

“Social media has made journalists more powerful”

Even as technology has lowered entry barriers to journalism, social media has given professional journalists the power to engage with the audience in never-before ways. This, according to **Shekhar Gupta**, veteran journalist and Editor-in-Chief of *ThePrint*, a Foundation Grantee, has made journalists more powerful.



We are doing much that is edgy and it's working...

Below are excerpts from the interview:

With entities like *ThePrint* doing stories that the mainstream media does not touch, how do you create a presence?

The challenge is to draw attention and create stickiness or reader loyalty in a heavily saturated market. If your content is distinct enough it is possible to do so.

Social media has fundamentally changed the way news is consumed. How has the response on social media been, so far, for *ThePrint*?

It's a fact that nobody goes to news any more. News has to come to you. Social media is, therefore, not just a vital tool, but an essential vehicle. *ThePrint* has done brilliantly on social media, both Twitter and Facebook. We have just begun developing Instagram.

Social media has replaced “serious news” with what is trending, going viral and creating a buzz. How does *ThePrint* match up?

It is true that everybody has to look at Google trends before starting the day. So, you align with that as much as possible but within the fundamental definition of news value. *ThePrint* is doing much that is edgy, on politics as well as social issues and attitudes. Our growth is evidence that it is working.

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Independent and Public Spirited Media Foundation

IPSMF news

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Mainstream media does not step into villages, says Meera Jatav

Bundelkhand is known for two things – drought and caste-based violence. This region, which comprises small districts spread across the states of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, is plagued by socio-economic backwardness. As a result of four consecutive years of drought and crop failure, combined with fewer jobs under MGNREGS, at least half the families have members who have migrated. It accounts for a little over 30% of all the caste-based violence in the country and is far from gender-sensitive.

In this society steeped in patriarchy, **Meera Jatav** has

made her voice heard. She is one of the first reporters of *Khabar Lahariya*, since its inception in 2002 and today its Chief Reporter. Meera has seen *Khabar Lahariya*, an IPSMF Grantee, transition from an eight-page local newspaper in Bundeli dialect to a video-only news platform run by an all-women team.

According to Meera, working with *Khabar Lahariya* gives her a sense of liberation and satisfaction. She cherishes her independence as a journalist which allows her to raise important questions around policy-making, governance and social issues in the region.

Initially, Meera was nervous about calling out people in power. But today, her job has instilled in her a sense of confidence and freedom to openly discuss issues that impact the backward classes and women. As a journalist, she feels responsible towards the people as she and her colleagues continue to call out issues of poor infrastructure, economic backwardness, gender and caste bias.

She believes that the credibility and success of *Khabar Lahariya's* journalists will compel every mainstream media house to recruit

rural women journalists in their teams. In a conversation with IPSMF, Meera Jatav airs her views on a range of issues. Below are excerpts from that conversation in the original Hindi:

On women in journalism

लोगों को लगता है, कि महिला कैसे पत्रकारिता कर सकती हैं। यह समस्या कोई नयी नहीं, चलती आ रही है। पर लोगों की सोच ही बन गई थी कि पत्रकारिता में तो पुरुष ही होते हैं।

इसलिए पत्रकार की पहचान बनाने में, अब मैं सफल हो गई हूँ। खबरों की गुणवत्ता और विशेष होने के कारण अब लोग हमें ज्यादा जगह देते हैं और



खबरों के लिए बुलाते हैं। यह भी एक बात है कि, जिन मुद्दों को अन्य मीडिया कवर नहीं करता, हम उन खबरों को प्राथमिकता देते हैं, तो लोगों के अंदर एक विश्वास बना है, कि हम असली पत्रकार हैं।

On mainstream media

मेरे और अन्य मीडिया में अगर अंतर की बात करें, तो बहुत अंतर है। मैं सुनी सुनाई खबरों पर काम नहीं करती हूँ, खबरों की जाँच पड़ताल करने के बाद ही कवर करती हूँ। मैं उन मुद्दों को अपने चैनल में लाती हूँ, जिनकी खबरें कभी अन्य मीडिया नहीं लिखती है। मैं जो काम करती हूँ, जमीनी स्तर पर करती हूँ उन इलाकों की खबरें जो कभी लोग जाते भी नहीं होंगे।

