

## App & women

The recent announcement by Arvind Kejriwal led Aam Admi government of Delhi of allowing women to use the public transport free of cost has met with mixed reactions. While most of the opponents of the move believe that women need security more than freebies, opponents say that the Delhi government is doing what they can do under their rights in the union territory state which is governed by multiple agencies.

Like many other schemes of the government, this too aims at lifting the poorest of the poor from their present status. An older woman who needs to travel from one corner of the city to the other would not need to walk miles to save money under the inclement weather of Delhi. Yes, it will add up to ridership, but if the government is to be believed, there is ample room to accommodate free riders who will undoubtedly add up to the crowd that uses the metro. The questions that the opposition and others are raising is of the timing. The AAP government has just lost the last Lok Sabha elections badly and ended up third in a triangular fight. A

## Editorial

party that claims to have done a plethora of things in the small state of Delhi should not have lost that badly. But then, this trend was there in the last elections too where people voted differently for national and state-level elections. For people, it is nothing new as most of the governments take appeasement steps towards the end of their tenure. Although people in government feel that they can make up for their overall performance, people of the place ensure they vote as per the overall performance. And Delhi too will only judge the Arvind Kejriwal led AAP government as per their work of the past five years. A free ride also means that people would prefer a safer medium like metro or bus. This may not make Delhi all the more reliable, but yes, women will have an opportunity to avoid routes which are not that safe and also have metro route along the way. Earlier, women would avoid the metro to save money.

The implications of the free services are a few like misuses, but if you have to cater to the more significant part of the population, these steps are the must. Plus, it also does not discriminate like any other kind of reservation does.

If you want to pay for your ticket, you can do so, but it is least expected to happen. A few women might think this way, but if you are getting a privilege to avoid the metro card recharge or token center queues, you would, of course, prefer the more comfortable way. Some women might recharge their cards initially, but they are less likely to top up over time. Overall, the success of the move largely depends on if the administration can manage the multiplied crowd, and if the government can bear the financial burden. The main disadvantage of such an announcement is that they cannot be rolled back ever in life. So even if it ends up in a loss-making move, the government will find it difficult to roll back. We all need to see if it makes Delhi safer for women and if the idea of making rich and poor traveling together can help in reducing the social disparity.

## Witnessed Dance Performances @ Celebration Mall



**Udaipur:** The finale of the Forum Just Dance, the signature event of the renowned Forum group took place on 1st June 2019. The event was organized in the premises of Forum Celebration Mall from 6 p.m. to 8.30 p.m.

The event enjoyed a magnanimous success with more than 150 participants from the city. There were many unforgettable performances of various dance forms like traditional, patriotic, western and much more.

Top 10 participant were selected from each category and the winner was chosen from the selected one.

The winners are as follows:

Solo Category:

Winners from Age Group of 10 to 15 are:

First position: Angel Sukhwani

Second Position: Himakshi Lohar

Third Position: Vineet Mathur

Winners from Age Group of 16 and Above are:

First position: Tanishka Sutakar

Second Position: Swaraj Singh

Third Position: Kavya Dixit

Group Dance Category:

First position: SADA Dance Group

Second Position: Jitendra Dance Group

Third Position: JDCA Group

The details for the next signature event of the group, 'Forum Junior Chef Champ' is coming up soon.

The last date to register for Forum Junior Chef Champ is 20th June 2019.

For registrations, use the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/yxdez2bf>

And for those who've missed the event, don't worry because we've got you covered. In this article, we are sharing with you, some of the best snippets from the event.

## Prof. Puran Mal Yadav gets Mahatma Gandhi Life Time Achievement Award

**Udaipur:** Prof. Puran Mal Yadav received the coveted Mahatma Gandhi Life Time Achievement Award for his contribution to the up lift of the down trodden and furthering the Gandhian objective of emancipation of the deprived sections of the society. Prof. Yadav is Professor and Head, Department of Sociology at Mohan Lal Sukhadia University, Udaipur. The award was given by Justice Tanveer Hassan, Justice Swatantra Kumar, former judge of the Supreme Court of India, Mr. J.P. Kurien, former Chairman of Rajya Sabha, Major Ved Prakash, secretary All India Congress Committee, Chetan Chauhan, cabinet Minister of U.P. Government, Dhan Singh Rawat, Higher Education Minister of Uttarakhand and Manhar Valji Bhai, Chairman of All India Safai Karmachari Ayog. Prof. Yadav has to his credit 21 national and international awards and ten foreign visits.

