Our Publications

Afternoon Voice
Afternoon Voice is a Mumbai based daily tabloid which covers all aspects of the city. Besides the daily diet of news, sports and business; readers are served stimulating columns and features related to the theme of the day. With an ever-expanding readership base, this tabloid tries to be different by not just focusing on city-centric reporting but also presenting the relevant national events with the city's viewpoint. In-depth coverage of top stories deal with responsibility, courage and honesty has made our presence felt in the market! It was launched on July 3, 2009, and within a short span of time it has reached majority of the stalls all over the city with a door-to-door circulation in the pipeline.
www.afternoonvoice.com

Beyond the News
It is the only international fortnightly magazine published from Mumbai. It has got the recognition for a comprehensive analysis of events covering a wide range of subjects; the magazine has been appreciated and awarded on so many occasions for its bold presentation of facts. Responding to the desire of readers to know more than what the newspapers report, our publication endeavours to take up issues often side-lined by other mainstream publications. The exclusive news, views and interviews have become the talk of the town. Our readership profile comprises of common man, businessmen, hoteliers, entertainment industry, medical professionals and others interested in gaining in-depth understanding of the subject. In addition to reaching out to all the important cities in India, this magazine is also read in international cities like Sydney, Singapore, Bangkok and Dubai.
www.beyondthenews.biz

Maritime Bridge
The monthly magazine gives an insight of the country's shipping industry. We bring our expertise on reporting hard news and apply it to this sector. The focus of the magazine is on the maritime events occurring along the country's vast coastline. It aims not only to cater to the industry specific need of understanding the events that mostly affect them but also serves as a platform for the members of the industry to form their opinions.

Mumbai Manoos
Mumbai Manoos is a daily Marathi tabloid published from Mumbai. Launched on January 13, 2010, it was targeted at Marathi youth readership. Mumbai Manoos is Mumbai's fastest growing Marathi tabloid for Marathi manoos. Richness of the content is the USP of this small sized newspaper.

Hacker5
The evolution of cyber world, new technologies and the latest hacking techniques has introduced great opportunity and significant risks to our lives. Everyone from IT personals to youth and common users are confronted by complex and critical choices of ethics and responsibility for which they may be little prepared. Hacker5 presents the reality of those choices and their consequences. It directly addresses to the key issues to influence youth, IT personals and common users toward personal safety and socially acceptable use of cyber tools. The main objective of this magazine is to help the user to understand how the cyber world, new technologies and latest hacking techniques contribute to their lives and to the lives of their family, community, nation and society. Hacker5 concentrates to understand individual and corporate responsibility for maintaining the integrity and the availability of cyber commerce. It also focuses on "Cyber Awareness" and understands the ethical considerations associated with the use of cyber technologies. Our motive is to expose hidden and underground threats mainly caused by using internet and to spread awareness among the people.

www.afternoonvoice.com

This website runs with the intention to encourage fair, sensitive and accurate news coverage of issues concerning India. This interactive medium is envisaged as one of the leading voices of the people of the state, as well as the purpose of upholding journalistic standards and ethics. Like our publications, the site provides all kinds of assistance to fledgling journalists and instils greater independence in them and promotes what is important in the interest of the public. We have a Directory, Photo Gallery, and an Interactive Window through which trainee journalists can access help from us on any issue.

We eagerly await your feedback to update the site to suit your need.
Mps should get good perks so that they don’t become corrupt

Girishkhar residents in Mumbai toiled with toilets - BMC plays spoiler

Hope Narendra Modi realises what Indian women want from him

Muslim reservation put in cold storage

Demise of Congress means the death of balanced politics in India

Praying for exit of Coronavirus

YES Bank depositors should be patient until the real culprit is caught

Coronavirus takes social media by storm

Worship places closed to tackle Coronavirus
MPs should get good perks, so that they don't become corrupt.

Delhi continues to be notoriously poor in ensuring women's safety. In 2015, the highest crime rate in the Sexual Offences category in the country was in Delhi.
In 2019, Madhya Pradesh-based activist Chandra Shekhar Gaur filed a RTI query. The Lok Sabha Secretariat’s First Appellate Authority cited Section 8 (1) (j) of the RTI Act which authorises the information holding authority to refuse information if it deems it personal. The reply given was actually very strange. The information, the Lok Sabha secretariat has informed, was "personal", so details would not be shared.

According to the Finance Bill of 2018, former MPs are entitled to a pension of Rs 25,000 every month if they complete their five-year term. The MPs are entitled to an additional Rs 2,000 for every year served as an MP over the five-year period. Under the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954, an MP loses his entitlement to pension and perks in case he is appointed the President, Vice-President, or is re-elected to either House or gets employed in the central or state government.

The Section says that "information which relates to personal information, the disclosure of which has no relationship to any public activity or interest or which would cause unwarranted invasion of the privacy of the individual" may not be shared "unless the Central Public Information Officer or the State Public Information Officer or the appellate authority, as the case may be, is satisfied that the larger public interest justifies the disclosure." It also adds that this is "provided that the information which cannot be denied to the Parliament or a State Legislature shall not be denied to any person."

The salaries and pensions of parliamentarians are decided by the Parliament through open deliberation and thus constitute information which can be placed before Parliament if a member asks for it from the Authority. The RTI query had sought the information of pensions and allowances given to Amarinder Singh, Mehbooba Mufti, Yogi Adityanath, Mamata Banerjee, Sarbananda Sonowal, Nitish Kumar, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Vasundhara Raje, Manohar Parrikar, Kamal Nath, V. Narayanasamy, Ashok Gehlot and Sachin Pilot (current Rajasthan deputy chief minister), between 2013 and 2018 December. All of them have been MPs and later went on to become chief ministers except Pilot. After a year-long hearing, a Supreme Court bench headed by Justice Chelameswar dismissed a petition that sought the scrapping of pension and perks being given to ex-MPs. The court also rejected a plea to regulate the salary and allowances of sitting MPs. The bench was delivering a judgement in an appeal filed by NGO ‘Lok Prahari’ against the Allahabad High Court order dismissing its plea alleging that pension and other perks being given to MPs even after demitting office are contrary to Article 14 (Right to Equality) of the Constitution.

The SC agreed with the findings of the Allahabad High Court that Parliament is competent to legislate on pensions for ex-MPs and has the power to prescribe any condition subject to which the pension may be paid. In the process, what the court cleared for former MPs includes life-long pension, travel facilities, telephone calls, free electricity and water unlimited travel by train along with spouse from any place in India to any other place in the country and up to eight air journeys in a year from the MP’s place of residence to Delhi and back when Parliament is in session.

According to this new SC mandate, the spouse of the MP gets unlimited train travel by first class AC at any time in the year and along associate of the former MP gets free AC-II tier pass to accompany him/her in all train journeys. The petition had challenged the constitutional validity of the law and sought its scrapping. “Parliament has no power to provide for pensioners benefits to lawmakers without making any law,” it said. 82 per cent of the lawmakers were “crorepati” and “the poor tax payers should not be made to bear the burden of their pension including their family pension,” the petitioner NGO said. Backing the pension and other perks for MPs, the Centre had told the court that the entitlement of former MPs to get pension and other benefits was “justified” as their dignity has to be maintained even after they complete their tenure as Parliamentarians.