ज्यादातर मेनस्ट्रीम मीडिया गांव स्तर पर काम नहीं करती है। अगर उनको करवाना भी है तो वह जिले, तहसील, ब्लाक से जानकारी लेते हैं, गांव नहीं जाते हैं। या लोगों से खबर ले कर चलाते हैं। जो की खबर *लहरीया* के पत्रकार खुद जा कर हर तरह की रिपोर्टिंग करते हैं। अगर हम अन्य मीडिया की बात करें की बुन्देलखण्ड जैसे इलाके में कितनी बार गए होंगे तो जीरो नंबर कहूँगी। वह मुझे भी कहते हैं की गांव क्या करेगी जो कर, हम से खबर ले कर बना लीजिये, जो मैं कभी नहीं करती हूँ।

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“There is a fine line, between truth and half-truth”

29-year old Prashanth Hulkodu is a strong believer in the independence of media which is answerable only to the audience it serves. Yet, early on he realized that there was an inherent conflict between public-interest journalism and a media venture driven by profits. “In any media that is motivated by just profits, there cannot be a space for public-interest journalism,” he says. Prashanth has launched *Samachara*, a Kannada digital portal aimed at producing investigative stories and news analysis around topics of public interest. *Samachara* operates in the not-for-profit space and is a Foundation Grantee.



Prashanth let-go of a comfortable salary in 2017 to launch his own venture from scratch. “Without losing something, you can’t gain something,” is the adage he lives by.

Starting out

When he started out, Prashanth was surprised to see more than 3000 views for each of his stories and realized that the readers had an appetite for good and unbiased content. He regularly writes stories questioning the state’s political scions and religious mutts, taboo subjects for some mainstream media. “We have faced a lot of online abuses. However, at one point when we stood our ground, people stopped trolling us,” he said.

Importance of being independent

“I am not saying that *Samachara* alone can make a difference. Karnataka is known for its alternative thinking on different topics. There is also alternative thinking in the field of journalism. *Samachara* is trying to create a new model not only with content, but also with its business. If one person can make a difference by working independently, imagine the impact 50 independent journalists can achieve,” he says. “For every issue there is a fine line, between truth and half-truth – right from the Cauvery issue to atrocities on Dalits. What mainstream does is just surface level exploration and does not go deep,” he adds. *Samachara* is a little over a year old and Prashanth is learning the ropes of running the whole business, which is a new area for him.

In conversation with Meera Jatav

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On what makes news

मैंने अभी हाल में एक खबर की थी जो दलित परिवार जानवरों के चमड़ा छिलने का काम करते थे और आज भी कुछ लोग हैं जो कर रहे हैं। पर उनको समाज और परिवार के लोग गलत कहते हैं शादी में न शामिल करना। इस तरह की खबर को लोग कहते यह क्या खबर है। जब मैंने इस खबर को किया तो हमारे दर्शकों को इतनी ज्यादा यह खबर पसंद आई की करोड़ों की संख्या में लोगों ने यूट्यूब और फेसबुक में देखा और शेयर किया। इसी तरह सफाई कर्मों से जुड़ी खबर भी मैंने की जो की सफाई का काम करवाने के लिए लोग जम्मादार को ही बुलाते हैं। पर जहां नौकरी मिल रही वहां ठाकुर सहित अन्य जातियाँ भी नौकरी में लगे हैं पर काम के लिए आज भी जम्मादार परिवार को ही बुलाते हैं। यह खबर भी काफी चली यह तो एक दो उदाहरण हैं खबर का।

On future of *Khabar Lahariya*

मैं चाहती हूँ *खबर लहरिया* अपना परचम स्वतंत्र, विश्वसनीय और नारीवादी मीडिया के रूप में देश के हर जिले में लहराए। गहराई वाली खबरें और कार्यक्रम हम हमेशा तैयार करें, जिसमें कोई राजनीतिक दखल न हो। हर जिले में *खबर लहरिया* की महिला पत्रकार मौजूद हों जो लोकल स्तर की गहराई वाली रिपोर्टिंग करती हों। और हर जिले के दर्शक सबसे पहले *खबर लहरिया* की खबरों को देखें। इसका असर देश भर के मीडिया पर पड़े जिससे मेनस्ट्रीम मीडिया भी ग्रामीण खबरों को जगह दे और ग्रामीण महिलाओं को पत्रकार के रूप में अपने मीडिया हाउस में शामिल करे।

The challenge is to keep sanity and balance, says Gupta

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What is *ThePrint* doing differently in terms of covering politics and policy, government and governance?

ThePrint covers these areas, especially politics, comprehensively. More importantly, it is non-partisan and goes entirely by facts. Even the opinion section is like an open tent providing space for all kinds of opinion, irrespective of whether it coincides with *ThePrint*'s view or not. As for *ThePrint*, its institutional view on the day’s key issues is contained in an innovative product, The 50-Word Edit, that we have just launched.