## Swachh Bharat leverages Rs 23,000 crore for behaviour change: Study by Gates Foundation



Union Minister for Jal Shakti Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat has said that Swachhata affects all aspects of the environment – be it groundwater, surface water, soil or air – as well as health and well-being of the communities in ODF regions. Praising the Swachh Bharat Mission for bringing a reduction in ground water contamination, he said, the WHO 2018 study had estimated that the Swachh Bharat Mission will save over 3 lakh lives by the time India is Open Defecation Free. Releasing two independent third-party

studies conducted on the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen), the Minister said, the Mission will continue to positively impact people's lives for a long time to come.

These studies, commissioned by UNICEF and the Bill and Melinda Gates, were aimed at assessing the environmental impact and communication footprint of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) respectively. The full reports as well as the summary reports of both the studies can be downloaded from [mdws.gov.in](http://mdws.gov.in) and [sbm.gov.in](http://sbm.gov.in).

Union Minister for Environment and Forests Shri Prakash Javadekar highlighted the significance of launching these studies on World Environment Day.

He said that the United Nations, aware that the protection and improvement of the human environment is a major issue which affects the well-being of peoples and economic development throughout the world, designated 5th June as World Environment Day. He added that it is only fitting that UNICEF has chosen this day to release its findings

on the positive impact the Swachh Bharat Mission has had on the environment of rural India.

Secretary, Government of India, Shri Parameswaran Iyer, in his opening remarks, shared that the rural sanitation coverage in the country had crossed the 99% mark and that the Mission was in the final stretch of its completion with 30 States and Union Territories already having declared themselves free from open defecation. He said that the Mission is focusing on sustaining the gains of this progress and to extend the momentum to the ODF-plus phase which includes solid and liquid waste management.

Summary of the study findings Under the "Environmental impact of the Swachh Bharat Mission on Water, Soil, and Food" by UNICEF, groundwater samples were collected and studied from ODF and non-ODF villages of Odisha, Bihar and West Bengal.

The study found that, in terms of faecal contamination, non-ODF villages were, on

average:

- 11.25 times more likely to have their groundwater sources contaminated (12.7 times more from contaminants traceable to humans alone)
- 1.13 times more likely to have their soil contaminated
- 1.48 times more likely to have food contaminated and 2.68 times more likely to have household drinking water contaminated.

The study findings indicated that these substantial reductions may potentially be attributed to the improvement in sanitation and hygiene practices, as well as supportive systems such as regular monitoring and behaviour change messaging, which have all been critical aspects of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen).

IEC footprint study by Gates Foundation

The "Assessment of the reach and value of IEC activities under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen)" conducted by Dalberg, supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, estimated the scale of IEC activities within

the Mission and assessed associated monetary and in-kind costs, and outputs such as reach. The study found that:

- SBM mobilized a spend equivalent worth INR 22,000 to 26,000 crores in monetary and non-monetary IEC activities.
- Of this spend equivalent, cash expenditure on IEC activities spent by the Government, private sector, and the development community was estimated to be between INR 3,500 – 4,000 crores.
- Of this cash spend, ~20% (~INR 800 crores) was spent by the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation (MDWS), ~35% (~INR 1,250 crores) by the State Sanitation Departments, ~25% (~INR 1,000 crores) by other government ministries, and the other ~20% by the private sector (CSR and business expenditures) and the development sector collectively.

• An average person living in rural India was exposed to between 2,500 – 3,300 SBM related messages over the last five years.

