The plastic ban in is still in its nascent stage. It will take a while for society to overcome its dependence on plastic. It's not easy to restrict a material that has been widely used and become a part of our lives. But people are slowly adapting to a new life without plastic.

## Limping back to normalcy

POOJA KESAVAN  
SRUTHY IYPE  
Kerala, October 04



Seva Bharathi's Kottayam Branch volunteers, ready to distribute goods in bulk.

Source:Pooja, Sruthy

Kerala is slowly limping back to normal. People are returning back to their homes from relief camps to rebuild their homes and lives. Relief operations still continue in the state as help pours in from all over the world. Every village has its own stories of tragedy and heroism where commoners battle to pick up pieces of their shattered lives.

It is not a happy scenario. The water in the wells which are primary sources of drinking water are not fit to drink due to contamination. Caked mud lines up in the houses as the water has receded. There is a growing fear of epidemics breaking out. There are snakes and insects all around as they have

moved out of their traditional breeding spots. Stores do not have enough supplies of food. Medical supplies are in short supply. "It is harder than we thought it would be. Many have volunteered to clean houses, transport drinking water, and remove harmful viruses using chemicals like chlorine. But diseases are spreading. There were 400 volunteers in Kottayam district working tirelessly.

When the water level rose, around 15 to 20 school children helped rescue old people. We are so thankful to them," says a grateful Madhu Sudhanan, who is a member of Seva Bharathi Keralam, a non-governmental organization working among the economically weaker sections. It is a trying time for the sick. Anil Kumar's ailing mother is

currently undergoing dialysis. "My mother cannot move from her bed. We ran out of medicines and clean clothes. I was extremely afraid of losing her. We contacted Seva Bharathi through a Whatsapp message for medicines," he said.

After effects of the massive flood in Kerala which was the worst in a century will slowly surface. It killed 483 people with over 14 still missing. People from districts such as Chengannur, Pandanad, Edanad, Aranmula, Kozhencherry, Ayiroor, Ranni, Pandalam, Kuttanad, Aluva, and Chalakudy who were among the first to be evacuated are now slowly returning to their homes. The aid from different parts of the world in the form of food, medicines, clothes and other basic needs, is now helping a lot.

## Preeti Maheshwari: Our waste is our responsibility

AKANKSHA SAXENA  
Aligarh, October 04

What was before just her mere love for nature, now became a job that she cherished for a lifetime and not only was it a personal deed but it was her contribution to try to do good for the environment. Mrs. Preeti Jhawar Maheshwari came a long way from just being a part of the Urban Solid Waste Management of the Aligarh Nagar Nigam to actually mobilizing the women in her apartment complex, Classic Homes, to take part in the Composting of Kitchen Waste.

When her son was diagnosed with Typhoid, the main reason behind the disease was the existence of waste around the area she lived in. This made her more aware about the situation she was in and decided to do something about it. She began with basic research about how to tackle waste. She took her house as a case study to work this analysis. She stated, "I analysed that in every house, 80% of the major waste generated is food waste, 15% is dry waste (poly bags, plastic bottles and packaging wrappers) and 3% is sanitary waste." She then started to compost food waste and made her own composting unit with the help of plastic drums. Within 30 – 45 days, she saw the magic appear in front of her own eyes when the waste turned into blackish brown soil. With the help and approval from the city Municipal Corporation, she started workshops for houses and apartments across the town on composting. Eventually, in her own apartment

complex, 19 out of 30 flats came out in support and enthusiasm and the community composting commenced in Classic Homes. The complex was also recognized by the Municipal Corporation and it became the first apartment complex in Aligarh to have started composting of food waste.

This project was not one without any hurdles. Many residents were against the idea of forming composting units in the apartment complex due to their mis conceptions regarding the smell which would have come from the waste. Unfortunately, the project was called off later on but the coming together of the apartment complex for such a noble cause could be a source of inspiration for not just the other complexes around town but also the women living in small towns wanting to bring about a change or contributing to a change.



