

Aging Population: Challenges and Action



(Source- - [DNA](#))

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Lead Essay

Aging Population: Challenges and Action

Introduction: Elderly in India

Population Aging is gradually becoming a concern for both developed and developing nations. In India the elderly depend upon the joint family system for care giving support. However several factors such as industrialization, migration and urbanization have resulted in the disruption of the joint family system and resulted in the growth of nuclear families. In the process of transition from the joint family system to the nuclear family system, the elderly are encountering both economic and emotional problems. According to Census data (2011) India has 104 million elderly (aged 60 years and above); 53 million females and 51 million males. While 71% of the elderly reside in rural areas, 29% reside in urban areas. In fact the Census of 2011 also revealed that 15 million elderly live alone and three fourth of them are women. Demographically the proportion of elderly population has increased from 5.6% in 1961 to 8.6% in 2011 (Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, 2016). These statistics are indicative of the fact that the concerns of the elderly population need to be addressed with priority. Amidst other concerns, the security of older population in India requires immediate attention. Data from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) over the years have highlighted the rising incidences of crime against the elderly. The statistics from the NCRB reports demonstrate the fact that elderly lack security provisions in India. Drawing from the recently released NCRB report of 2015, the current essay will highlight the increasing number of crimes against the older population and also understand the existing policies for the elderly in India. In particular the essay will focus on the rising crimes against elderly, causes and the role of the State in providing security measures to the older population in India. Finally the essay will provide a comparative perspective with regard to the strategies adopted by other developing nations such as China and Singapore to ensure the safety and security of their elderly population.

Understanding NCRB Statistics

On 30th August 2016, the 63rd edition of 'Crime in India', an annual publication of National Crime Records Bureau was published. Data from the NCRB report demonstrated that crimes against senior citizens rose by 10% in 2015 as compared to the previous year. A total of 20,532 cases of crimes committed against senior citizens were reported in 2015 as compared to 18,714 in 2014 (NCRB Report, 2015). Though the report has a detailed representation of crimes committed recorded against the elderly, in this essay only the States and Union Territories with highest rates of crime have been tabulated. Even among the criminal offences those with the highest rates of frequency have been represented in the table below:

Table 1: Crimes Committed against Senior Citizens in 2015

Sr No	State/Union Territory	Murder	Cheating	Robbery	Grievous Hurt	Other IPC Crimes	Rate of Crime
1	Andhra Pradesh	56	197	32	44	2495	51.6
2	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	3	0	0	2	12	47.2
3	Chandigarh	1	0	1	1	26	38.8
4	Chhattisgarh	63	46	9	27	1077	53.7
5	Delhi	14	123	145	9	1248	108.8
6	Goa	2	5	1	6	59	36.1
7	Madhya Pradesh	106	59	85	150	3456	60.5
8	Maharashtra	167	627	718	369	4561	41.1
9	Tamil Nadu	162	192	88	11	1947	25.9
10	Telangana	53	240	21	7	1519	44.1

Source: NCRB Report 2015

Lead Essay

As Table 1 indicates Delhi has the highest rate of crime followed by Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. The case of Delhi is particularly alarming because even with the establishment of a Senior Citizens Security Cell at the Police Headquarters in 2004 crimes against the elderly continue to increase¹. The major reasons which could be attributed to the rising criminal offences against the elderly are vulnerability and lack of protection. As individuals grow older, they begin depending on their children or other family members to fulfill their needs. This dependence happens on the part of the elderly primarily due to physical decline and health disabilities (Moody, 2006). The breaking up of the joint family system has resulted in adult children moving to cities which their work places demand and in the process are not able to fulfill filial obligations towards their older parents (Vatuk, 1990; Rajan, 2001; Lamb, 2013). Data indicates that 56% of older adults in India live only with their spouse (Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, 2016). Due to lack of support and security older adults become susceptible to criminal activities. In the context of criminal activities it is important to note that the elderly are often victims of physical abuse by both family members and outsiders. The lack of detailed records for cases of physical abuse could be attributed to lack of reporting.