He also informed the bench about the Finance Bill 2018 which contains provisions regarding salary and pension of MPs and also about the revision of their allowances after every five years starting from April 1, 2023 on the basis of cost
inflation index. The term of appointment of Member of Parliament (MP) in India is only five years and hence they get pension after five years.

The term of appointment of government servants including Army and civil services is for 25-40 years i.e. until they become sixty years. They still get a full pension after 20 years. An IRS officer, who served Government of India for 25 years gets the pension of around Rs 90,000 per month which is half of the total salary received by him at the time of his retirement. A retired Cabinet Secretary of Government of India gets a pension of more than 1,25,000 per month. Now compare these pensions with the pension of an MP. MP is paid a base salary of Rs. 50,000 per month and is entitled to a pension of only Rs. 20,000 per month. If a MP serves as a member for a period exceeding five years, this pension increases by 1,500 for each additional year of service.

One term MP thus gets lesser pension than even the clerk who has retired in a government on superannuation. This pension is not even 10 per cent of the benefits, which a sitting MP gets. Such benefits are estimated to be more than Rs 3,00,000 per month. Let our MPs get decent salaries and pension so that they don’t have to engage in corruption. But the scenario is completely otherwise in spite of getting paid they are neck deep MPs are the representatives of the people and the most important people in democracies as they represent the people of India. They deserve much more than what in greed of getting more. Their intent is serving themselves than the people. They are getting lawfully now but for that they really need to serve people coming out of glamour posts; they need to slog for the people and their welfare unconditionally. When politics becomes an opportunity for them, why would they be paid our hard earned money is the question here. People’s representatives just gave themselves a financial bonanza. One has to complete 21 years of service to become eligible for pension. Why pension for a people’s representative? It is not a government service. No qualifications fixed. No retirement age. It is for the people to raise questions.

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Beyond The News, March 16-31, 2020
Girishikhar Residents in Mumbai toiled with toilets
BMC plays spoiler

Under the Swachh Bharat campaign, the BMC has allocated Rs. 195.52 crore to make the city Open Defecation Free (ODF) which is the highest ever. In this connection, it has identified 117 spots in the city to work on. But they have really not made efforts to locate appropriate places for these toilets for the slums in the city. Similar is the case of Girishikhar Apartment in Kajupada, Borivali. The BMC has installed mobile toilets in a row on the footpath alongside the compound walls of the building. It is interesting to note that a public bus stop is located right there so much so even school buses take a halt here to pick and drop children making this installation highly unsafe for all concerned. Right behind the other side of the wall there is a garden and a hall for senior citizens to have evening gatherings and children to play indoor games. It is like one small community room. When BMC installs these mobile toilets, the residents are going to inhale the sewage fumes and foul smell. A viable concern is the footpath damage near the entrance gate as the replacement toilets and piping are installed.

Fumes that arise from a toilet are sewer gases. These strong gases are not only unpleasant that comes with the territory when not maintained, but are
extremely unhealthy too. Hydrogen sulfide and often methane along with other chemicals and biological agents in varying degrees, compose sewer gas. The fumes of this gas pose definite health risks especially if inhaled for an extended period of time. The residents approached BMC authorities and the politicians pertaining to this constituency but instead of providing solutions, they were busy in passing the buck but none of them came with alternatives. The BMC issued a letter to the society stating that the toilets are temporary arrangements and they would be removed after two months. But there is no guarantee that the toilets are going to go from here if BMC work gets prolonged. Similar was the case in 2009, near B-wing of Girishikhar wall and it took two years to get rid of that toilet.

Odour and strange smell in mobile restrooms are a common problem. These toilets are not provided with auto flush systems to ensure that toilets are flushed after each use and the inline sanitiser treats the water to prevent scaling, removes buildup and cleans the toilet bowl. The floor drains are bound to cause unpleasant smells as they collect organic buildup with time. BMC is known for its lethargy and irregularities, so in such circumstances expecting them to keep toilets clean is a high expectation. Forget about the people living in building, but the people living in the slum may also suffer due to lack of access to sanitation and further suffer from preventable diseases and infections. In India, for instance, more than seven children per 10,000 residents die from diarrhea resulting from lack of sanitation. To address this, many state governments have announced drives to clean up their cities. But many cities are resorting to quick fixes that are polluting water sources and leaving countless urban communities by the wayside.

Take an example of India. In 2014, its government announced a highly publicised mission to “Clean India.” Under this mission, the government surveys and ranks the cities according to their cleanliness and hands prestigious awards to those ranking highest. The mission’s main aim was to rid the country of open defecation, makeshift toilets and open sewers by October 2019. This was music to the ears but later on, we realised the horrific side of it. These ambitious launches are temporary fixes where no one is ensuring their maintenance and long term functionality success or taking stock of the practical on street scenario. Hygiene and proper maintenance should be an addition parameter to such grand launch campaign and that is the true point of success. Accountability in the name of development is completely missing.

Samarth Mitra Mandal from Kajupada, Borivali slum residents were demanding for toilets to be rebuilt. But however, what they actually got was a “moving” toilet on the main road. A person has to walk a long distance for defecation, the toilets are limited and population is huge. Tomorrow, the small children or the grown-ups who could not tolerate the pressure of waiting for their turn may be forced to open defecate around. In such a scenario, can we really expect PM Modi’s Swachh Bharat dream getting fulfilled? Is installation of these mobile toilets the only point to celebrate and are we looking for genuine long term functionality success ratio?

The municipal government had achieved its aim of being declared as “open defecation free”, but the community was no better off. Look at the portable toilets that were installed in different slums of Mumbai. Today, three out of the four portable toilets are defunct. Slum residents are once again resorting to open defecation or using their self-built toilets. You go around Mumbai, this is the state of slums and their mobile toilets. Similar stories from all over Mumbai abound. Temporary fixes and cosmetic solutions offered by municipal governments are leaving countless communities empty handed in the long term. The particularly high risk of disease outbreak from water contamination in densely populated urban environments not only threatens lives but also reduces the time people can work, making it harder to escape scarcity. Although
Mumbai has a centralised chlorinated water supply, it does not run through most slums. This particular slum has water supply issue. In such crises, can we expect adequate flush water can be poured to maintain hygiene? As summer approaches, water cuts are extreme which makes cleaning to ensure hygiene even worse. Wherever mobile toilets do exist in the city, they are either broken or leaking. Who is going to maintain these toilets? BMC officials or corporator are not going to do that. No toilet project will be a success unless you involve the community. Most slum houses do not have individual taps. A year ago, a Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) survey showed 78 per cent of community toilets in Mumbai’s slums lack water supply and 58 per cent have no electricity. Many slum toilets have no proper doors; men urinate in open door toilets in broad day light because its nature's call and they are unable to control. In developing countries like India and in the financial capital like Mumbai, is it possible to assume that a government does not value its citizens? Is economic development a greater governmental issue than the health of its population? Do people not deserve access to basic human rights?