Mrs. Preeti Maheshwari (right) supervising door to door food waste collection  
Source: Akanksha

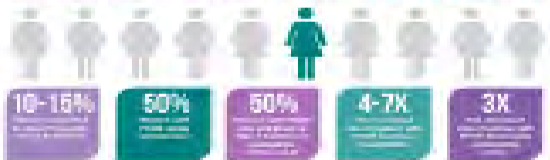
## Battling PCOS

KHEVNA PANDIT  
NAJOOKA JAVIER  
Mumbai, October 04

### WHAT IS PCOS?

Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS) is a female hormonal, metabolic, and reproductive disorder that affects women. It is the leading cause of female infertility. PCOS can also lead to other serious conditions including cardiovascular disease, obesity, insulin resistance, type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, and endometrial cancer.

### PCOS AFFECTS 1-IN-10 WOMEN



### COMMON SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

Irregular periods, excess facial and body hair, severe acne, small cysts on ovaries, insulin resistance, anxiety and depression, infertility, weight gain, male pattern hair loss

Source: PTI

Thousands of women all over the world suffer from a condition called Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome (PCOS). It is considered a leading cause for female infertility and also contributes to several lifestyle diseases including type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disorders and endometrial cancer. PCOS Awareness Association, an international non-profit organisation, conducted

a world-wide campaign recently to create awareness amongst people. The larger idea coincides with the tagline-Prepare, Communicate, Overcome and Support. The World PCOS Month was celebrated last month to whip up awareness. PCOS, a hormonal disorder that causes enlarged ovaries and small cysts, affects nearly 10,000,000 women around the world. While

around the world. While there is no specific cure for PCOS, the challenge is to focus on easing stress and complications of the persisting symptoms. Garima Nehwal, a college student from National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Kharghar, said, "I was diagnosed with PCOS when I was 24. I was aware of the symptoms and conditions beforehand but never thought.

I'd ever be diagnosed with it." She said she had to take precautions and consume a specific diet prescribed by her gynaecologist to maintain her weight. Ankita Priya, a student from SIMC Pune, said, "I was diagnosed at 22, when I had little to no idea about PCOS. While I can't do much since I'm away from home, I consciously try to adapt to a healthy lifestyle."

Mumbai based gynaecologist Dr Ulka Natu underlined that a sharp increase was being seen in the number of PCOS cases in the last ten years.

More than fifty per cent of her patients belonging to varied age groups suffered from the syndrome, facing various health issues such as weight gain, mood swings and darkening of skin. Some also suffered from more serious issues such as excessive facial hair growth, baldness, diabetes and more. This resulted in depression for some. The most effective way to tackle the problem is to maintain a healthy lifestyle like regular exercise, balanced diet that includes fruits, vegetables, carbohydrates and proteins and carving out a good work-life balance, she said.

## Swine flu haunts Maharashtra

Maharashtra Has Emerged As The Country's Influenza Capital

SAMEER CHHABRA  
Pune, October 04

Swine Flu continues to be worrisome. This year itself has witnessed 2287 cases. As many as 237 have died. Though the national casualty count has come down, there has been no respite for the citizens of Maharashtra. Recently, there has been a spike in the cases of swine flu in Maharashtra with the detection of 69 cases and 11 deaths. Pune has once again emerged as the hotspot for most swine flu cases in Maharashtra, with 18 recorded in total and two deaths.

According to the health ministry, 1786 cases and 265 deaths were recorded due to swine flu in 2016. The count rose as much as four times in 2017 with 22,186 cases and 1094 deaths recorded till the end of August last year. Maharashtra was the worst affected and registered a total of 437 deaths. Pune accounted for the maximum number of deaths in the state.

Swine Flu is a respiratory disease that is caused by the H1N1 virus. The symptoms of the disease are similar to that of regular seasonal flu like cold, cough, fever, sore throat and headache. Dr Jasprit from Pune's Sassoon Hospital says, "Swine flu is a very progressive kind of disease. The severity of the symptoms is greater than seasonal flu and this should be an indication for someone to seek medical assistance." Since the number of cases in Maharashtra have increased, it is important for patients to understand how the disease spreads. Dr Upase, Aundh ESIC hospital, says, "Viruses grow faster during temperature changes and Maharashtra's weather fluctuations as such provide a suitable environment for the growth of the virus".

As far as the spread of swine flu is concerned, Dr Upase points that viruses are present everywhere in the environment. In temperate climates, diseases tend to occur seasonally in the winter months, spreading from person to person through sneezing, coughing, or touching contaminated surfaces. Hence, it becomes integral that one takes steps to prevent air entry by wearing masks in public places and helmets, whenever driving.