Physical Abuse and Elderly in India

Interestingly even though the NCRB report provides a detailed list of crimes committed against elderly, it does not mention the incidences of physical abuse experienced by older adults in India. A recent study conducted by Agewell Foundation (2015) revealed that two thirds of the elderly are neglected by their family members and one third of the elderly have suffered physical and verbal abuse. Around 65.2% of elderly indicated that they faced neglect in old age and over half (54.1%) mentioned said that they suffered abuse within their families. Every fourth elderly, around 25.3% admitted that they are being exploited by their family members (Agewell Foundation, 2015). Additionally the study also highlighted that 89.7% and 96.4% of the elderly faced abuse due to financial and emotional reasons respectively (Agewell Foundation, 2015). In cases of physical abuse and neglect caused by family members, the availability of data is scarce due to lack of reporting. Lack of respect and property related matters are considered to be the major reasons for elderly abuse by family members in India (Agewell Foundation, 2015). The other important reason for older adults in India to face abuse is because 73% of the elderly in India are illiterate (Skirbekk and James, 2014). Studies have indicated that elderly with at least eight years or more of education are able to avoid abuse (Jamuna, 2003; Skirbekk and James, 2014). Statistics from the NCRB report and the Agewell Foundation study indicate that older adults in India face exploitation and mistreatment both from within and outside the family as well. In this context it is important to highlight the role of the State and understand the existing policies for older adults in India.

Policies for Elderly in India

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has implemented a Central Sector Scheme of Integrated Programme for Older Persons (IPOP) since 1992. The objective of this scheme was to improve the quality of life of senior citizens by providing basic amenities such as shelter, food, medical care and entertainment opportunities with the help of Government/ Non-Governmental Organizations/Panchayati Raj Institutions/ local bodies. This scheme was revised in the year 2008 and also provides assistance to maintenance of old age homes, dementia centers, older widow care centers and respite care homes (Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, 2016). In addition to the IPOP Scheme the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 was enacted in December 2007 to ensure the wellbeing of older adults. This Act makes it mandatory for children and relatives to provide care facilities to their older parents/relatives after they reach the age of 60. This Act also gives older adults the right to revoke their property transfers in case of negligence. Additionally the Act also ensures that older adults receive protection of life and medical facilities from their family members. In cases of abuse the Act provides the older adult the right to avail penal provision (Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, 2016).

¹ <https://www.thequint.com/india/2016/09/05/delhi-is-the-most-unsafe-for-indias-elderly-claims-ncrb-data>

Lead Essay

International Perspective

A summary of the existing policies suggest that the Indian State has considerable amount of provisions for the elderly. However the incidences of physical abuse and crime rate highlight the fact that there is a clear lack of implementation of these policies. In fact it could be suggested that there is a lack of awareness among older adults regarding the existence of these policies. As per Indian tradition older adults usually depend on their sons for economic and emotional need fulfillment (Vera-Sanso, 2004; Lamb, 2009; Rajan, 2010). Hence older adults in India do not practice living alone or making financial arrangements for themselves. In contrast other countries facing population aging, have implemented policies which make older adults self-sufficient and independent. For instance in 2000 Japan implemented a mandatory social long-term care insurance (LTCI) system. This system made institutional and home and community based services such home-help, rehabilitation services, assisted device available to every individual aged 65 years or above who is certified to have physical/mental health needs irrespective of income levels and family support (Tsutsui & Muramatsu, 2005; 2007). Similarly China which relied on the tradition of filial piety (adult children providing care to older parents) is shifting to long term care goals by establishing alternative care giving arrangements. Through their Elder Care Home Without Walls Program the government of China has made trained service providers available for the elderly. These service providers are paid by the government and the elderly can avail their care service through phone calls to local government (Feng et al, 2012). Even Singapore which faced a huge demographic shift and the rise of aging population made it mandatory for all employees to contribute 18.5% of their income to the Singapore's social security fund known as the Central Provident Fund. Post retirement individuals can avail the benefits of this fund (Teo, 1996). In Europe policies are designed to keep older adults active and engaged in their later life. For instance Nordic countries provide training and life-long learning to their older workers to keep them employed. Other European countries such as France, Germany, Poland and Austria provide pension schemes and gradual retirement or retraining (Ney, 2005). To summarize the policy schemes of the different countries it could be suggested that the main aim is to ensure that older adults are independent and self-reliant.