You have a few other initiatives like the Democracy Wall. How has been the response and what do you aim to achieve through it?

Our Democracy Wall, which currently has FB as the largest sponsor, is essentially a brand-building venture to evangelise the ideas of free speech, good politics and constitutional awareness among the young people on India’s most prominent campuses. The response so far has been excellent. We now have universities writing to us, requesting that we take Democracy Wall there. It’s also a source of healthy revenues. Encouraged by the response, more sponsors have joined in.

How important is it for the youth to participate in issues

of governance?

It is essential that young people become politically aware and understand that there is no governance without politics and unless politics improves, governance won’t. Politics, in turn, will only improve if the citizens, particularly the younger ones, become more aware.

How has news consumption as well as coverage changed over the years?

The biggest difference is, the audience now gets an immediate choice of many platforms and channels to get news on the same issue. It is easy, therefore, to draw comparisons. On the downside, there is an increasing tendency to only read/watch/hear what you agree with. It is also an easy and tempting formula to achieving success in terms of numbers. It’s a challenge, therefore, to keep sanity and balance.

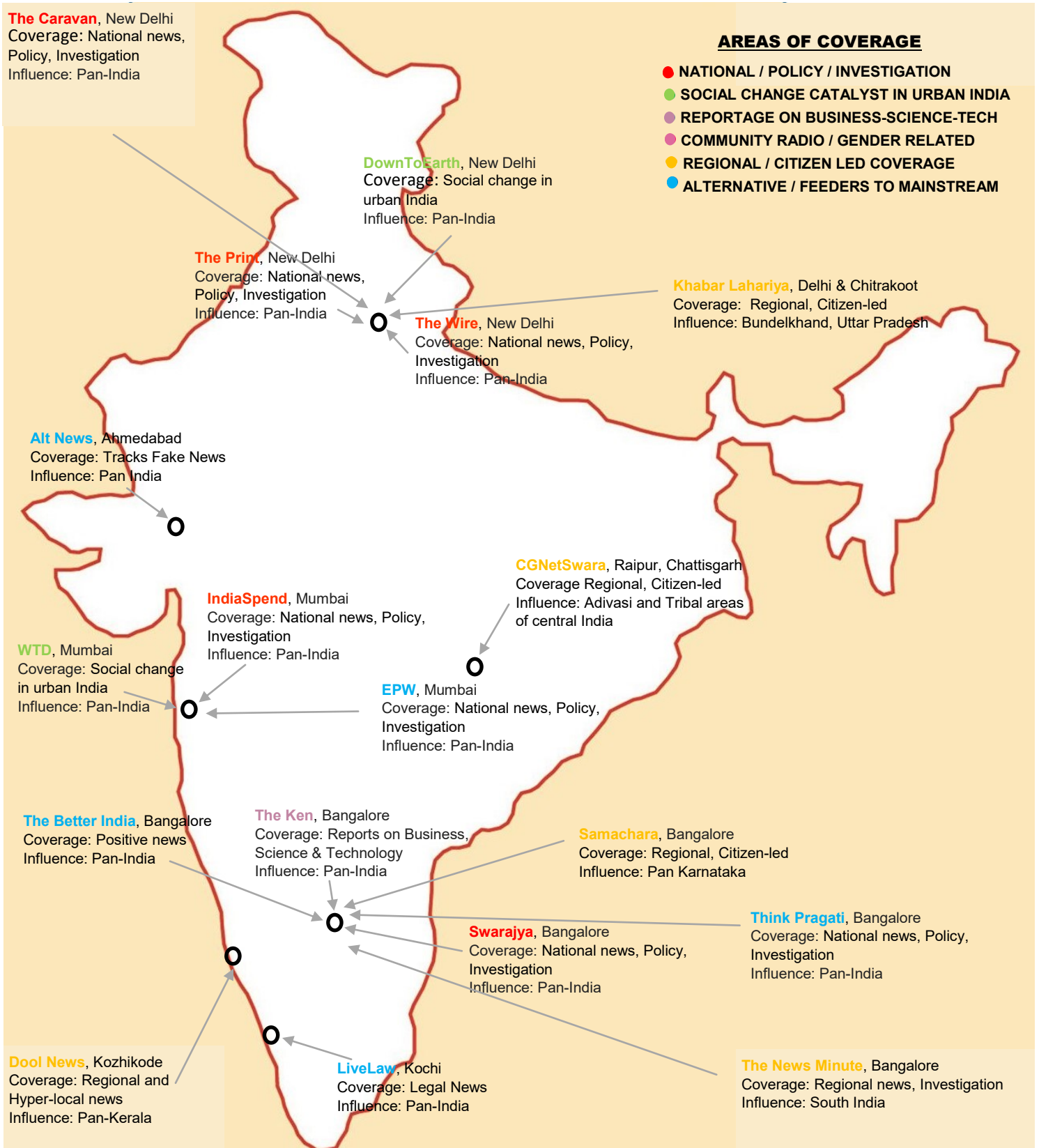
What should be the next course of action for journalists across the country?