Doctors usually recommend an anti-viral tablet called "Fluivir or Oseltamivir" to control the growth of the viral infection. The sick and their families are advised to take basic preventive measures such as keeping check of the body's water level, taking IV fluids, good oral intake, washing hands, covering their mouth while coughing and sneezing and diagnosing fever if it arises.

Dr. Upase says that those at increased risk for the disease include pregnant women, the very young and old, people with weak immunity, and people with chronic underlying medical conditions.

As the health condition is serious, even health care officials are recommended to vaccinate themselves. "The World Health Organisation and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare are very particular in this aspect," says Dr Saraf from the Aundh ESIC hospital.

In spite of awareness, people often underestimate the basic precautions. "Bed rest is a must for patients. People sometimes ignore it and participate in activities. It is due to this that viruses get further stimulation," emphasizes Dr. Jasprit.

State	2017			2018		
	Cases	Deaths	Mortality rate (%)	Cases	Deaths	Mortality rate (%)
Maharashtra	6,144	778	12.66	19	5	26.31
Gujarat	7,709	431	5.59	36	6	16.67
Rajasthan	3,619	279	7.70	1,250	106	8.48
Madhya Pradesh	802	146	18.20	5	3	60
Uttar Pradesh	3,858	132	3.42	12	2	16.67
Punjab	295	86	29.15	24	10	41.67
Kerala	1,414	76	5.37	7	0	0
Chhattisgarh	305	64	15.15	1	1	100
Odisha	414	54	13.04	0	0	0
Jammu and Kashmir	140	26	18.57	31	10	32.25

All India Swine Flu (H1N1) statistics 2017-2018

Source: PTI

# "Bollywood has sapce for different types of content"

**S**iddharth Chauhan has emerged as a promising filmmaker from Shimla. He bagged the Satyajit Ray Award and a Filmfare nomination for *Papa*. For his short film, *Pashi*, he was awarded the 'Best Indian Short Film of 2018'. In a candid conversation, he spoke to **Amruta Khandekar, K. Vasudha and Aachal Maniyar**



Siddharth Chauhan

Source: Facebook

## What was *Pashi's* journey from post-production to the Oscars?

I really thought *Pashi* was my last short film and would mark the end of my independent filmmaking career. So, I gave it my best shot and sent it to a couple of film festivals across the world. Initially, there were a lot of rejections, but then one day, I got an email from the Rhode Island Film festival stating that my film had been selected for screening in the short-films competitions category. It was the only Indian short film in the competition.

## How did you enter your films into these competitions?

Initially, I used to send DVDs of my short films to places across the world which was a very costly affair. I used to spend much more in sending my films than in making them. But now everything happens online. Every film festival has its own deadline and you need to submit your film before that date.

## In what ways do you think digitalization has helped young

## filmmakers of today?

It has brought about technological upgradation from films to DSLRs which has made the process of filmmaking much easier than before. It is also less expensive to produce films as you can shoot on your mobile phone. Also, because of social media, it is easy to get your film noticed and gain a large audience.

## Do you aspire to venture into Bollywood someday?

Yes, definitely. Initially, I was allergic to Bollywood. But over the past few years, there has been a significant change in the industry. There is space for different kinds of content and storytelling methods. Hence, I don't think it will bring any limitation to my artistic freedom.

## Apart from the internet how else do you think individual filmmaking can gain popularity?

I really don't know (laughs). Film festivals help me reach a large audience,

but I have never made films for popularity. I make films for myself, not for others.

## Tell us about your upcoming projects in brief?

Currently I am working on a film which is tentatively titled 'A Date with Myself.' It is about an independent girl who is discovering her identity. She's my first fe-

## Filmography

1. Boys Don't Wear Nailpolish! [2013]
2. The Infinite Space [2015]
3. PaPa [2016]
4. Pashi [2017]
5. The Flying Trunk [2019]