## John Deere Catalyzes Indian Agriculture with Power and Technology



**Udaipur:** John Deere, a pioneer agriculture equipment manufacturer has been at the forefront of bringing innovative products and new technologies to tractor and farm equipment. John Deere, a leader in the farm equipment sector known for innovative products and services, launched a new range of technology and power-driven tractor, harvester and implements. These new tractor and harvester models with superior technology, further improve farm efficiency, cater to a variety of agro climatic conditions, crop types and complement the heavy-duty precision implements.

Amongst the 7 new models of tractor and a harvester launched today, 5405 Gear Pro 63HP tractor is a game changer and takes the agricultural operations to the next level. This is designed specifically to cater to the diverse requirements of the growing farmer's need.

Features such as tilt steering, 12X4 TSS transmission enables a wide range of applications that includes agriculture, loader & dozer and haulage. With JD link (telematics) as an add on, it makes a premium offering to Indian farmers.

The 5105 Model in 40 HP category with a 4WD option is the first tractor, in Indian history. The single and dual clutch, dual

PTO and the SCV makes it a versatile tractor for a variety of agricultural operations in dry and wet land applications.

Advance feature such as, best in class lift capacity, modern engine with jet spray cooling system, planetary gear reduction with a top speed of 34 Kms/Hrs, in the 5005 Model 33 HP, provides a level playing field for the aspiring entry level farmers.

"Over the past two decades we have introduced advanced product features such as power steering, oil immersed disc brakes, planetary reduction, force feed lubrication and high torque machines," said Satish Nadiger, Managing Director. "John Deere was the first to introduce these features in India and they have now become industry standard."

"The Indian agricultural landscape is rapidly modernizing, giving way to an integrated approach & solutions in the farming sector. Precision and advanced technologies in the agriculture crop value chain are becoming critical."

It is essential that we support farmers by providing state of the art products that are powerful, innovative and bring together modern technology to the Indian market", added Mukul Varshney, Director Public Affairs.

## New Datsun GO and GO+ with Vehicle Dynamic Control technology

**Udaipur:** Datsun India announces segment-first safety feature, Vehicle Dynamic Control (VDC) technology, in the New Datsun GO and GO+ in line with the commitment to offer a world-class driving experience to the car owners in India.

New Datsun GO will also be available in new 'Vivid Blue' colour option.

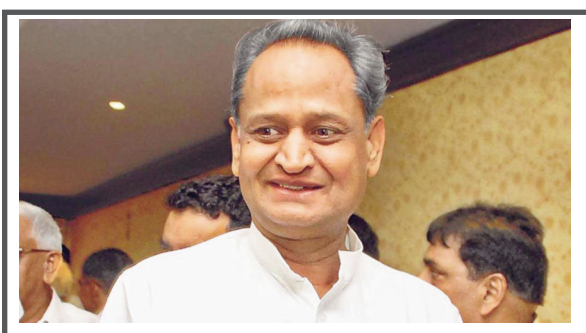
Hardeep Singh Brar, Director Sales and Commercial, Nissan India said, "Datsun is committed to transform customer experience with new and innovative products. Underscoring our focus on progressive mobility backed by safety, technology, style and convenience, the New Datsun GO and GO+ now comes with VDC so that the Datsun owner can drive with confidence."

## Enhanced Safety through Vehicle Dynamic Control Technology

The VDC system monitors wheel speed, steering wheel position, and lateral acceleration via onboard sensors to provide electronic stability control. Responding to car oversteering and understeering, the system facilitates a safer driving experience, superior drivability and enhanced power. New Datsun GO and GO+ comes with anti-lock braking system (ABS), electronic brake force distribution (EBD), brake assist (BA) and traction control system (TCS).

Making journeys more enjoyable, all variants of the New Datsun GO and GO+ are available with a new music system, featuring a seven-inch display, smartphone connectivity via Apple Car Play and Android Auto, voice recognition, among other standard in-car music features. The New Datsun GO and GO+ are available at all Nissan and Datsun dealerships across India.