Journalists must realise how technology has reduced entry barriers in their profession. Also, that social media has now given them a power they never had before, of being able to carry their audiences with them even if platforms change. On another level, they have to all focus on being read in languages other than English.



Who, Where & Why

The map below is a colour-coded representation of the Foundation's Grantees. While there are areas of high-octane coverage, the pockets of influence are dynamic and wide-ranging.





Grantees reach new milestones

As the space for independent media picks up steam, some of the Foundation's Grantees are going places, picking up laurels individually and collectively.



Abby award for TBI

The Better India won the Abby Award for the branded content series 'Breaking Barriers' in partnership with Unilever. Nieman Foundation for Journalism did a write-up highlighting

TBI's unique approach to journalism.

Best legal news portal

Live Law was awarded the Best Legal News Portal of the Year 2017 by the Indian National Bar Association [INBA] in November 2017. Each year, INBA felicitates individuals, in-house counsels, law firms and subject experts who perform exceptionally in their respective fields.



The Ken turns profitable

Eighteen months after its 2016 launch, *The Ken* turned profitable in April 2018. It has 15 full-time employees and offices in three locations, and just one revenue stream - subscriptions. Lately, *The Ken* is seeing 3-4X more subscribers sign up each day, on an average, compared to when it started out.



Gondi workshop

Chhattisgarh-based *CGNet Swara* in collaboration with the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts in New Delhi, organised a five-day Gondi standardisation workshop in March of this year. The workshop saw 60 adivasis participating from six Gondi-speaking states of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Orissa.



Shorenstein award

Siddharth Varadarajan, the founding editor of *The Wire*, has been named the 2017 recipient of the Shorenstein Journalism Award. The award, given annually by Stanford University's Walter H.



Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center (APARC), is conferred upon a journalist who has produced outstanding reporting on Asia and has contributed significantly to the western understanding of the region.

Special jury award

In April 2017, in a three-part series, *IndiaSpend* examined what living with disability in India means, particularly with regard to access to education and employment, 22 years after the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act was passed. This series won the Special Jury Award at the Press Institute of India-International Committee of the Red Cross Awards.



Recognition for TNM

The News Minute won the Kerala Media Award for Reportage on Child Rights 2016-2017, organised jointly by UNICEF and Kerala Child Rights Observatory. This is for their joint story on child marriages in Malappuram. Co-founder and Editor-in-Chief Dhanya Rajendran was also featured under the Forbes 40 (under 40 years of age) list this year.



TIMELINE OF GRANTS

MEETINGS	GRANTEE NAMES
FY 2017-18: 7 Meetings	Swarajya, The Caravan, Alt News*, Samachara, The Wire (Urdu and Marathi), Think Pragati, Dool News, Khabar Lahariya*, The Print, Down to Earth, Covai Post*, Satyagrah*
FY 2016-17: 7 Meetings	The Better India, LiveLaw, Gaon Connection, Economic & Political Weekly, WTD News, The News Minute, The Wire (Hindi), The Ken
FY 2015-16: 5 Meetings	IndiaSpend, The Wire, CGNetSwara

TOTAL COMMITMENT – Rs 28.60 Cr

*Entities yet to complete pre-funding formalities

GRANTEE NEWSROOM

Spotlight on Vakrangee sends share prices tumbling

The Ken's highlight this quarter was a two-part story on a listed company Vakrangee. It said that things don't add up at the company - its business model, its purported deal with PC Jewellers, its share price and the open-and-shut Sebi investigation into the company's affairs.

After *The Ken's* [first article](#), Vakrangee's stock has been locked in lower circuits till now. When the first article was published the price was at Rs 186/share, which has now gone down to Rs 57/share. The management released a clarification on its website which was deemed as "a weak 3,400-word response with large excerpts of the original article and its explanations," by [Moneylife](#).

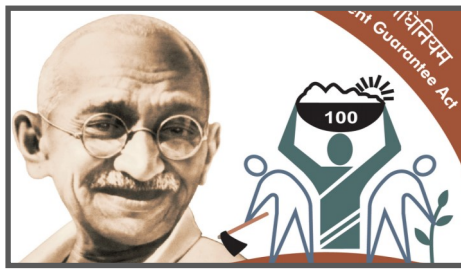
PwC resigned as Vakrangee's auditor and the company also removed the list of 44,000 centres from its website after the first article. [Both the articles](#) were also heavily discussed on investor [chat forums](#).