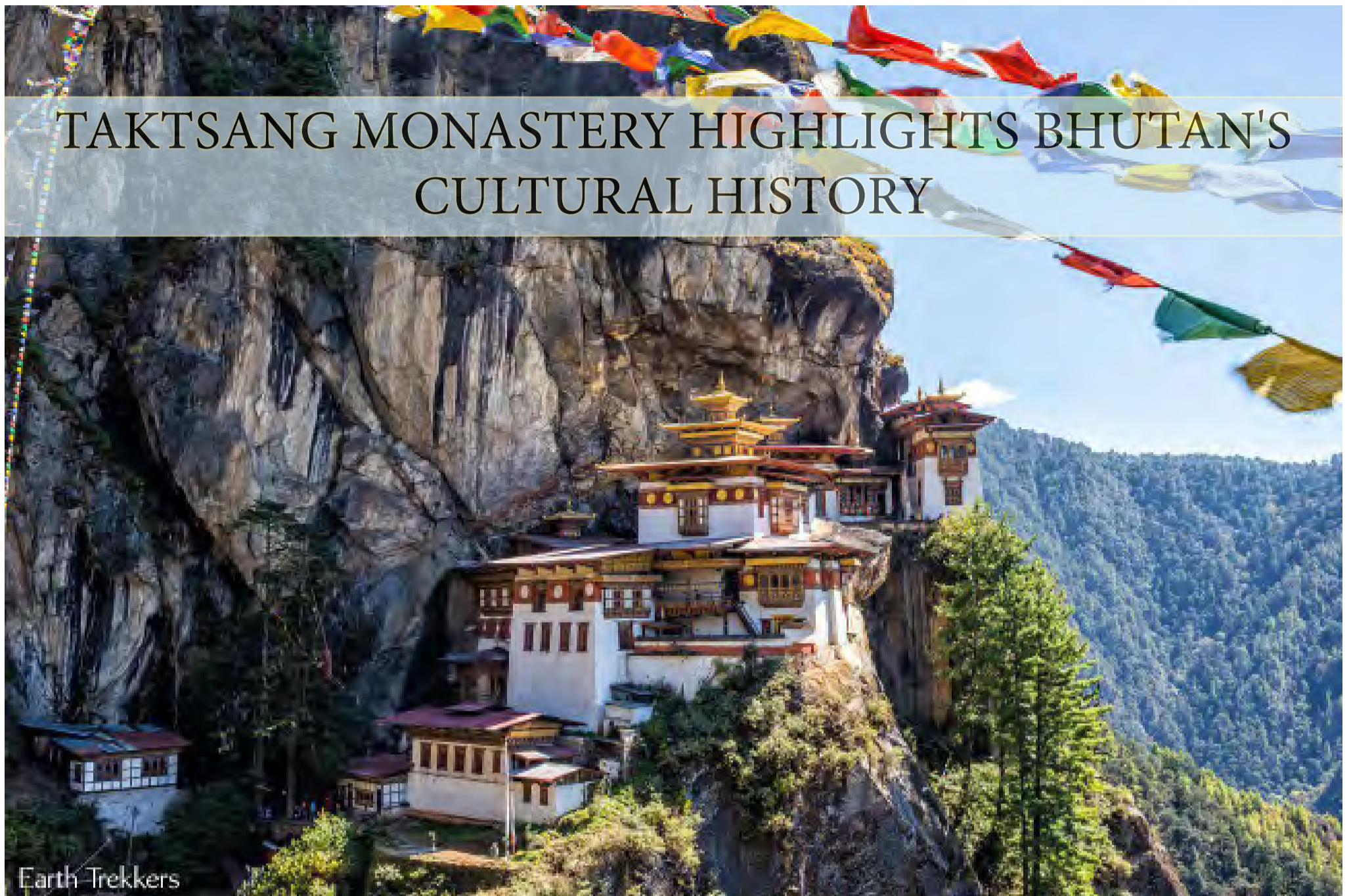
male protagonist! I have also started working on my first feature film titled 'Karma.'

## How are you able to generate money from your films?

Short films don't really generate much money. I don't make films for money. To sustain, along with the films, I do freelancing projects and part-time jobs.

## Is there anything that you'd like to suggest to the students pursuing filmmaking? Especially from SIMC?

Practical experience is extremely important. They should make as many films as possible while pursuing filmmaking studies. Also, they should make films out of passion and not for recognition.