Unfortunately, slum is a big vote bank and gullible too. Right now the BMC has no answer to the angered Girishikhar residents and even public representatives like MP Pravin Darekar, former MNS MLA and now BJP member is busy appeasing Madrasas and slums. While residents of Girishikhar, in all probability, expect nothing from civic authorities, who they say, have ignored their pleas and appeals for taking action against portable toilets, now shouldn’t pin hopes on their MP either. BJP leader Gopal Shetty has assured residents of finding a solution but he did not revert either and Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) officials have remained stubborn.

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Hope Narendra Modi realises what Indian women want from him

Women's Day is celebrated to recognise women for their achievements not at a personal level but for womanhood. It is a day when ladies from all nations, ethnicity, culture, political and economic background come together to increase awareness about women rights and break the stereotypes.
This Women’s Day, I will give away my social media accounts to women whose life & work inspire us. This will help them ignite motivation in millions.

Are you such a woman or do you know such inspiring women? Share such stories using #SheInspiresUs.

As soon as his post surfaced on Twitter, a wave of concern gripped Narendra Modi’s followers. His staunch supporters and the others were making fun and it was all sorts of mixed response. People wrote on Twitter about their disapproval of Modi leaving social media. In an hour, the tweet was re-tweeted for hundreds thousand times. Very soon the microblogging site was seen trending with #NoSir #NoModiNoTwitter tags. Some women went to the extent of making videos while crying and asking him to stay on social media because without him, their lives have no charm. There was unlimited madness from all sides. Prime Minister Modi is presently active on social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube and is followed by millions of people globally. Interestingly Modi is the first Indian to cross 50-million followers on Twitter. While this melodrama was at its peak, he broke the overnight suspense over his announcement that he would consider giving up his social media accounts on Sunday, March 8, by tweeting that he would be handing over his accounts to “inspiring women”. March 8 is International Women’s Day. This is the first time that the Prime Minister would be giving access to his social media accounts for such a campaign. The question here is whom will he choose? Whomsoever he chooses, that lady would be completely under his control or might be his staunch admirer.

I am sure he will never be inspired by Swara Bhaskar or Barkha Dutt or those women who dare to speak against him and the governance. Many were suggesting Jasoda Ben, his isolated wife to be given that opportunity. Some even went to suggest the name of BJP leader Smriti Z Irani. Well! Whosoever it could be, but that lady would be from one of his mutual admiration group. The women who go into constructive criticism or who dare him for his wrong policies and decisions should not even try to impress him because the opportunities are already locked. They will not be getting any remote mention in his “Mann Ki Baat” too. He likes all those people who are his blind followers one like the lady who asked for his shawl and she was immediately gifted with the same. The story hit the headlines for few days, then the same woman was questioned in conspiracy of doctor’s video of JNU incidence. Later on, it was exposed that the lady is very close aid of Smriti Z Irani. There are many such incidences from giving media interviews to calling celebrity women for feast, he chooses all those women who are either his support group or making some difference to his political fate.

You will never see any critic or the one who is not in his admiration club. He has never shown that gut or dare to involve with the other side of his followers who are not against him, but they have millions of questions they want PM to be accountable to various promises made. They can dare to have open dialogue other than just praising him from start to end. These are the same women who vote for his victory but would stand against him as voter of this country but not as opposition or enemy. But to see and judge all this Modi’s social media group should allow him to open his eyes. And he himself should indulge in dialogue with these women because they want something constructive beyond praises.

Women have overwhelmingly supported Narendra Modi. 46 per cent women had voted for the BJP and its allies. 27 per cent for the Congress and 27 per cent for other parties, some exit polls made these
revealations. If you witness his social media support
group, there is very strong woman base that the men
and these women not only promote BJP and Modi’s
agenda, but they heavily take on those people who
slightly go against him, they are all like worries. They
bring war like situation if some trend goes against
Modi or some exchange dialogues that go against
the interest of Modi and BJP. This social media
support group comprises many educated women
from all strata. Again, the question here is who is
inspiring Modi among this group?? Hardly anyone,
because they are just supporters but not celebrities.
Modi’s announcement considering renouncing his
social media accounts. Speculations ranged from this
being a curtain raiser for an India specific, “Weibo”-
like platform to a social media detox campaign after
a rash of dangerous rumours swirling during the riots
in Delhi. Modi will hand over his social media
accounts months after facing criticism over a series of
high-profile rape cases.

He asked people to share entries of such women
using the hashtag #SheInspiresUs which became the
top trending topic on Twitter about an hour after he
posted his tweet. His support for the March 8 event
came after he faced flak for failing to check violence
against women following a series of rape cases late
last year that triggered mass protests. In November, a
27-year-old vet was raped, suffocated and her dead
body set alight on the outskirts of the southern city
of Hyderabad. Another rape victim was set on fire
and killed by a gang of men including her alleged
rapists in December. In the same month, a court
sentenced a former lawmaker from Modi’s ruling
party to life imprisonment for raping a teenager.
These cases highlighted India’s grim record of sexual
violence against women despite enacting some of
the world’s toughest laws after the gang rape of a
Delhi student on a bus in December 2012 which
sparked global outrage. One woman reported a rape
every 15 minutes on an average in India in 2018,
according to government data released in January. To
come to power in 2014, he came up with a slogan
“Beti Bachao” save girl child, but in reality, the crime
against women is on rise since he has taken over the
power.

Women’s Day is celebrated to recognise women
for their achievements not at a personal level but
for womanhood. It is a day when ladies from all
nations, ethnicity, culture, political and economic
background come together to increase awareness
about women rights and break the stereotypes. Not
always was there a need to step up for this day, but
the world first became a Man’s world when humans
began relying on agriculture for their survival. Prior
to that, women in all religions and cultures were respected as equal counterparts.
Certain segment of society still today has set ideas
of gender roles and how we expect men and
women to dress, behave and present themselves.
As this continues to happen, we often forget that
we still continue to personify nature as “Mother
Nature” - A woman. This Women’s day is my shout
out to women community to join hands to break
the stereotypes. This is the day where everyone
should stand and resist the brutality by giving the
social media account to a so-called woman who
inspired him at large, who is already pre-decided
and this all event is to introduce her, will not help
the women who is victim of atrocities by all means.
We don’t want this stunt, we want rapists to be
punished, we want violence to be controlled, we
want atrocities to be addressed, we want to be safe
in our mother land and we want our basic rights.
Instead of giving social media account to selective
choices, he would give confidence and assurance to
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Muslim Reservation put in cold storage
There was regarding the quota for Muslims, spur-of-the-moment. After the announcement of NCP minister Nawab Malik that the MVA will provide 5 per cent quota for Muslims in education in Maharashtra saw a big uproar in the corridors of power.