Exclusive on Cisco

Cisco has been heavily downsizing and *The Ken* was the first (and turns out, the only one) to report on it. The company sat on the questions sent for days, sent a one-line statement but co-ordinated with other media to publish a 'positive' story on the same subject the same day. Interestingly, people on social media took note of this.

As 2019 approaches, Grantee stories focus on the economy

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), India's 12-year-old rural jobs programme, is a safety net for millions who do not have a regular source of livelihood. Yet, the government has curtailed funding for it at a time of serious rural distress. As part of an investigation of flagship government programmes in the run-up to the 2019 elections, *IndiaSpend* assessed MGNREGS in a three-part series.



The [first part](#) analysed budget allocations to find that despite heightened farm unrest, this year the government has set aside the least proportion of money for the scheme—48% of the budget of the rural development ministry—in the three years since 2016-17.

The reduced funding has resulted in 48% fewer projects getting completed over the six years to 2016. Although expenditure on wages now constitutes 73% of expenditure

against the stipulated 60:40 wages-to-materials ratio under MGNREGS guidelines, delays in wage payment are frequent, as the [second part](#) showed.

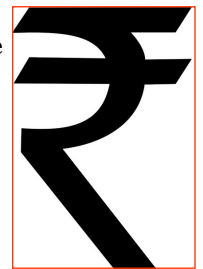
The [final part](#) focussed on how women in Kerala have benefitted from MGNREGS, and what lessons that holds for policymakers.

Fall in Rupee value

The Indian Rupee (INR) has seen a fall in its value in the past few months. Since January, the currency has dropped over 3% in its value against the dollar. Such downgrade was last seen four years ago, before the Lok Sabha elections, when Congress's term was coming to an end.

The *WTD* published an article on the day the rupee fell to its lowest value in the past 15 months pointing to [6 Reasons For Downfall In The Rupee Value](#). It also drew parallels between the economic downturn before the 2014 Lok Sabha elections and now, before the 2019 elections. The article received 12.8% of the total views on the website during the period of March to May and has had an average of 1.44 minutes per session.

WTD also did a series of articles on non-performing assets (NPA) in the context of the rising financial crisis facing public banks. Since the NPA problem is weighing on India's economy, the articles are still as relevant. The [articles](#) discussed some major mistakes made by the banks.



Environment stories: Why does Kosi cause floods so often?

Kosi, the sorrow of Bihar, has remained an enigma for engineers and policymakers for the number of avulsions it has had till date causing huge floods every time. It was as recent as 2008 when it breached the embankment in Kushaha (Nepal) and shifted 108 km eastwards. The answer lies in the 1082 million tonnes of silt that has been deposited in the Chhatra to Birpur stretch of the Kosi river in the last 54 years. The study was extensively [reported](#) by *Down To Earth*.

India's air is toxic

As many as 7 million people are dying every year due to ambient and household air pollution as exposure to fine particles that go deep into the lungs and cardiovascular system,

cause stroke, heart disease, lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases and respiratory infections. But the most disquieting fact is that Indian cities top the list of the worst affected. *Down To Earth's* report on WHO's release on air quality says that 14 of the world's top 20 [polluted cities](#) are in India.

Unique garbage collection cart

The Better India's report on a 15-year old boy from Mathura, Sikanto Mandal's [innovation for garbage collection](#) evoked an overwhelming response. Sikanto, a class 12 student, invented the Swachhta cart. "I got many calls, emails, and messages from people in Mumbai, Pune and Haryana congratulating me for doing

something like this at a young age," he told TBI. He said he received calls from over a hundred people with offers of help. One person from Chennai even wants to help him construct his house and they are now sharing all the required details.

Kashi becomes wireless

Around 700 people, 150 engineers, and 25 consultants worked for months to lay 1,500 km of cables underground in the 16 square km area. Facilitating over 50,700 service connections, *Swarajya* carried a [detailed account](#) of how the ancient city of Benaras, better known as Kashi, got rid of its even more ancient maze of electric wires, which until now hung overhead.



GRANTEE NEWSROOM

Who is Avneesh Kumar Rai?

He is the fourth director of Strategic Communication Laboratories Pvt Ltd, the Indian partner of Cambridge Analytica. He is so low-profile that the internet will barely tell you anything about him. In [an interview](#) with *ThePrint*, he narrated how SCL India started, what it tried to do, and why it failed. This report spoke of what the controversial firm Cambridge Analytica actually did in India.