Source: [earthtrekkers.com](http://earthtrekkers.com)

**PEMA GELAY**  
**PRATIMA GIRI**  
 Thimphu, October 04

Bhutan, the land of happiness has much more to offer other than its tag of Happiness. The concept of Gross National Happiness brought in 1972 had introduced the proposition of preservation of unique culture and traditions of the nation, and simultaneously protect the valuable religious sites and tourist destinations in the process.

Taktsang Monastery is one of the must-visit destinations for tourist as well as for the pilgrims. Taktsang Monastery is Bhutan's most iconic landmark and religious site. The name Taktsang interprets to "The Tiger's Nest" and is one of the holiest sites in the kingdom. The monastery, perched on the stiff cliff, 900 hundred meters above the Paro Valley, hangs precariously on a rocky edge and overlooking serene forests of blue pine and rhododendrons. The excursion to Taktsang, the Tiger's Nest is one of the highlights of the visit to Bhutan.

The tiger's Nest owes its name to the 8th-century saint Padmasambhava. Legend states that Guru Rinpoche (Padmasambhava) flew to the site atop the back of a tigress and meditated in the cave for three years, to subdue the local deities and to flourish the Buddhism in the Paro valley. The monastery is located approximately 10 Km north of the Paro town at an altitude of 3,120 meters. The hike to the monastery takes about 3 hours at a comfortable pace, but frequent trekkers and gymnast can complete it in about 2 hours. The total distance walked is about 4 km one way with an average of 700m gained in elevation, amidst the beautiful, shady pine forests.

Bhutan had ended its isolation almost five decades back and opened doors to the international tourists in 1974, since then country has seen exceptionally increase in the tourist footfalls. Today the tourism in Bhutan is based on the policy of "High Value and Low Volume" strategy. To visit the country, a tourist must pay a daily tariff of \$250 per person. The whole visit must be arranged through authorized tourist agency, which will take care of food, transportation, along with providing a guide.

According to the recently released Bhutan Tourism Monitor 2016, Bhutan recorded the highest tourist arrivals with 209,570 tourists in 2016(including regional tourists). Out of this 88% of tourist were on cultural tour that included visit to Taktsang along with experiencing the various cultural festivals of Bhutan.

Bhutan Wilderness Travel CEO, Keasang Tshering said, "With its pristine natural scenery, Taktsang is undoubtedly Bhutan's top tourist site, and a great photograph to take home. It's like the cherry on the cake for a visit to Bhutan". On an average Taktsang gets more than 1000 visitors daily which include pilgrims, photographers and tourists. Due to rise in the number of visitors, keeping the trail clean has become an issue. "Taktsang portrays the rich cultural heritage, which is deeply rooted in Buddhism. As it is a tourism hotspot and hundreds of tourist visit the monastery daily there should be some monitoring and a minimum entry fee. It will be a right decision to introduce fee for the visitors which can be used for maintenance of the site" says Managing operator of Wind of fortune tours and treks.

# Co-working spaces redefines workplaces

RAAVYA BHATTACHARYA  
MINAL MALLI  
Pune, October 04

A rise in the start-up ecosphere in the country has led to the popularity of co-working spaces. As the name suggests, a co-working space is a shared office area where a number of organizations work from a common building, floor or space. Wi-Fi, cafeteria, printers, whiteboards, conference rooms, projector, lockers, recreation zones and other amenities required by employees are provided at co-working spaces. The price for work desk cabins range from Rs 5000 to Rs 7000 per month and conference rooms are

charged between Rs 300 to Rs 500 on an hourly basis. The demand for co-working spaces has increased over the past few years, as they free business establishments from incurring the costs of furniture, monthly bills, initial deposit and maintenance fee of a traditional office. Additionally, they provide all these facilities at reasonable monthly rents. Also, the preference for a flexible work environment among the new generation workers such as freelancers and start-ups has resulted in the surge of co-working spaces. In Pune specifically, a variety of co-working spaces like 'The Daftar', 'Co-Hive', 'Breathing Room' have come up in various parts of the city.

In metropolitan cities, finding a suitable office space is one of the greatest challenges faced by novice professionals. Administrative tasks in a new venture can take away from the time spent pursuing professional duties, which is another reason why co-working spaces become very convenient. Madhulika Tijare, an employee at Co-Hive says "A co-working space is a very good option to focus mainly on work and worry less about the official and administrative needs as it offers the whole office set up at a fair price.