## POLITICAL APPOINTMENTS AT DISTRICT LEVEL ON CARDS



**Jaipur:** In order to boost the morale of Congress workers after the Lok Sabha rout in Rajasthan, the state government is set to make fresh political appointments at the district level shortly.

The move is also seen as an incentive to party workers and leaders, who worked hard in the last Lok Sabha and assembly elections; and also keeping in mind the upcoming local bodies and Panchayati Raj elections later this year. A large number of party workers will be accommodated in various committees such as 20-point programme, vigilance, youth board, public distribution system, women welfare, traffic advisory, industrial, disaster relief, juvenile board, child welfare, Khadi and Gram Udyog. A senior party leader on condition of anonymity said the work of appointments in the committees at district level has been started and announcements will be made in the next couple of weeks. "Workers who performed for the party in the last two elections will be accommodated," he said. Appointments at around 70 boards and commissions at the state level such as women, finance, minority, Rajasthan Public Service Commission, social welfare board, Waqf board, youth board, RTDC etc too will be done in the coming months in consultation with the party state unit.

AICC secretary and Co-incharge Rajasthan Vivek Bansal said, "We are appraising the performance of workers at the district and state level and act accordingly." State party general secretary (organisation) Mahesh Sharma said those workers and leaders who performed well and could not get tickets will be accommodated.

## Polluter Sues Complainants, Administration Fails to Execute Court's Decision

**Dr. H.S. Chandalia**

The rituals of celebrating the World Environment Day are over and those who could get some media space are happy that they have done their lot to save the environment. Amidst this ruckus the people of Bichhdi village near Hindustan Zinc Smelter are fighting a case filed against them by the owner of a factory which had been polluting their land, wells, air and had destroyed all vegetation in the nearby villages. The story is nearly forty years old when Hindustan Agro Chemicals and other five industries in the region caused havoc by their effluents causing huge damage to environment and putting the lives of nearly twenty villages in danger. It is alleged that the industries which produced Hcl acid allowed the effluent of their industries to drain in open nullahs without treatment. This effluent polluted their water sources and fertile land. It even polluted Ayad river and reached Udaipur. The villagers organized themselves in the form of Navyuvak Mandal and wrote a complaint to the then Prime Minister Rajeev Gandhi. A case under section 133 of CrPc was filed and the villagers engaged Advocate Manna Ram Dangi

who later coordinated the entire movement of the peasants. A Sangharsh Samiti was also formed in which journalist Himmat Seth and CPIML leader Sri Latha Swaminathan also joined. The Sangharsh Samiti organized a Dharna for fifteen days and also Gheraod the factories. The district administration closed down the factory Hindustan Agro Chemicals for sixty days under section 144. Against this order the owner of the factory O.P. Agarwal moved to the High Court. After a long legal battle fought at High Court and the Supreme Court of India in 1996 the apex court ordered the closure of five factories in 1996. The apex court also ordered the polluting industries under the principle "Polluters Pay" to pay Rs. 38 Crores for the treatment of soil and water sources of Bichhdi and the surrounding villages. It was the duty of the Collector, Udaipur to get the penalty deposited but nothing could be done. Advocate Manna Ram Dangi, who coordinates the entire movement told that only 60-70 lakhs were recovered which were spent on the Home Guards deputed in the factories but nothing was spent on the treatment of the soil or water bodies. The amount has grown to Rs. 200 crores with the passage of so many years. The irony is that the owner of the industry accused of the pollution has filed a case against the villagers saying that they have made wrong charges. The truth is that a team of scientists from Rurkee and Kanpur had come under the orders of Ministry of Environment, Government of India and had verified the charges on the basis of which honourable Supreme Court of India passed the judgment.

The hills around Udaipur are being destroyed by mining and building mafia in Udaipur, water bodies are being destroyed by colony builders and streams and natural water drains are blocked by the dumping of waste material and construction of highways. Agriculture is being destroyed by industrial pollution. Lack of employment opportunities in the rural areas is forcing villagers to urban areas. All these issues need to be addressed otherwise all activities of celebrating the environment day will prove only cosmetic.