Soon after this, there was verbal attack on Uddhav Thackeray by the opposition for ignoring what Malik said. The CM also hit back at the BJP for questioning Shiv Sena on Muslim reservation. "Don't waste your energy in raking up these things." When the issue comes up, we will look into it. The Congress-NCP DF government in the state had announced 5 per cent quota for Muslims in jobs and education in October 2014 though the Bombay High Court scrapped reservations for the community in jobs but allowed it in education. Muslim reservation is a commitment of the NCP-Congress. It is there in the common minimum program as well. So they have to do it. But it is also true that the issue has not yet come for discussion. It is interesting that during the last government's tenure, when the Bombay High Court had upheld 5 per cent reservation to Muslims in education, the Sena had come out in support of it. This is not the first government that has voiced its affirmation for reservations to a minority but many states have already implemented the same.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh introduced a law enabling 4 per cent reservations for Muslims in 2004. This law was upheld by the Supreme Court of India in an interim order on March 25, 2010. However, it instituted a Constitution bench to look into the issue. Until that decision came, it was allowed. The issue of whether religion-based quotas are permissible under the Constitution is now before a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court. Pending a decision on its legality, the top court, however, allowed the state government to implement the quota.

The Kerala Public Service Commission has a quota of 12 per cent for Muslims. Religious minority (Muslim or Christian) educational institutes also have 50 per cent reservation for Muslim or Christian religions. The Central government has listed a number of Muslim communities as backward Muslims making them eligible for reservation. Why are we facing problems today? The reasons are very clear. The Constitution that Babasaheb Ambedkar delivered was a fair perfect document. But it was never implemented in neither letter nor spirit for which the Congress Party whose most leaders came from Hindu Mahasabha. Post-independence, we mostly had Brahmin chief ministers. And the percentage of Muslims in govt. jobs went down from 30 per cent to 1 per cent and non-stop at 15 per cent and that is also the reason why the backward Hindus are asked Mandal commission reservations as they were ignored in jobs.

Reservations are not given to a minority group; it is given to a backward group. For example, consider the parts of Articles 15 & 16 of the Constitution of India that provides for reservation.

15.4: Nothing in this article or in clause (2) or article 29 shall prevent the State from making any special provision for the advancement of any socially and educationally backward classes of citizens or for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. 15.5: Nothing in this article or in sub-clause (g) of clause (1) of Article 19 shall prevent the State from making any special provision by law for the advancement of any socially and educationally backward classes of citizens or for the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes in so far as such special provisions relate to their admission to educational institutions including private educational institutions whether aided or unaided by the State other than the minority educational institutions referred to in clause (1) of Article 30.

16.4: Nothing in this article shall prevent the State from making any provision for the reservation of appointments or posts in favour of any backward class of citizens which, in the opinion of the State, is not adequately represented in the services under the State.
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Demise of Congress means the death of balanced politics in India
The Congress Party called “Grand Old Party” ruled the country for 55 out of 71 years since independence. But following the party's crushing electoral debacle for a second time, there are questions about its future as the Nehru-Gandhi political dynasty at its helm is unable to counter the most powerful leader India has produced in eras: Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

India’s oldest party is going through a leadership crisis. Over a month after Congress President Rahul Gandhi said he wished to quit as the party chief, over 130 Congress office bearers resigned from their individual posts to show solidarity with him. Some even threatened to protest outside the homes of other senior party office bearers in the days to come if the latter did not follow their example of quitting their respective posts and give Gandhi a “free hand” to restructure the party.

The battle within the Congress is gradually one between the party's old guard and the young leadership. The sense among the younger leaders is that Gandhi's hands need consolidation for him to purge several from the old guard to restructure the party. However, those in the old guard argue that Gandhi had led the party's campaign from the front and most of the decisions were his.

Gandhi appointed Mohan Markam as head of the party's Chhattisgarh unit replacing Bhupesh Baghel since he is now the chief minister of the state. The Congress statement announcing the appointment said “Congress president has appointed” instead of the “AICC” that was being used in party statements effecting organisational changes since Gandhi's decision to quit as party head.

At the first Congress Working Committee meeting after the poll results, Rahul Gandhi had announced his resignation but questioned senior leaders Kamal Nath, Ashok Gehlot and some others for not putting in their best effort to ensure the party's success. The Congress currently has governments in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Punjab and Puducherry and runs a coalition government in Maharashtra. Many think thanks take this phase of Congress as rebooting the party while others question the existence of it in the near future.

If we look at the history of the Congress party after independence, the defeat of Indira Gandhi in 1977, the Congress party under Indira Gandhi rose like a phoenix in 1980. The party continued to rule till 1989. Though Rajiv Gandhi won in 1984 because of a sympathy wave after the death of Indira Gandhi with a massive majority, he could not sustain it in 1989. Again in 1991 Congress came back to power and formed a minority government because of the sympathy factor.
Though its performance was exemplary under Narasimha Rao, it could not come back to power mainly because of lack of a popular mass leader. Again in 2004, Congress came back to power because of the efforts of Sonia Gandhi. Congress lost elections in 1977, 1989, 1996, 1998, 1999, 2014. All the elections it lost were due to major gaffes like imposition of emergency or huge corruption scandals or for want of a charismatic leader Congress could win the first four elections till 1967 because of the participation of Congress leaders in the freedom movement and the goodwill people had for the Congress. It won the 1971 election because of the charismatic leadership of Indira Gandhi. The spectacular victory of 1984 and that of 1991 were because of sympathy votes. In 2004, the Congress did not increase its seats, in fact it came down from 158 to 145. Still, the party formed the government because BJP performed badly winning only 138 seats. Though the Congress could win 207 seats in 2009, it could not get a majority. Then there was a division in the Congress in 1969 when many leading Congress leaders who were part of the freedom movement left the party. It was at this point of time the nationalism of the Congress which was its prerogative started moving away from the party. Also Congress by the nationalisation of the Banks, abolition of privy purses to erstwhile rulers and its socialism pushed themselves towards the left. Emergency was the culmination of all these for which the party had to pay a heavy price. Hitherto, till 2009, the Congress maintained some responsibility both in the number of seats as well as vote percentages. However in 2014 securing 44 seats, the party looks more like a regional party rather than a national one. Ideologically too, Congress is confused about where it stands. While in power, it followed liberalisation and open market, but now it is projecting itself as left of center.

This ideological moorings and the confusion that emanate from the same, is hurting the party. At present Indian people are at home with liberalisation of economy and privatisation. It is in the interest of time that Congress changes itself to suit the aspirations of the people. Though the party may not completely be eliminated, but it may slowly fade away unless corrective steps are taken. Congress may argue that it was able to capture power in 2004 but there is a lot of difference between the Congress of 2004 and that of 2019; they are two different entities. The Congress of 2004 was not dubbed a corrupt party at that time, Sonia Gandhi being new to politics no negativity got attached to her. The public did not know her son-in-law's corruption yet. Her son had just entered politics...
and his inefficiency was not yet public. Congress was in power in quite a few states. But in 2019, the ball game changed completely. Congress is in power in six states constituting 6 per cent of the country. In many big states, it has been pushed to the margins or has lost relevancy. Above all Congress has to confront Modi-Shah duo who are a formidable opposition. The electoral politics also have changed remarkably putting the onus more on leadership and its strategy. The demanding scenario requiring the leadership to be proactive is too much for the party. However, it is reducing it is apparent. When we study the history of Congress party, we find that

From Gandhi to Jinnah, from Nehru to Bose, from Tilak to Gokhale, Congress itself contained people poles apart from each other ideologically. And yet it not only remained as one party, but also went on to define the political system itself in India leading Dr. Rajani Kothari to coin the term "Congress System." The organisational structure of Congress was so deep-rooted and entrenched that it reached to the grassroots level to the last man as a part of Gandhian idealism.