As the concept of co-working spaces has gathered momentum, several entrepreneurs and professionals have chosen it as their

preferred arena of community building. Given this, how exactly does a co-working space contribute to the growth of these professionals? Archana Kedia, the Center Lead at Daftar, a co-working space in Pune says "There are numerous platforms which help in the holistic growth and development of individuals. Whether you are a freelancer, a consultant, a startup or a team member, you tend to get into productive conversations and take back meaningful inputs out of it."

Kedia points out that co-working spaces serve as a great platform for networking with like-minded individuals at a personal and professional level, thereby pushing starters and newbies in the industry in right direction forward. In the burgeoning start-up industry, networking is of utmost relevance, which is why a co-working space becomes all the more necessary. It does not merely provide a workspace but it also provides an environment conducive for growth and expansion.

Divya Karnad, Community Manager at Trios adds "A co-working space is necessary because it enables all sizes of businesses operate with ease in a very professional environment. It provides the individual with the ability to focus solely on work and not worry about the extras that come with having to manage an office." Co-working spaces are revolutionizing work culture in tier-I cities such as Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai.

However, they are yet to gain traction in tier-II cities. The demand for co-working culture is not just limited to startups and freelancers. In fact, many multinational companies, media organizations and corporate house with small teams also opt for co-working spaces to reduce their expenditure.

With cities turning into business hubs, the future of co-working spaces is surely bright as it provides the scope for cost-cutting, along with the opportunity for networking with other business establishments.



A co-working office space in Pune

Source: Minal Malli

## NOBODY'S CHILDREN

CHRISTAL FERRAO  
Panjim, October 04

Tucked away in a remote suburb of Goa, twenty-five-year-old Anita Fernandes desperately attempts to escape the ensnare her drunken husband has wound her in. She has been traumatised by sexual harassment and domestic violence and runs away from home in search of a new beginning. Instead, she's roped into the petrifying world of human traffickers camouflaged as an empathic couple who promised her shelter.

Like her, there are millions of hapless sex workers who have been trapped in a helpless world. They function out of numerous red-light areas all over India.

This reality once again jumped into the public consciousness recently as an NGO, Anyway Rahit Zindagi (ARZ), released a series of four documentaries on YouTube in the last week of July 2018. Titled 'Mandi' the documentary is in support of the #MeToo victims of sex trafficking. "The NGO organised a convention for victims from Mumbai, Delhi, Goa and Kolkata. The convention took place in Goa. We used snowball sampling and identified 60 victims," said Arunendra Pandey, the Director of ARZ. "Prostitution is not practiced as a hobby, rather it is done due to social compulsion," narrates a victim of sexual trafficking bringing to fore a popular myth.

The series created by Monica Kshatriya strives to highlight the voices of sex trafficking victims. The victims were encouraged to share stories on how they were forced into prostitution. Kshatriya told the INK that the victims usually never get a chance to express themselves at seminars as people are lecturing them on how to get out of the profession. But here, they got an opportunity to speak their mind.



Mandi

Source: Google

Juliana Lohar, Convener of ARZ, said, "Women practice prostitution when they feel helpless. This occurs due to health issues, marital problems, need to educate their children and fend for their families. The average age of a victim is 25."

The personal stories of these victims were heartwrenching eye-openers to the realities of sex trafficking. One of the victims was unwell and needed money for treatment. She did not have a job and was therefore forced into prostitution. Prakash Kamat, Senior Assistant Editor, The Hindu, and associate of ARZ said that it happens as there is a lack of livelihood alternatives.

The challenge is to create alternatives where these victims can be effectively rehabilitated and integrated into society.

# Little Things Season 02 to stream on Netflix

DIVYA CHANDRA  
APARNA DEB  
Pune, October 04



“You may not see me active on social media platforms but I owe a great deal to Facebook for helping me get my first project.”  
- DHRUV SEHGAL

Netflix in collaboration with Pocket Aces’ content studio, Dice Media, is coming up with the second season of the popular web series ‘Little Things’ starring Dhruv Sehgal (Dhruv) and Mithila Palkar (Kavya). The show will be available to audiences in more than 190 countries on October 5. “Netflix happened while we were shooting for Season 02 and it feels great that it is being streamed on this OTT platform,” says Dhruv Sehgal, writer of Little Things Season 02. The series is directed by Ruchir Arun, a two-time National Award winner.