Conclusion

Drawing from the examples of these countries it can be suggested that the aim is to make older adults self-sufficient and aid their process of aging. In India as discussed it could be indicated that older adults do not avail the benefits of the policies and are victim of abuse and crime. Recently the government of India announced the launch of a strict National Policy for Elderly to ensure protection of their rights². It is important for the government to adapt to the current needs of the elderly and formulate a national policy which will enable older adults to become independent and self-sufficient.

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² <http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/centre-to-come-out-with-strict-national-policy-to-fight-crimes-against-elderly/story-UWOYETjeC4K6Q4UpTRpfil.html>

Lead Essay

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Headlines

Could India and Pakistan Go to War?

(Michael Kugelman, *The Diplomat*, September 24, 2016)

The Uri attack came at a time of deep crisis in India-Pakistan relations. India is still smarting from an earlier attack on a military base in India, in the town of Pathankot in Punjab state in January, which it also blamed on JeM—a group with close ties to Pakistani intelligence. In March, Pakistan claimed to have arrested an Indian spy in the insurgency-riven province of Balochistan. Meanwhile, India has responded to recent uprisings in Kashmir, a Muslim-majority Indian state claimed by Pakistan, with characteristically brutal shows of force that have contributed to nearly 90 deaths in the unrest, outraging Pakistanis.

Read More: <http://thediplomat.com/2016/09/could-india-and-pakistan-go-to-war/>

Date Accessed: 26.9.2016

Economy

PM's poverty war...- How the neighbours stack up

(Piyush Srivastava, *The Telegraph*, September 26, 2016)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's exhortation to Pakistan on Saturday to join India in a race to fight illiteracy, unemployment and poverty has prompted Mayawati to urge him to introspect on India's similar challenges and his government's "deplorable" record in tackling them.

Modi "should see the situation in India before advising Pakistan and its people", the Bahujan Samaj Party president told reporters in Lucknow on Sunday.

Read More: http://www.telegraphindia.com/1160926/jsp/nation/story_110278.jsp#.V-inuSF97IU

Date Accessed: 26.9.2016

Three Ways to lift Global Communities Out of Poverty

(Yasmin Noone, *SBS*, September 26, 2016)

"Most poverty is intergenerational and passed on from one generation to the next. That's why people often miss seeing the change because it's taking place in communities over a long period of time, around 15-to-20 years. So to end poverty, you have to break that generational cycle."

Although there's no 'cookie-cutter' approach to solving poverty, there are a few of the effective interventions, employed by development agencies, in a bid to eradicate poverty in communities across the globe.

Read More: <http://www.sbs.com.au/topics/life/culture/article/2016/09/26/three-ways-lift-global-communities-out-poverty>

Date Accessed: 26.9.2016

Millions in U.S. Climb Out of Poverty, at Long Last

(Patricia Cohen, *The New York Times*, September 25, 2016)

Government programs — like Social Security, the earned-income tax credit and food stamps — have kept tens of millions from sinking into poverty year after year. But a main driver behind the impressive 1.2 percentage point decline in the poverty rate, the largest annual drop since 1999, was that the economy finally hit a tipping point after years of steady, if lukewarm, improvement.

Read More: http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/26/business/economy/millions-in-us-climb-out-of-poverty-at-long-last.html?_r=0

Date Accessed: 26.9.2016

Poverty Eradication Challenge: Modi might have to eat his own words

(Shahbaz Rana, *The Express Tribune*, September 25, 2016)

The World Bank updated its traditional a dollar a day poverty line to \$1.90 last year after changes in its purchasing power parity index, which was also updated from the 2005 level. The purchasing power parity index provides a fair idea of the extent of deprivation in countries, as all the countries apply different techniques to work out national poverty lines.

Read More: <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1188408/poverty-eradication-challenge-modi-might-eat-words/>

Date Accessed: 26.9.2016

Poverty measures could be first step to Foundation Aid revamp

(Zachary Matson, *The Daily Gazette*, September 25, 2016)

When the state aid formula — known as the Foundation Aid formula — was developed a decade ago, lawmakers called for the use of poverty data from the decennial federal census. But in the 2000's the Census Bureau moved to an annual count of school district poverty rates, leaving New York education officials stuck using the 2000 data. And unless the Legislature updates the formula statute, the situation will persist.