Tollywood's Me-Too

In Tollywood, the Bottom of the Pyramid Is Leading the #MeToo Movement. Female character artists and junior artists have raised disturbing questions about the exploitative culture and politics of the Telugu film industry. You can read more on this in [this report](#) by *The Wire*.

True face of education

The Wire also wrote an in-depth article about the pitfalls of the [education system](#) in India. Young minds in India are being destroyed by a faulty pattern of education, parental ambitions, the aggression of hyper-competitiveness and a flawed idea of 'success'. In such a system that brings about the death of creativity, there is no real winner.

High-handed officer

This story saw a record number of page views, the highest so far on *Samachara* on a single day. The story recounted the action of an IAS officer who went to the busy Majestic area in Bengaluru and [beat up sex workers](#). While other media have chosen to call him 'Singham', *Samachara* took a stand opposing the action, which the readers welcomed. There was a lot of discussion on social media, which went on for days. A follow-up report also got good traction.

Where there are Indians, there is caste

When a US based organization, Equality Labs released data from a community-driven survey showing caste-based practices are prevalent in South Asian institutions and society in the USA, it was met with surprise and shock in many quarters. A comprehensive [reading list](#) from *Engage* listed out the various studies across the years in *EPW*, piecing together the story of how caste manifests itself in the diaspora. It was one of the most read articles of the month, getting 1200 shares on Facebook. It generated interaction and debate outside of *EPW*'s usual readership on social media.

Is there occupational mobility?

In another initiative, *EPW Engage* created an [interactive tool](#) which allowed readers to apply large-survey data to themselves. Based on a recent paper studying IHDS-II data on inter-generational occupational mobility, this feature lets readers compare and contrast their chances of moving up the social ladder with other caste groups and scheduled tribes. Through the interactive process of finding and selecting what their father's occupation is and what they aspire to be, it reiterates the compounded privilege of forward caste groups.

Justice system failing lowest castes

Even as more and more Dalits complete school and enrol in colleges, even as their incomes increase and poverty rates reduce, opposition to inter-caste marriages still rears its head in urban areas like Navi Mumbai—where 15-year-old Swapnil Sonawane, a Dalit, was murdered in 2016, allegedly because of a romantic relationship with a girl from an upper caste. *IndiaSpend*'s story shows how this case is a manifestation of a deeper conflict simmering within Indian society, and of India's failure to provide [justice to its lowest castes](#), who comprise 16.3% of India's population.

In Kerala, tribal children are sold

This [story reveals](#) that slave trade is still very active in Kerala's tribal area. Children are being sold out of Wyanad tribal settlements as domestic outside Kerala. After the story in *Dool News*, social activists and politicians have visited the settlements and made sure that children who have been rescued and released from slavery are getting proper treatment and their needs are being met.

The inside story of Kathua

The rape and murder of an 8-year old from the nomadic Bakharwal community at a local temple in Jammu's Kathua district this January assumed communal overtones and fed a raging controversy in an area said to be deeply polarised. And it's these deep fault lines that allegedly lie at the heart of this sordid saga. The child's abduction and murder, according to police, was part of a plot to drive out members of her community from a village named Rasana. *ThePrint* looks at the [inside story](#) of how one of the most horrific rape-murders was planned and executed.

Bringing molester to book

A girl child was sexually harassed by a man with powerful connections on a train. *The News Minute* reported the story first and put the spotlight on him. The story forced the organisations and political parties that he was part of to denounce him. The magistrate, while denying him bail, mentioned that she had read the ['viral story'](#) on him.

Positive news: Forgotten stories on postcards

In an attempt to curate and revive original artistic creations, two young women are on a mission of collecting unknown stories and repackaging them on postcards with customized stamps. [This story](#) in *The Better India* helped the duo get access into mainstream regional language publications. "The TBI article helped us reach out to an untapped segment. We got emails for collaborations," one of the founders, Onaiza, said.

Recordings bring results

This is a story from the Singhpur panchayat of the Kabirdham district of Chhattisgarh. Mithilesh Manikpuri was unable to get his disability certificate for two years despite multiple applications to

the Sarpanch. [He recorded](#) his problem on *CGNetSvara* and his certificate came a month later. Similar is the story of Anturam from Khanjar village. Though the construction of toilets was approved in the name of his father, no money had come for a long time. He then recorded his [message](#), 15 days after which he got the money. The village will now have toilets.

Midnight court hearing

LiveLaw's coverage on the Supreme Court's midnight hearing on the [decision of Karnataka Governor](#) and editorials regarding the Governor's powers gained tremendous response from other mainstream media players.