Set in the fast-paced life of Mumbai, the first season of the series dealt with the complexities of relationships, careers and aspirations in the everyday life of modern couples. Its major emphasis was on how these couples still managed to cherish the little things that make life worth living. Season 01 that streamed on YouTube, received an overwhelming response especially from young Indians who could relate to the relationship between the protagonists. Dhruv shares, “Whenever I interact with my fans, they always tell me that the show is very cute. That is the general perception amongst the masses. But in reality, the story actually tries to deal with the complexities

of life and its problems in a very real way.”

The second season will take the story forward as Dhruv and Kavya enter the world of a more mature relationship, in search of their individual identities and tackling day-to-day problems as a couple. Besides Little Things, Mithila and Dhruv have also shared the screen in Filter Copy’s short videos such as ‘Little Things Couples Do’ and ‘Confusing Things Girlfriends Say’. “Working with Mithila has been undoubtedly an amazing experience. She is very spontaneous as an actor and brilliant at everything she does,” says the 28-year-old actor.

Internet sensations Mithila and Dhruv have become household names among the Indian youth. Mithila was most recently seen in her Bollywood debut ‘Karwaan’ opposite Irrfan Khan and Dulquer Salmaan. Starting September 21, she will also be seen as Meera in Bindass originals’ upcoming season of ‘Girl in the City’. Meanwhile, Dhruv Sehgal starred in the mini-series ‘What the Folks’ last year. Dhruv has also won the Golden Gateway Dimensions Award for his short film ‘Kunal’ at the Mumbai International Film Festival.





# MANMARZIYAAN

Anurag Kashyap rides the romantic bandwagon

NILANJANA CHATTERJEE  
Pune, October 04

When you think of a director like Anurag Kashyap, romance as a film-making genre is not something you associate with him. After delivering a series of hits which thematically revolve around elements of violence, greed, crime and revenge and delving deep into the lives of the underdogs of the society, it would be rather difficult for viewers to reconcile with Kashyap dabbling in romance. However, taking it up as a challenge, he upended the 20th century literary classic *Devdas* and reimagined it as a contemporary love triangle with *Dev-D* and also decently amalgamated a love story in the boxing drama *Mukkabaaz*.

The film is set in the middle-class neighborhood of Amritsar. It begins with Vicky (Vicky Kaushal) and Rumi (Tapsee Pannu) sneaking around to meet each other in Rumi's house. They are a passionate couple who make love and war with much intensity. Their romance involves impulsiveness, pride, immaturity and the clashing of egos. Robbie (Abhishek Bachchan) is the third wheel in the film. As opposed to Vicky and Rumi, Robbie represents stability. His characterization as a patient and understanding husband who gives his newly wed wife enough time to move on from her ex-beau seemed rather absurd. The script has crackling dialogues which are bound to stay with the audience in

times to come. Kashyap's films are known for their memorable dialogues and *Manmarziyaan* is no exception. Vicky Kaushal is at his best playing the role of an indecisive, immature slacker trying to navigate the choppy waters of love. Abhishek Bachchan, who plays the strong silent one, is equally good and cognizant enough to not reduce Robbie to a mere stereotype. However, the film unquestionably belonged to Tapsee Pannu with her fiery, headstrong, aggressive yet vulnerable Rumi who knows what she wants.

Highlights of the film include the part where Rumi and Vicky try to elope and later get into an argument over Vicky's indecisiveness and unplanned approach to the future. The part where Robbie tries to rake up a conversation with Rumi while she's watching a wildlife documentary is beautifully woven and pictured. The other part that stood out was the open confrontation between the characters Robbie and Rumi after their marriage was called off and how Rumi very subtly hinted at wanting to get back with him for good.

The pacing and the duration of the film were a bit of a problem. Much of the film's best bits are in the first half. The film post intermission starts getting overly dramatic and repetitive.

The dynamics between the characters in the film also has a significant influence on the pacing of the film. While the first half of the film was about Vicky and Rumi's relationship, the shift from Vicky to Robbie taking center stage brought down the pace of the film since Robbie isn't all that exuberant and flashy as Vicky.