Economy

Read More: <http://www.dailygazette.com/news/2016/sep/25/poverty-measures-first-step-foundation-aid-revamp/>

Date Accessed: 26.9.2016

Majority of Indians Cannot Afford Fruits and Vegetables, Study Reveals

(Amanat Khullar, *thewire*, September 22, 2016)

A study shows that lower the average income of a country, the lower is its consumption of fruits and vegetables. Nearly 60% of the people in low-income countries, including India, cannot afford the recommended daily intake of fruits and vegetables, research published in the British medical journal Lancet has concluded.

Read More: <http://thewire.in/65661/fruits-vegetables-consumption-malnutrition/>

Date Accessed: 26.9.2016

Let's Create Smart Villages Before Building Smart Cities

(MJ. Prabhu, *The Wire*, September 22, 2016)

Despite all the tall talk about India being an agricultural country and farmers' issues being discussed during election season, in reality, agriculture is not economically viable today. The increasing demand for larger cities has driven up real estate prices even in remote villages, prompting farmers to sell their land. Adding to the fire is the lack of marketing and a fair price for the products.

Read More: <http://thewire.in/67638/farmers-notebook/>

Date Accessed: 26.9.2016

RBI asks govt to appoint regulator for spot exchanges

(Jayshree P. Upadhyay, *Live Mint*, September 26, 2016)

The central bank's concerns have been prompted by the summons it received from the Gujarat high court regarding the National Spot Exchange Ltd (NSEL) payments scam. A group of investors, called the NSEL Aggrieved and Recovery Association, filed a petition in May alleging that the spot exchange was operating without authorization under the Payment and Settlement Services (PSS) Act, which they claim the central bank knew as early as 2011.

Under the PSS Act, RBI authorization is required to operate a payments system. However, the central bank had exempted regulated exchanges from this rule as clearing and settlement are crucial aspects to their functioning and it wanted to avoid dual jurisdiction.

Read More: <http://www.livemint.com/Politics/MKppqx5EMBAdqA6lx2Xsdl/RBI-asks-govt-to-appoint-regulator-for-spot-exchanges.html>

Date Accessed: 26.9.2016

Governance & Development

POLITICS AND GOVERNANCE

Time Changed

(The Telegraph, September 26, 2016)

The practice of a separate railway budget was a vestige from the colonial past. There is no compelling economic logic to treat the Indian Railways in any special way distinct from the other public sector giants as far as accounting and budgeting are concerned. Hence, merging it into the general budget would only be in line with standard practices and norms. However this, long overdue, change should not be mistakenly interpreted as an economic reform that will help improve the railways' efficiency. Nothing substantial will change, including the marked tendency of the railway ministry to pursue populist policies.

Read More: http://www.telegraphindia.com/1160926/jsp/opinion/story_110170.jsp#.V-ioKvI97IU

Date Accessed: 26.9.2016

Now, Bahamas papers on 475 Indian-linked Names with offshore accounts

(IANS, September 22, 2016)

A fresh expose on what is being termed as 'Bahamas Papers' has listed 475 India-related people, trusts and companies registered in the tax haven, including Vedanta Group's Anil Agarwal, erstwhile Baron Group's Kabir Mulchandani and Fashion TV India promoter Aman Gupta.

This have been revealed by The Indian Express, which says a new cache of documents is with German newspaper *Suddeutsche Zeitung*, which has, in turn, shared it with the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists and its media partners, including the Indian paper.

Read More: <http://www.moneylife.in/article/now-bahamas-papers-expose-on-475-india-linked-names-with-offshore-accounts/48248.html>

Date Accessed: 26.9.2016

Why a Decrease in Crime Statistics Isn't Always Good News

(Abhay, The Wire, September, 25, 2016)

At the end of August, 'Crime in India 2015' was released by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). The print and electronic media has since been analysing the data presented in the report *ad nauseum*. Much of such analysis is facile, declaring which state has come first and which has come second in a particular crime, or where and which crime has increased or declined compared to the previous year. Implied in that (or sometimes explicit) is praise for states with low crime recording and criticism for those with high crime recording. Some writings analyse data of crime rates (crimes per 100,000 population) rather than crime recordings.