REGIONAL LANGUAGE MEDIA MATTERS

A recent Nasscom study has shown that India is expected to have 730 million internet users by 2020, with 75 per cent of new users coming from non-English speaking rural areas. As if on cue, IPSMF has been supporting a host of language media initiatives which report on a range of issues. In the next two pages, we are showcasing some of those stories in their original languages.

बिहार से ग्राउंड रिपोर्ट: नीतीश कुमार की शराबबंदी का नशा गरीबों को भारी पड़ रहा है

जहानाबाद रेलवे स्टेशन के पास मुख्य सड़क से एक पतली गली बायीं तरफ मुड़ती है. इस गली में 6-7 मिनट पैदल चलने के बाद बजबजाती नालियों, ऊबड़-खाबड़ रास्ते और कूड़ों के बीच दड़बेनुमा घरों की बेतरतीब कतार शुरू हो जाती है. यह ऊंटी मुसहर टोली के नाम से जाना जाता है.

इसी मोहल्ले में पेंटर मांझी और मस्तान मांझी रहते हैं. दोनों भाई हैं. पेंटर मांझी का घर ईंटों को मिट्टी से जोड़कर बनाया गया है. खपरैल की छत है. एक जर्जर दरवाजा कमरे की तरफ खुलता है. कमरे में खिड़की नहीं है जिस कारण कड़ी धूप में भी भीतर घुप्प अंधेरा है. पेंटर मांझी अपने तीन बच्चों व बीवी संग इसी कमरे में रहते हैं.

पेंटर मांझी के घर से बिल्कुल सटा हुआ मस्तान मांझी का घर है. मस्तान मांझी के घर में मिट्टी का लेप नहीं चढ़ा है जिससे नंगी ईंटें साफ दिखती हैं. मस्तान मांझी का घर भी एक ही कमरे का है. इसी एक कमरे में वह अपने चार बच्चे, एक बहू, पोते और अपनी पत्नी के साथ जिंदगी काट रहे हैं. दोनों भूमिहीन हैं. जितनी

शराबबंदी कानून के तहत अब तक कुल 1 लाख 21 हजार 586 लोगों की गिरफ्तारी हुई है, जिनमें से अधिकांश बेहद गरीब तबके से आते हैं.



जगह में घर है, वही उनकी कुल जमीन है. भाड़े पर ठेला चलाकर वे किसी तरह परिवार की गाड़ी ठेल रहे हैं. ठेला जिस दिन नहीं चलता, उस दिन चूल्हे से धुआं भी नहीं उठता.

दोनों भाइयों को 29 मई 2017 की दोपहर शराब पीने के अपराध में पुलिस ने गिरफ्तार कर लिया था. गिरफ्तारी के महज 43 दिनों के भीतर यानी 11 जुलाई को जहानाबाद कोर्ट ने दोनों को 5-5 साल की कैद और एक-एक लाख रुपये जुर्माने की सजा सुनायी थी.

वायर

This is a ground report from Bihar which talks about how the poor are paying a heavy price ever since the Nitish Kumar government imposed prohibition in the state in April 2016.

Click [here](#) for the full report

“ಅವನಲ್ಲ; ಅವಳು”: ಲಿಂಗ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗೆ ಮುಂದಾದ ಜಿ.ಪರಮೇಶ್ವರ್ ಪುತ್ರ!

ರಾಜಕಾರಣಿಗಳ ಮಕ್ಕಳು ರೆಸೋರಂಟ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಗಲಾಟೆ ಮಾಡಿ, ಕುಡಿದು ಕಾರು ಓಡಿಸಿ ಅಪಘಾತ ಮಾಡಿ ಸುದ್ದಿಯಾಗುವುದು ಮಾಮೂಲಿಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಕೆಪಿಸಿಸಿ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷ ಡಾ. ಜಿ. ಪರಮೇಶ್ವರ್ ಮಗ ಲಿಂಗ ಪರಿವರ್ತನೆ ಮೂಲಕ ಈಗ ಸುದ್ದಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಸಮಾಜದ ಕಟ್ಟುಪಾಡುಗಳಿಗೆ ತಲೆಕೆಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳದೆ ಹೆಣ್ಣಾಗಿ ಬದಲಾಗುವ ದಿಟ್ಟ ನಿರ್ಧಾರ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ ಶಾನ್ ಪರಮೇಶ್ವರ್. ಶಸ್ತ್ರಚಿಕಿತ್ಸೆ ಮಾಡಿಸಿಕೊಂಡ ಪರಮೇಶ್ವರ್ ಪುತ್ರ ಶಾನ್, ಈಗ ಶನಾ ಆಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಆಟೋಮೊಬೈಲ್ ಸ್ಪೋರ್ಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಶಾನ್ ಪರಮೇಶ್ವರ್ ಹೆಸರು ಟ್ರೆಂಡಿಂಗ್ ಆಗಿತ್ತು. ಈಗ ಲಿಂಗ ಪರಿವರ್ತನೆಯ ಕಾರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಶನಾ ಪರಮೇಶ್ವರ್ ಹೆಸರು ಮತ್ತೆ ಸುದ್ದಿಕೇಂದ್ರದಲ್ಲಿದೆ. ಈ ಬಾರಿ ಟ್ರೆಂಡಿಂಗ್ ಆದರೂ, ಅದು ಲಿಂಗ ಪರಿವರ್ತನೆ ವಿಚಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಹೊಸ ಚರ್ಚೆಯನ್ನು ಹುಟ್ಟುಹಾಕುವ ಸಾಧ್ಯತೆ ಇದೆ.