But Congress couldn’t uphold these ideals of working on the ground for as long as the people of India hoped it would. Much of Congress’ dominance at the center as well as the state level was due to the fact that people voted in the name of the Congress which had won freedom for the country. People felt almost indebted to the party and continued to bring them back to power in the hope that Swarajya (self-rule) would actually be realised on the ground and the days of Ram Rajya (the idyllic rule of Rama) which Gandhi used to mention in his speeches and writings would come. People waited for years, but neither Swarajya nor Ram Rajya came about. Instead, the people realised, nepotism and corruption were increasing day-by-day in the political system. It was not Ram Rajya but the Raaj of one family (the Gandhi family). The family alone accounts for three prime ministers who ruled the country for around 37 years while another 10 years of governance in the 21st century was also largely led by the Gandhi-Nehru dynasty.

Slowly, as disillusionment set in, the Congress system started to deteriorate. Still, it took around a decade for a non-Congress party to come to power in a state. Kerala did the honors when the left was voted to power in the 1957 legislative assembly elections. E.M.S. Namboodiripad became the first democratically elected communist leader though Congress was still a huge force to reckon with.

But things were about to change tremendously, especially in the heartlands of India, where people were now looking for an alternative. They were angry with the false promises made by Congress politicians in election after election.

The first jolt to the Congress came when Jawaharlal Nehru expired in 1964. Then everyone in Congress was asking only one question: "Who after Nehru?" Nehru was the tallest national leader of the party and India itself and his death created a vacuum in the political space which he had been holding for the last 17 years since the independence of the country. The party positioned Lal Bahadur Shastri as India’s second prime minister but not for long. He died suspiciously at Tashkent in 1966.

With the death of the two prime ministers in quick succession, the Congress party which had previously been able to win constituencies based solely on the charisma of its leaders, could no longer do so at least at the regional level. The fight within the party was increasing. The tide finally turned in the 1967 elections that was held from February 15 to 22. Of the 16 states, only eight returned Congress to power with absolute majorities in the state legislatures. Equally bad was the rout of the Congress’s top leadership. Seven members of Indira Gandhi’s cabinet at the Centre were defeated. The presidents of the Congress party in six states also lost along with the chief ministers in four states. Congress was clearly losing its touch as the party started showing the first signs of a
break. The party was divided into many factions like Indian National Congress (I), Indian National Congress (O), Bharatiya Kranti Dal, Uttal Congress and Bangla Congress. Many of these factions later became defunct as they merged with the Janata Party during the Emergency. The future of the Congress party then lay in the hands of the people who were qualified to lead it. There were many more of these sorts. The future of the Congress Party is bright when it stops targeting the PM! And focus on the ample more MLAs and MPs that it can target. In a hunting expedition, the animal would fall prey to the hunter if it behaves and follows the trails that the hunter sets to nab it down. The Congress party is behaving like 'the animal' in this case. The PM has been in public for more than 2/3rds of his life span and is very sound in predicting human behaviour. The Congress party contradicts him in either 'wrong' subjects or fails into his trap. This has happened numerous times. The future of the Congress Party lies in India's Development. (And the future of India's Development is also positively correlated with the Congress party's survival). The Congress party was sleeping under the morning sun while BJP made its name synonymous with 'Good Governance' and 'Development'. But now, it's high time to wake up and communicate! India is the fastest growing economy in the world today! And this is not merely because of the NDA '99 or the BJP '14 government. But this surely is because of economic reforms in 1991-1992. There are many constructive steps like this that they could put up in front of people in a better way.

In the same way, they could counter BJP's Development agenda by putting up a Better Development Agenda instead of mocking the parliament sessions. If this happens, people will start having a confidence in the Congress party even when the BJP remains in power at the Centre and in majority of the states. Despite the challenges, Indira Gandhi who was mockingly referred to as “Goongi Gudiya,” emerged as a strong and decisive leader under whose leadership India won a decisive war against Pakistan in 1971. The war resulted in Congress reclaiming its place as the most dominant player in the Indian political system so much so that its power became increasingly unchecked. In a democracy, a government with unchecked power is quite problematic.

In 2004, the Congress made a comeback again in quite an astonishing fashion by defeating the incumbent BJP in power. The Congress would spend the next decade fully in control of India's central government. This decade, especially the second half was marred by corruption. Telecom, railways, coal, land, sports, and various other ministries saw their names tarred under charges of corruption. Popular resentment against the regime grew prevalent among the public due to the increasing corruption within the government and the party's inability to take any affirmative action against it. The then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh was largely seen as a weak leader who couldn’t take tough action against corrupt members within his party and government. As a result, the party lost pathetically in the 2014 general elections where it won just 44 seats in the Lok Sabha out of the 543 up for grabs — an all-time low. Since then, the party still hasn’t settled into a new role. It has been losing election after election across many states in India. The most notable recent loss came in Uttar Pradesh the most populated state in India where the party got just seven seats in an assembly of 403 seats.

Most political observers are of the opinion that the Congress lacks a genuine mass leader of which it used to have in dozens in its glory days. The vice president of the party, Rahul Gandhi, has been somewhat of a laughing stock due to his lack of leadership skills and his inability to win elections.

To sum up, the Congress has lost its sheen and doesn’t look to be in a position to even pose a challenge to the current BJP regime. If it manages to do so, the party would be pulling a rabbit out of a hat! Worryingly, the demise of Congress means the demise of a balanced political system in India. The Congress and the BJP, the two most dominant powers, used to balance off each other in Indian politics. With this balance lost, a newly emergent “BJP System” is replacing the earlier Congress system. At no time in the history of the party, the Congress has won an election either on the issue of development or on positive issues.

Right now Congress does not have any charismatic leader who can convincingly bring victory to the party. Also, Congress has over the years right from Indira Gandhi has demolished all institutions within the party by nominating figureheads. Thereby, leadership development was buried once and for all. To revive them is not possible with the present set of leadership. It took hundred years to develop them, but took only 30 years to demolish them.

The first jolt to the Congress came when Jawaharlal Nehru expired in 1964. Then everyone in Congress was asking only one question: “Who after Nehru?”
The moment Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced his intentions to stay away from 'Holi Milan' programmes as 'experts across the world have advised to reduce mass gatherings to avoid the spread of the COVID-19 novel Coronavirus, many in Mumbai too seems to be thinking on similar lines. Many residents and especially youth are in favour of avoiding bigger get-togethers for the Holi celebrations. In the wake of Coronavirus, the present health scare due to this dreaded disease, it is risky. Followed by Modi’s tweet even Amit Shah also announced about not playing with colors. This perhaps is not the time to have fun when the entire world is worried about Coronavirus. We need to be careful and responsible about others and ourselves too. Let’s stay safe and not play Holi in the usual big gatherings.

In Maharashtra, of the 167 travelers quarantined since January, upon landing at the Mumbai airport, only nine are currently admitted in isolation wards. Testing facilities have been put in place in Mumbai, Nagpur and Pune. There is enough stock of masks. Hotel managements have also been instructed to check if foreign tourists coming to their hotels have undergone thermal screening. When there was an outbreak of swine flu, the dahi handi celebrations were cancelled. While efforts are on to check
Experts across the world have advised to reduce mass gatherings to avoid the spread of COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus. Hence, this year I have decided not to participate in any Holi Milan programme.