Read More: <http://thewire.in/68550/ncrb-crime-statistic-police/>

Date Accessed: 26.9.2016

PM tells BJP cadres how they should view Muslims

(Archis Mohan, Business Standard, 26 September, 2016)

Don't appease Muslims, neither should you scorn them, but purify them. Do not treat them as a vote bank or object of hate. Regard them as your own: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday gave a definite pro-poverty shift to his government's policies and programmes for the next one year, even as he finally addressed the elephant in the room — how his party views or should view India's largest minority, the Muslims.

Read More: http://www.business-standard.com/article/politics/pm-tells-bjp-cadres-how-they-should-view-muslims-116092500560_1.html

Date Accessed: 26.9.2016

Governance & Development

GOVERNMENT

Supreme Court finds govt. defying its order on Aadhaar

(Krishandas Rajagopal, *The Hindu*, September 26, 2016)

The petition pointed to a letter addressed by the Centre to States and Union Territories to make Aadhaar a mandatory condition for applying for pre-matric, post-matric and merit-cum-means scholarship schemes. The letter, dated July 14, 2016, plainly directed that “submission of Aadhaar is mandatory” for students.

Read More: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/supreme-court-finds-govt-defying-its-order-on-aadhaar/article9147128.ece?w=alauto>

Date Accessed: 26.9.2016

SECURITY

Could India and Pakistan Go to War?

(Michael Kugelman, *The Diplomat*, September 24, 2016)

The Uri attack came at a time of deep crisis in India-Pakistan relations. India is still smarting from an earlier attack on a military base in India, in the town of Pathankot in Punjab state in January, which it also blamed on JeM—a group with close ties to Pakistani intelligence. In March, Pakistan claimed to have arrested an Indian spy in the insurgency-riven province of Balochistan. Meanwhile, India has responded to recent uprisings in Kashmir, a Muslim-majority Indian state claimed by Pakistan, with characteristically brutal shows of force that have contributed to nearly 90 deaths in the unrest, outraging Pakistanis.

Read More: <http://thediplomat.com/2016/09/could-india-and-pakistan-go-to-war/>

Date Accessed: 26.9.2016

PM to review Indus Waters Treaty today

(*The Hindu*, September 26, 2016)

In an indication that the government was weighing extreme diplomatic actions against Pakistan in the wake of the terror attack on an Army camp in Uri, Kashmir last week, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to chair a meeting on the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) on Monday.

Read More: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/pm-to-review-indus-waters-treaty-today/article9147113.ece?homepage=true>

Date Accessed: 26.9.2016

HEALTH

India's Health Scare Gets Worse

(Neeta Lal, *The Diplomat*, September 22, 2016)

As vector species rampage across India, killing and debilitating thousands, the crisis has exposed the frailties of the health system in this nation of 1.3 billion. The capital city of New Delhi, ironically, is the worst hit, where there seems to be no respite from the viral onslaught. Chikungunya cases in this city of 18.6 million have spiraled up to over 2,600, with 1,568 of them being recorded in the second week of September, according to a municipal report, marking a massive rise of nearly 150 percent from the previous count.

Read More: <http://thediplomat.com/2016/09/indias-health-scare-gets-worse/>

Date Accessed: 26.9.2016

Governance & Development

URBAN

India Wastes Enough Food to Feed Bihar for a Year, Says Govt Study

(*Quint*, September 16, 2016)

India's food wastage is alarming. Though the country is growing more food, it is also wasting it in gigantic proportions according to a government study that covered 120 districts in 14 agricultural zones.

The wastage stands at approximately 67 million tonnes every year – a number higher than the national food output of countries like Britain. This amount is enough to feed the entire population of Bihar for a full year.