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಮೂಲದ ಇಂಗ್ಲಿಷ್ ಸುದ್ದಿ ತಾಣ 'ಬಿ

ಸಮಾಚಾರ.

The report on former KPCC president and current deputy chief minister of Karnataka G Parameshwar's son's sex change first appeared in the English media. This Kannada follow-up had a much higher readership and went viral.

ಫಸ್ಟ್ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪ್ರಕಾರ, ಕೆಲ ಲಿಂಗ ಹಿಂದೆ ಶಾನ್ ಪರಮೇಶ್ವರ್ ವಿದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಲಿಂಗ ಪರಿವರ್ತನೆ ಮಾಡಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಲಿಂಗ ಪರಿವರ್ತನೆಯ ಬಳಿಕ ಶಾನ್ ಹೆಸರು ಶನಾ ಆಗಿದೆ. ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ತಮಗೆ ಬೇಕಾದ ಲಿಂಗತ್ವ ಹೊಂದಬಯಸುವವರಿಗೆ ಶನಾ ಮಾದರಿಯಂತಾಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ತಮ್ಮ ಈ ಆಯ್ಕೆಯನ್ನು ಶನಾ ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಜಾಲತಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಮರ್ಥಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ತಮಗೆ ಸರಿ ಆರಿಸಿದ್ದನ್ನು ಆರಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವವರಿಗೆ ತಾವು

ಸ್ಪೂರ್ತಿಯಾಗಬಯಸುವುದಾಗಿಯೂ ಶನಾ ಹೇಳಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ತಾವು ಲಿಂಗ ಪರಿವರ್ತನೆ ಮಾಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಮುಂದಾದಾಗ ಅವರ ಸುತ್ತಲಿನವರೇ ಅವರನ್ನು ಹೇಗೆ ಕಂಡರು ಎಂಬುದನ್ನೂ ಶನಾ ಹಂಚಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

“ನನ್ನ ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಸ್ನೇಹಿತರಂತೆ ಇದ್ದವರೆಲ್ಲರೂ ನನ್ನ ಈ ನಡೆಯಿಂದಾಗಿ ನನ್ನಿಂದ ದೂರಾದರು. ನಾವು ನಮ್ಮ ಸುತ್ತ ನಮಗೆ ಆಗದವರನ್ನೇ ಕಟ್ಟಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದರೆ ನಮಗೆ ಬೇಕಾದವರಿಗೆ ಜಾಗವೇ ಇರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ” ಎಂದಿದ್ದಾರೆ ಶನಾ. “ಇಂಥ ಕಷ್ಟಗಳನ್ನು ನಾನು ನನ್ನ ಬಾಲ್ಯದಿಂದಲೂ ಅನುಭವಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಬಂದಿದ್ದೇನೆ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಾಜದ ಕಟ್ಟುಪಾಡುಗಳಿಗೆ ತಕ್ಕಂತೆ ಈವರೆಗೂ ಬದುಕಿದ್ದೇನೆ. ದಶಕದ ಹಿಂದಿನಿಂದಲೇ ನನ್ನೊಳಗಿನ ಪರಿವರ್ತನೆಯ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಾ ಬಂದಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ, ನಾನು ಸಲಿಂಗಿಯಲ್ಲ. ನನ್ನ ಪರಿವರ್ತನೆಯ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ನನಗೆ ಹೆಮ್ಮೆ ಇದೆ” ಎಂದು ಶನಾ ಹೇಳಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

Click [here](#) for the full report.