11:33 AM · Mar 4, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone

and screen 88 people who came in contact with the Delhi man, the growing scare over Coronavirus which has claimed over 3,000 lives, mostly are from China. Families across the financial capital are cutting down on celebrations and cancelling pool parties.

There are many people seen wearing masks in India especially in trains and planes. But no one knows what this virus is all about. Coronavirus affects the respiratory tract in the mammals; it causes all types of the common cold. It causes cold with major symptoms e.g. throat swollen adenoids in humans primarily in the winter. Coronavirus can cause pneumonia, either direct viral pneumonia or secondary bacterial pneumonia and they can also cause bronchitis either direct viral bronchitis or secondary bacterial bronchitis. The Coronavirus is fairly new that has taken the World by shock. It’s been two months since the outbreak started and it has shown that it isn’t as deadly as the SARS virus. Also, it takes about two weeks before the person infected shows any symptoms. It’s not noticed right away.

Coronaviruses are zoonotic in origin. Both SARS and MERS are classified as zoonotic viral diseases. This means that the first patients who were infected acquired these viruses directly from animals. This was possible because while in the animal host, the virus had acquired a series of genetic mutations that allowed it to infect and multiply inside humans. Snakes have been suggested as a host or intermediate host. In the case of this 2019 Wuhan variant (2019-nCoV) Coronavirus outbreak, reports state that most of the first group of patients hospitalised were workers or customers at a local seafood wholesale market which also sold processed meats and live consumable animals including poultry, donkeys, sheep, pigs, camels, foxes, badgers, bamboo rats, hedgehogs and reptiles. China not only has a culture of eating fresh meat has as many markets and wild animals fairs with various animals. This gives most likely a virus jumping to humans or other animals which can be intermediates. However, since no one has ever reported finding a Coronavirus infecting aquatic animals, it is plausible that the Coronavirus may have originated from other animals sold in that market. The study of the genetic code of 2019-nCoV reveals that the new virus is most closely related to two bat SARS-like Coronavirus samples from China initially suggesting that like SARS and MERS, the bat might also be the origin of 2019-nCoV. The authors further found that the viral RNA coding sequence of 2019-nCoV spike protein, which forms the "crown" of the virus particle that recognises the receptor on a host cell indicates that the bat virus might have mutated before infecting people. But when the researchers performed a more detailed bioinformatics analysis of the sequence of 2019-nCoV, it suggests that this Coronavirus might come from snakes.

The Wuhan Huanan wholesale seafood market where the Coronavirus outbreak is believed to have started is now closed, making it difficult for greater detailed sampling and study. Also, these reptile-to-bat and then human transfers are NOT definite or independently verified. Searching for the 2019-nCoV sequences in snakes would be the first thing to do. However, since the outbreak, the seafood market has been disinfected and shut down. This makes it challenging to trace the new virus' source animal. These viruses don’t circulate among only humans but animals instead, they are adapted to animals but not human. When they infect a new species, they may be either too weak (i.e., unable to spread at all) or too aggressive (i.e., unable to spread efficiently). However, if the viral spread continues, viruses causing milder diseases are more favoured until it reaches equilibrium. For example, the Spanish flu was very lethal when initially introduced to human, but eventually became milder seasonal flu strains, contrary to people's belief, the Spanish flu was never gone as some genetic segments are still circulating. However, we should remain cautious as something unexpected may happen during the adaptation. Because human adapted viruses will be very different from the initial one, anything could happen during such a long evolution path. For example, a mutation that enables the virus to replicate faster or evade the white blood cells better may increase both the infectivity and lethality which is advantageous in the short term. This could probably explain why the death toll of the Spanish flu spiked at the second wave. So even the general trend is becoming better, something nasty can still happen. So what we need is awareness and guidelines on precautions to be taken.
Yes Bank is India’s fourth largest private sector bank that has been growing at a brisk pace. It is primarily a Corporate bank, which means that a large part of the loan is given to Corporates and substantial business is generated from this segment. Such a bank gets in trouble when Corporate borrowers are not in a position to repay back. Given the fact that the corporate sector was facing a stoppage, Yes Bank was seeing defaults in its books. Further, in RBI audits, it became apparent that Yes Bank was under-reporting such non-payment of loans. In order to cover for such non-payment of loans, the bank falls back on its capital and in case it has adequate capital, it can keep on functioning properly. In the case of Yes Bank, it is suspected that such non-payment losses are very large and hence their current capital is not sufficient to cover such fatalities. Thus, in order to revive the bank, the
current management was trying to raise capital which they were unable to. Given their inability to raise capital the bank would have had to shut down, however RBI has stepped in to prevent such an eventuality.

Yes Bank came into existence in the year 2003 when it was formed by Rana Kapoor and Ashok Kapoor but when the latter expired in Mumbai 26/11 terrorist attack, Rana Kapoor took over complete control of the Bank. While Kapoor is famous as a risk taker, Ashok Kapoor was a old-fashioned person. After Ashok died, Rana randomly gave loans to loss making companies. But in due course, Yes Bank never showed actual data and always gave a manipulated data to hide losses of stressed asset. UBS a global firm first raised the issue regarding loan given to stressed asset, but that wasn’t creating much problems for Yes Bank. Gradually the exposure of Yes Bank to bad companies was rising. The bank gave loan to several companies like DHFL, once the company was unable to repay the loan, problems for Yes Bank started increasing. In 2018, the market cap of the Bank was Rs. 1 lakh crore which came down to 5000 crore in one and half years. When the RBI realised that there was some problems in the Yes Bank, it refused to extend the term of Rana Kapoor and revised his term to 31st January 2019. Soon after, stock price of Yes Bank started falling. Rana Kapoor pledged his share which was not known though it was known that he had shareholding of 11 per cent at one time which was worth around Rs. 9000 crore which he slowly reduced to 1 per cent. Loans worth Rs 20,000 crore out of Rs 30,000 crore sanctioned by Rana Kapoor, during his tenure as chief of the crisis-ridden Yes Bank, turned into bad debts, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) told a special Court last Wednesday. According to news agency PTI, the submission was made by the ED to a Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court in Mumbai which extended Kapoor’s custody till 16 March after the agency sought remand for further probe.

Kapoor, who was arrested by the ED is facing a probe from the ED and the CBI over allegations that he received kickbacks through scam-hit Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited’s (DHFL) Rs 600 crore loan to a family-owned company. Kapoor’s wife and three daughters are also among the 13 accused named by the CBI in the case. As many as 44 companies belonging to 10 large business groups reportedly accounted for bad loans of Rs 34,000 crore of Yes Bank, PTI reported, adding that nine firms of Anil Ambani-led Reliance Group reportedly owed Rs 12,800 crore while the Essel Group had unpaid loans of Rs 8,400 crore.

Last week, Yes Bank was placed under a moratorium by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) which took control of the Board and also imposed a Rs 50,000-limit on withdrawals from the bank after the central bank cited “serious deterioration in the financial position of the Bank”. Since then, the country’s largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) has shown interest in buying up to 49 per cent stake in the beleaguered private lender, as a part of its restructuring plan.