Read More: <https://www.thequint.com/india/2016/09/16/food-india-wastes-can-entire-bihar-for-a-year-shows-govt-study-onion-tomatoes-eggs-cold-storage-inflation-policies>

Date Accessed: 26.9.2016

TECHNOLOGY

Social Media is the Faceless Leader of Maratha Protests

(*Abhiram Ghadiyalpatil, The Livemint, September 26, 2016*)

Notwithstanding organizers' claims that the Maratha protest rallies across Maharashtra are "leaderless"—true in the sense that there is no single face to the mobilization—this show of caste consolidation has clearly thrown up two 'leaders'. One is the media—both social media platforms and conventional media—and the other is the Maratha on the street with a mobile phone. Without these two multipliers of the Maratha message, it would have been impossible for the Marathas to get in excess of 100,000 people each time they have marched with their demands.

Read More: <http://www.livemint.com/Politics/emlP4HTE78I7dtkCJCTggJ/Social-media-is-the-faceless-leader-of-Maratha-protests.html>

Date Accessed: 26.9.2016

ENVIRONMENT

Take the Subsidy Route to Fight Polybags

(*Amandeep Agarwal, The Tribune, September 24, 2016*)

Governments keep doling out subsidies for political goals but cannot the subsidy route be successfully adopted to implement the National Green Tribunal's ban on polythene bags. It is the cost of the eco-friendly alternatives that has been a major roadblock in the implementation of the polybag ban. Of course, the forthcoming elections are forcing the government to be lenient with traders for fear of political fallout.

Read More: <http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/comment/take-the-subsidy-route-to-fight-polybags/299693.html>

Date Accessed: 26.9.2016

AGRICULTURE

BRICS countries in a position to shape agricultural policies'

(*Down to Earth, 23 September, 2016*)

"Inclusive agricultural policies, if pioneered by the BRICS, could have a remarkable impact on sustainable agricultural production and global food security, while at the same time improving nutrition and livelihoods of the very people that produce our food," Kadiresan added. "Many developing countries welcome present agricultural initiatives among BRICS members, such as south-south cooperation and knowledge transfer."

Governance & Development

-Kundhavi Kadiresan, assistant director general and regional representative for Asia and the Pacific, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Read More: <http://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/-brics-countries-in-a-position-to-shape-agricultural-policies--55788>

Date Accessed: 26.9.2016

LAW AND JUSTICE

Do Dogs Threaten People's Right to Safety in Public Spaces?

(Janaki Lenin, Meghna Uniyal, Abi Tamim Vanak, *The Wire*, 22 September 2016)

Many people are terrified of dogs. When a dog approaches them, they fly into panic and hysteria. They don't know a dog's body language and can't tell the difference between a friendly canine from an agitated one. To them, all dogs are scary at all times. Their extreme reaction may be amusing to people who know canines. But this raises the question: Don't people who fear dogs have a right to safety in public spaces?

Read More: <http://thewire.in/67743/dogs-rabies-neutering-safety/>

Date Accessed: 26.9.2016

Society

CASTEISM

With Marathas targeting the caste crime law, Maharashtra Dalits fear the return of the 'old days' (Rahi Gaikwad, *Scroll*, September 25, 2016)

The two primary demands of the agitating Maratha community is that they be granted reservations, and that the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act be repealed as it is being "misused." Political leaders from the Maratha community, including Nationalist Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar and Maharashtra Navnirman Sena chief Raj Thackeray, have indirectly or directly endorsed these demands.

Read More: <http://scroll.in/article/817115/with-marathas-targeting-the-caste-crime-law-maharashtra-dalits-fear-the-return-of-the-old-days>

Date Accessed: 26.9.2016

Why Tamil Nadu is erecting cages around statues (hint: it's linked to caste) (M. Rajasekar, *Scroll*, September 26, 2016)

Two statues stood on a road between Pondicherry and Villupuram. On the right was CN Annadurai, the first Dravidian chief minister of Tamil Nadu. On the left, Bhimrao Ambedkar. Together, they made an arresting tableau. Annadurai's statue stood on an open cement plinth, with a red and black flag of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam jammed into its left hand.