Also, clocking over two hours and thirty minutes, the film was too long. *Manmarziyaan* may not have turned out to be a masterpiece when it comes to its concept, but it certainly has hit a number of bull's eyes for its portrayal of emotions of characters through the setting and music. Every technical department of the film has seamlessly delivered. The film proved to be a hard-hitting response to all those who dismissed Kashyap's works, calling it inaccessible and 'not commercial'.

# ISL clubs plot victory plans

CHRISTAL FERRAO  
Pune, October 04

A green landscape surrounded by cheer and exhilaration is a customary scene for cricket fans during the Indian Premier League. This visual has also been experienced by football fans since 2014 with the advent of Indian Super League (ISL). In the fifth season, clubs are doing their bit to ensure victory. From conducting pre-season camps and matches to signing international players, clubs hope India has a well-played league to showcase internationally. Bengaluru FC was the runner up last season. They played five games during a 15-day exposure trip in Spain as part of preparations before the league. "Previously, we've won five sporting events. We felt unlucky during the finals having dominated the league stages of ISL, however we play to win," Kunaal Majgaonkar, the Media Manager said.

FC Goa reached the semifinals in 2014 and 2017, and finals in 2015. The club scored the most number of goals across previous four seasons. The team won all matches during their pre-season preparations at La-Manga in Spain. "We have retained our core team. We aim to win the trophy this time and believe this could be our year," said Rahul Rodrigues, Vice-Presi-

dent of the club. Similarly, FC Pune city reached the semifinals

Almeida, a player who has been signed to play this season.



Sunil Chhetri in action for Bengaluru FC

Source: Facebook

in 2017. The club stayed back in India and travelled to Goa for their pre-season matches. Former Real Madrid player, Miguel Portugal, is their new coach. They have signed Iain Hume, the highest goal scorer of ISL, as one of the players this season. "Besides signing a few significant international and national players, the club has retained their core team," said Keenan

with one from Nagaland for the first time," said Rahul Sengupta, the Media Manager of North East United FC.

With the league receiving recognition from Asian Football Confederation (AFC) and FIFA, every club aims to do their best and make ISL a memorable sporting event.

Inputs: Rahul Pandey and Aachal Maniyar



FC Goa gear up for ISL 2018

Source: Facebook

The league is broadcasted in foreign countries via their respective media channels. We also have a dedicated fan zone to encourage people to participate actively," Patel added. Goa has been largely associated with football rather than cricket. "ISL has managed to capture the imagination of fans with the quality of football on offer and its innovative marketing strategies make it the 4th most popular league in the world in terms of viewership. We have had an average stadium fill of 94% over the last four years in Goa," stated Rahul Rodrigues, the Vice-President of FC Goa.

season. "ISL has generated a buzz and is accessible to the masses. It doesn't need to be the next IPL, it needs to focus on doing the right things to make a difference to the way the sport is played and viewed in India," said Kunaal Majgaonkar, the Media Manager of FC Bengaluru.



FIFA 2018 World Cup took place around June and July this year. It garnered massive interest and excitement among fans in India as well. Souptikk Daas, the Senior Media Relations Manager of Jamshedpur FC said, "Football is the biggest sport in the world and India is slowly catching up with the rest of the world. The national team is doing well and also the interest in the youth to take up football as a profession is growing with the influx of interest in watching foreign leagues."

However, when IPL players earn in crores, ISL players have to be satisfied with a few lakhs. A few exceptions like Sunil Chhetri of Bengaluru FC earned Rs. 1.5 crores last

"Football has become a structured sport in India with ISL," stated Rahul Sengupta, Media Manager of North East United FC. This season ISL has no plans to have a grand opening ceremony as the focus is on playing football.

The latest season kicks-off on 30th August as current champions Chennaiyan FC travel to Bengaluru FC captained by Sunil Chhetri.

Inputs: Rahul Pandey and Aachal Maniyar

## Is ISL the next IPL?

CHRISTAL FERRAO  
Pune, October 04

The Indian Super League (ISL) began five years ago to promote football alongside cricket in India. "The ISL is not just the next big sporting event of India. It is already big in every sense just like the Indian Premier League (IPL). It is the IPL of football," said Yash Patel, the Manager of ISL from Reliance.

The league began to cater to football fans in India. This season they have initiated the campaign #FanBannaPade-ga to boost their enthusiasm. "If you visit our website, you will see that famous brands of India sponsor the league.