Mainly, RBI has intervened in the management by putting a cap on withdrawal. There may be some hardships to the customers, but this action has been taken to protect the interest of depositors. Unhealthy practices followed in lending and classification of the advances not done correctly are prime reasons for the crisis. The Yes Bank has lost its credibility on account of unethical banking practices followed by them. The bank has been put under moratorium to gain some time to study the situation and find out solutions. The bank is not going shut down the doors. All deposits will be safe. To understand this, one must know how a bank functions. Deposit of every 100 rupees made in any bank by a customer, the bank has to deposit 21.50 rupees with RBI as SLR (statutory liquidity ratio) in the form of government securities, bonds and 4 rupees as cash with RBI. This is the reserve fund maintained with RBI. The balance amount only is lent to the borrower to pay interest for the deposit of 100 rupees. As the borrower would have invested in various assets to generate income to pay interest on the borrowed - big medium and small. All the deposits are invested in various loans and advances. Some of the advances might have been taken with bad motives and those have to be identified and be recovered from the culprits and the accountability also should be fixed. Then only such unwanted things will not happen. The Indian legal system is toothless and will threaten as if something is going to happen, but in reality it is not so. One example is that one SARFAESI act was brought in to solve the problems of the NPA accounts without the intervention of a court because trying to find a solution to NPA accounts in our legal system it takes five to seven years. When the banks were trying to recover the money from the stressed assets, the court started interfering and issuing stays. In any sector bad and selfish people will be there and because of these, problems come. Like that only Yes Bank has been saddled with good amount of NPA accounts. On account of NPAs, hefty provision has to be made which has resulted in capital reduction or erosion. If all the customers demand money immediately, it will not be possible to realise the money from the borrowers and pay them on demand. But all the deposits are safe and will be paid. To channelise the withdrawals, a cap has been fixed for smooth solution of the problem. This action has been made by RBI as a controller as well as a supervisory bank. Already a structured plan has been displayed calling for opinions from all the stake holders in the bank including the investors. After that a final call would be taken by the RBI and the Government of India. The depositors have to be a bit patient and try to help the government and RBI to find the culprits so that they be punished.
Coronavirus takes social media by storm.
A
s the new of Coronavirus
epidemic struck the globe and
people were given horrific
stories, many took to their social
media to get more insight of the
same. Some randomly went on
rendering tips and tricks to avoid
getting infected. To my surprise,
there were random posts showing
some worms coming out of lips and
ears as corona virus. Their Indian
Babas who over-night became
Corona babas is not only selling
remedies but also assuring the elimination of
the virus. Some are selling naturopathic
sterilisers and sanitisers while some are selling
Ayurveda home-made masks. The panic news
telecast gave big market to people. From
performing some rituals to chanting some
mantras, Corona has given everyone a
business. People are using the internet to share
information, air their anxieties and bide time
while in quarantine. The moment when those
online conversations light up also tell us a lot
about how our feelings around the pandemic
are surfacing. Posts are circulating false and
misleading tips on social media, in some cases
wrongly attributed to various organisations
about how people can monitor and avoid the
Coronavirus.

Mentions of 'Coronavirus' across social
platforms and news media really started to
take off in early February. That was after the
first Coronavirus case of unknown origin also
known as community spread,
emerged in the United States. That
case involved a patient in California
who contracted Coronavirus but
had neither travelled somewhere
where the virus was present nor
was he knowingly exposed to
someone who had contracted the
virus. At around the same time,
South Korean pop band and social
media sensation BTS announced
that it was cancelling its tour stops
due to the Coronavirus and urged
their fans to donate to relief efforts. After that,
videos got circulated about people selling or
eating bats. On social media, there were many
videos in circulation since news broke of the
Coronavirus outbreak in China with claims that
bats are a possible origin of the new virus.
None of the videos had any documented link to
the outbreak.

Some of the videos show people eating soup
made from bat meat while others claimed to
show the mammal for sale in the seafood
market in Wuhan, capital of Hubei province
which scientists have suggested as a possible
source of the virus. People took to Instagram,
Facebook and Twitter and much common on
WhatsApp to express their disgust at the idea of
eating bats. Some claimed that certain
Chinese people eat raw bat and rat meat. Some
videos did also show where snake and dog
meat was sold. The videos were awful and
horrific but the circulation was in billions. The
typical market in China has butchered beef, pork and lamb, whole plucked chickens with heads and beaks attached and live crabs and fish spewing water out of churning tanks. Some sell more unusual fare including live snakes, turtles and cicadas, guinea pigs, bamboo rats, badgers, hedgehogs, otters, palm civets and even wolf cubs.

The markets are fixtures in scores of Chinese cities and now, for at least the second time in two decades, they are the source of an epidemic that has spread fear.

With 19 million mentions across social media and news sites related to Covid-19 in the past 24 hours alone around the world, it’s clear that Coronavirus is the first global pandemic that is unfolding on social media with unprecedented volumes of conversations happening every second, so wrote Sprinklr. If you look at the Indian media, there is hardly any news on sports, political events because they have not

Mentions of 'Coronavirus' across social platforms and news media really started to take off in early February. That was after the first Coronavirus case of unknown origin also known as community spread, emerged in the United States.

had the same global impact as Coronavirus did on individuals, businesses and governments. Brandwatch, another social media analytics company, found that sentiment surrounding Coronavirus posts are unsurprisingly, mostly negative. The most prevalent emotion has been disgust with many of those mentions centering on hand washing and racism towards Chinese people. The second-most common emotion in these posts was fear. In many cases, these mentions centered on specific locations like Italy and Iran where the ravages of Coronavirus have been most acutely felt.

People’s concerns about Coronavirus have also been evident in their search history. Google searches of Coronavirus in the US saw their first major rise relative to all search traffic toward the end of January after the first person in the US was diagnosed with Coronavirus after travelling abroad. In recent days, Coronavirus has seen its highest level of search traffic—that level is indicated by a score of 100 on Google Trends. This is a huge search volume by any measure. Here’s that same trend indexed against perennially popular Google searches of “Trump,” “music,” and “video” for the last two months. Meanwhile, Google and other online platforms have been actively trying to root out misinformation about Coronavirus. YouTube has been particularly hard hit with hoaxes suggesting ways to prevent the virus and ads seeking to capitalise on it, both of which the company has been working to block.

The conversation is also in flux. Here’s a comparison of Google’s search traffic in the first week of March versus the first week of February. In February, accelerating search terms related to Coronavirus included a couple of misspellings of the virus which is what you’d expect when a keyword or topic is newly popular as well as mentions of Coronavirus in relation to SARS as people were initially trying to put the outbreak into historical context.
Wonders of HydraFacial for stunning look

HydraFacial MD bills itself as medical-grade facial rejuvenation that cleanses, detoxifies, exfoliates, extracts and hydrates in one treatment that is appropriate for all skin types—normal, oily, sensitive, aging. It also promises help with fine line and wrinkles, pore size, and hyperpigmentation. Of course, this is what an aesthetician is supposed to do in a customized facial, so one wonders—does HydraFacial really yield superior results?