Read More: <http://scroll.in/article/815377/why-tamil-nadu-is-erecting-cages-around-statues-hint-its-linked-to-caste>

Date Accessed: 26.9.2016

GENDER

Decoding the Politics of the Supreme Court Judgment on Sterilization Camps (E.Premdas Pinto, *The Wire*, September 23, 2016)

A set of over 100 special leave petitions challenging this exclusionary clause was filed in the apex court and were clubbed together as *Javed vs State of Haryana*. The Supreme Court dismissed this petition citing population as the problem behind India's poverty and saying that the population policy could not be challenged. The judiciary in this judgment displayed the Malthusian paranoia harboured by the upper classes and the social elites about an illusory exponential rise in population depriving them of their unlimited access to the resources of the world.

Read More: <http://thewire.in/67590/decoding-politics-sterilisation-judgment/>

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SOCIAL CONFLICT AND VIOLENCE

Why are the Marathas in Maharashtra angry? (Abhiram Ghadyalpatil, *Live Mint*, 5 September, 2016)

Silent rallies by the Maratha community in four major cities of Marathwada and Khandesh regions has opened up economic, social and political fault-lines in Maharashtra. While those who participated in these rallies and other mainstream Maratha voices say the protest has nothing to do with political parties, politicians have joined the issue. Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) president Sharad Pawar, arguably the most formidable Maratha politician, has said that these protests made two demands.

Read More: <http://www.livemint.com/Politics/KeORxzSQYrBSemR62nd6jL/Why-are-the-Marathas-in-Maharashtra-angry.html>

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India and World

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Putin's Party of Power

(The Daily News and Analysis, September 26, 2016)

Despite Russia's economic malaise and tensions with the West over the conflicts in Ukraine and Syria, the poor turnout -- rated as the lowest in modern Russian history -- was a reflection of widespread apathy among voters. From the political perspective, the chief merit of the victory of United Russia, formed barely 16 years ago, is that it has won a strong enough mandate to unilaterally amend the Constitution, without going through the motions of seeking the Duma's support. The allegations of irregularities are of a piece with what they call the system of "managed democracy" crafted by the Kremlin. No one expected that Putin's control of parliament would weaken. This time, Russians will generally endorse the result not least because of his personal popularity and widespread apathy.

Read more:

<http://www.thestatesman.com/news/opinion/putin-s-party-of-power/167288.html#1dSDPqWPo4bMUC3Z.99>

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Colombia's President Santos says peace with Farc will boost growth

(BBC News, September 26, 2016)

Colombia's peace deal makes history in many ways, most of all for ending the last of the Cold War conflicts. But it also breaks new ground in trying to balance the desire for peace with the demands of justice which bedevil all peace talks. There's no amnesty, unlike all previous peace accords in the region. Farc, as well as Colombia's security forces, have accepted special tribunals and a truth and reconciliation process.

Read More: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-37469149>

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Opinions/ Books

OPINIONS

No feel for the pulse

(Ashok Gulati, Siraj Hussain, *The Indian Express*, September 26, 2016)

India's quest for self-sufficiency in pulses goes back, at least, to 1990-1991, when pulses were incorporated in the technology mission on oilseeds. In 1992, and 1995-1996, oil palm and maize were added to the mission, which was re-christened the Integrated Scheme on Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil palm and Maize (ISOPOM). In 2007, ISOPOM's pulses component was merged with the National Food Security Mission. However, despite having such schemes for decades, India has not achieved self-sufficiency in pulses and edible oils (oilseeds).

Read More: <http://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/pulses-buffer-stock-prices-inflation-economy-3049936/>

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Neighbourhood watch: Why Pakistan is obsessed with Kashmir

(Ahsan Butt, *Business Standard*, September 25, 2016)

Consider a world in which Pakistan was satisfied with "West Kashmir," so to speak. It is a matter of pure conjecture what such a world would look like. Nevertheless, three expectations seem reasonable. First, the state would make more of an effort to target militant groups in its midst, such as Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Muhammad, that severely compromise its writ. Second, the incidence of crises that threaten the nuclear annihilation of hundreds of millions of South Asians would transition from regular to rare. Third, the sharpest thorn in Indo-Pak relations would be removed.

Read More: http://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/neighbourhood-watch-why-pakistan-is-obsessed-with-kashmir-116092500753_1.html

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