How Does a HydraFacial Work?

The HydraFacial is a machine with a handheld device that uses four different HydroPeel tips and various skin care solutions (chemical exfoliants, antioxidants, and hydrating serums like hyaluronic acid) to achieve its results. The spiral design of the tips used in conjunction with the HydraFacial vacuum technology creates a vortex effect to easily dislodge and remove impurities while simultaneously introducing solutions that exfoliate, hydrate and infuse your skin with antioxidants.

A HydraFacial in Four Steps

Cleansing

Both HydraFacials start with a quick manual cleanse by the aesthetician, followed by the Vortex Fusion treatment with Activ 4. This combines exfoliating lactic acid and glucosamine HCI with anti-oxidant-rich algae, softens and conditions skin.

Deeper Exfoliation

To give the skin a deeper exfoliation, two different tips are available one more aggressive than the other delivering one of three different levels of glycolic acid (7.5%, 15% or 30%) combined with 1.5% - 2% salicylic acid. The combination of physical exfoliation from the tip and chemical exfoliation from the peels gives a good result quickly, without the wait and tingling that you might experience with a traditional peel.

Extractions

This step utilizes a different tip and Beta-HD to soften sebum with salicylic acid and suck away blackheads and sebum in open pores. At the same time, honey extract hydrates and spiraea ulmaria flower extract calms and soothes. If you have a milia, which is an overgrown whitehead, HydraFacial can't get that out.

Serums

Your cleansed, extracted, exfoliated skin is now ready for an infusion of antioxidants (chestnut seed and green tea extracts), peptides (cooper, magnesium, and zinc) and hyaluronic acid, which actually attracts water to the skin and helps keep it hydrated and plump. The proprietary blend called Antiox also has arnica flower extract to calm and soothe the skin, and red algae extract to brighten the skin.

HydraFacial Add-Ons

At the beginning of the facial, you can get mechanical lymphatic drainage that moves lymph fluid out of your face, reducing puffiness and helping to speed toxins out of your system. During the treatment you can add an even more powerful anti-aging peptide complex serum to help smooth the appearance of fine lines and wrinkles and enhance skin elasticity. And at the end of the treatment you can opt for an LED treatment red to soothe the skin and stimulate cell turnover, or blue to kill bacteria if your problem is acne-related.

The Bottom Line

This is a great treatment for brides or anyone who wants to look refreshed and hydrated for a night out. Estheticians tell me it is fantastic for people with acne, in part because the extractions don’t use pressure that disturbs the skin. It’s a good anti-aging treatment because of the peels and antioxidants, but because it involves an expensive piece of equipment, it’s going to be more expensive. It helps with hyperpigmentation (brown spots), but it wouldn’t expect much progress with that. (PL) Intense Pulsed Light is the treatment of choice to make brown spots fade or go away completely.

Where to Get A Hydrafacial?

Call: 9321199881 / 7276767474

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Shop no.18, Bldg no. K-3, Hilton Society, Ram Nagar, Near Kalyan Jewellers, Borivali (West), Mumbai - 400092.

www.vaideheeaesthetics.com
In a hope to contain the spread of Coronavirus in Mumbai, many religious leaders have modified their rituals. Not only that, but the temples and other religious worshipping places have been closed for an indefinite period. Mumbai is taking more drastic measures, cancelling worship services, closing religious places and shutting holy sites. In such a distressful situation, temple is the only place of worship that gives positive vibes to provide a panic person some solace. But the Government and the temple trusts believe that the public gathering can create hindrance in protecting people from the spread of Coronavirus. Due to concerns over the global spread of the dreaded disease, especially in nearby places, temporary suspended visit to its holy sites. The Mahalakshmi Mandir, Mumbadevi Mandir and the Siddhivinayak temple will remain closed for some time. Even the churches and mosques have been closed for public prayers.

Millions of Muslims visit the Saudi kingdom around the year for Haj pilgrimage but the current travel restrictions prevent the entry of both overseas pilgrims.
and Saudi citizens into the holy cities of Mecca and Medina. This has had a direct impact on the Umrah pilgrimage known as the “lesser pilgrimage,” that can be performed at almost any time of the year. Whether or not the restrictions will extend to the haj which begins around July 28, can be known only after it becomes clear how long the Coronavirus outbreak will last. Both the Umrah and haj are important pilgrimages for Muslims, but they differ in many respects.

Other than religious places, the city has closed all malls, gyms and movie theaters. Sports leagues, museums and other cultural institutions, churches, mosques, synagogues, temples and gurdwaras have been temporarily closed to guard against spreading the virus. For many spiritual leaders, the decision to shut their doors is difficult. Religious rituals are meant to be enacted, soul and body, traditionally alongside other believers. But the present dangers of the deadly virus have forced many religious groups to close their place of worship. This move has led to cancellations worldwide in the last 48 hours.

Vatican announced that the Holy Week celebrations in Rome, events that typically draw thousands of pilgrims from around the world would be closed to the public because of the “current global public health emergency”. But with Easter, Ramadan, Passover and other holy days approaching, Coronavirus will undoubtedly upend religious lives in 2020. For many Muslim men, group prayers on Friday are a religious obligation. But as congregations across the country and the world weighed whether to stay open, experts in Islamic law have stepped in.

Together with Muslim medical experts, the society has strongly recommended that congregations take precautions against the pandemic including immediately suspending congregational prayers and other community gatherings. Muslims in Kuwait, Germany, Iran and other places around the world have also suspended services as of Friday. Some Muslim leaders in America have urged their communities to be prepared for a protracted fight against Coronavirus. In non-hierarchical religions, like Judaism and Buddhism, local congregations are making their own decisions or looking to scholars for advice. The Rabbinical Assembly, which issues opinions on Jewish law for Conservative movement Jews, advised following civil and medical guidance. It also advised engaged Jews to postpone their weddings, if possible.

The Rabbinical Council of America which issues guidelines for Orthodox Jews modified its guidance as the week wore on. The Council said that public gatherings in synagogues and schools should be severely limited. (They also noted the decision of rabbis in Bergen County, New Jersey, to shut down services and gatherings.) The Coronavirus threat and state and county-imposed cap on large gatherings hasn’t just impacted the Bay Area’s museums, sports arenas, businesses and schools. Churches, temples and mosques are cancelling services and shabbat, postponing events and live streaming services, prayers and dharma talks. People have been asked to remain at home, work from and avoid mingling in public events.

This is not the first time diseases have impacted pilgrimages. Cholera outbreaks in 1821 and 1865 claimed thousands of lives during haj. In 2012 and 2013, Saudi authorities encouraged the ill and the elderly not to undertake the pilgrimage amid concerns over Middle East Respiratory Syndrome, or MERS. While the recent decision to halt Umrah will disappoint Muslims looking to perform the pilgrimage, they might refer to a hadith that provides guidance about travelling during a time of an epidemic. In the meantime, even Hindus may not like getting temple doors closed but one need to understand that saving human lives is a bigger worship. God is going to be in his place even if you return after ages, but once safety is guaranteed when gatherings are controlled, all is going to be well.
A Step Further Was Needed
To Recognise The Heroes Of Our Society
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