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Coal imports: DRI asks CBI to probe two Reliance ADAG firms

KHUSHBOONARAYAN
MUMBAI, JUNE 27

THE DIRECTORATE of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has asked the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to probe two Reliance ADAG firms — Reliance Infrastructure Ltd and Rosa Power Supply Co Ltd — in connection with the alleged overvaluation of imported Indonesian coal between 2010 and 2015, sources told *The Indian Express*.

Sources said the DRI, in a letter dated December 21, 2018, requested the CBI to take "appropriate action under law" against Reliance Infrastructure and Rosa Power for allegedly siphoning about Rs 386 crore through overvaluation of at least 73 consignments of imported Indonesian coal.

While the CBI is yet to register a preliminary enquiry in the case, sources said it could look into violations of the Indian

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

G-20 SUMMIT BEGINS TODAY India tariffs unacceptable, Trump says on eve of meeting with Modi

US President says New Delhi must withdraw 'very high' tariffs



SHUBHAJIT ROY
JUNE 27

A DAY after US Secretary of State Michael R Pompeo said there has been a lot of "noise" and New Delhi and Washington need to work on resolving their issues with "as little theatre as possible", US President Donald Trump, in a blistering tweet on Thursday, targeted India for "very high tariffs". He said New Delhi's recent imposition of retaliatory import duties was "unacceptable" and should be withdrawn.

On Wednesday, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Pompeo had played down concerns over India-US economic ties.

"I look forward to speaking with Prime Minister Modi about the fact that India, for years having put very high tariffs against the United States, just recently increased the tariffs even further. This is unacceptable and the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe during a bilateral meeting, ahead of the G-20 Summit, in Osaka on Thursday. Reuters

BUSINESS AS USUAL
BY UNNY

Abe links aircraft sale to 'free, open' Indo-Pacific

SHUBHAJIT ROY
OSAKA, JUNE 27

FOR THE first time, Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has linked the sale of US-2 amphibious aircraft with the goal of realising a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific". This was conveyed in his conversation with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday.

Abe's spokesperson Takeshi Osuga, who is also Japan's Foreign Ministry spokesperson, revealed this in an interview to *The Indian Express*, on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit.

"PM Abe told PM Modi that with a view to realise a free and open Indo-Pacific, he has given instructions for preparing for early holding of the 2+2 ministerial meeting between the two countries, and making progress in the cooperation for promoting connectivity through high-quality infrastructure. And, also work to concrete defence and security cooperation, including on US-2," said Osuga.

Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale, however, did not mention the US-2 in his briefing, although he said the two leaders

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Bombay HC clears Maratha quota with cuts, total up to 65%

State govt gave 16%, High Court rules 12% in education & 13% in govt jobs

SAILEEDHAYALKAR
MUMBAI, JUNE 27

THE BOMBAY High Court Thursday upheld the Maharashtra government's decision to provide reservation to the Maratha community under the Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBC) Act, 2018.

However, the court ruled that the 16 per cent quota granted by the state is not "justifiable" and reduced it to 12 per cent in education and 13 per cent in government jobs, as recommended by the Maharashtra State Backward Class Commission (MSBCC).

The bench of Justice Ranjit More and Justice Bharati H Dangre said: "We hold and declare that the limit of reservation should not exceed 50%. However, in exceptional circumstances and extraordinary situations, this limit can be crossed subject to availability of quantifiable and contemporaneous data reflecting backwardness, inadequacy of representation and without affecting the efficiency in administration."

The bench said that it upheld the report of the MSBCC, which set out the "exceptional circumstances and extraordinary situation" justifying the crossing of the limit of 50 per cent, as set out by

EXPLAINED
E.
Timing key with polls this year

THE ASSEMBLY elections are due in Maharashtra in October, and Marathas form the single largest caste bloc, accounting for 30 per cent of the population. The High Court order is likely to benefit the BJP-led government and Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis who can claim credit for fulfilling the quota promise.

the Supreme Court in the Indra Sawhney case of 1992. The bench also ruled that the state government had the "legislative competence" to enact the SEBC Act.

Thursday's judgment, written by Justice More for the bench, said that a legislation enacted by a state legislature,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Govt to launch 'One Nation One Ration Card'



LALMUNI VERMA
NEW DELHI, JUNE 27

Target is to complete formalities in one year: Paswan

THE CENTRAL government is working on a plan to launch a "One Nation One Ration Card" scheme for beneficiaries, especially migrant workers, to access the Public Distribution System from any PDS shop across the country.

Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Ram Vilas Paswan chaired a meeting on the scheme Thursday with food secretaries and other officials of state governments, Food Corporation of India (FCI), Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs).

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Paswan said: "The target is to complete the formalities of the scheme in one year. The availability of PoS (Point of Sale) machines need to be ensured at all PDS shops to implement the scheme. PoS machines are available at all

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Loan waiver: In-house tech helps Karnataka save crores

JOHNSON T A
BENGALURU, JUNE 27

AT A time when various states are scrambling to ensure the implementation of loan waiver schemes for farmers in a fool-proof manner — without leakages, duplication and fraud — the Karnataka government has taken a different route.

Since its July 2018 announcement of a waiver of up to Rs 2 lakh of all overdue crop loans (up to December 31, 2017), Karnataka's Survey, Settlement and Land Records department has created its own IT window, the Crop Loan

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



IAS officer Munish Moudgil steered the IT drive

Waiver System (CLWS), to implement its Rs 44,000 crore scheme. Using Aadhaar, land survey and ration card numbers along with bank data, and digitised land and ration card records, officials say CLWS has saved around Rs 4,000 crore in double payments to around 5 lakh farmers since December 2018, when the waiver

Wanted in 2011 killing, he got new identity, job at Gurgaon firm

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

SHIVAM PATEL
NEW DELHI, JUNE 27

A QUIET man with a professional attitude is how colleagues and employers described Rohan Dahiya.

"He was a good performer at work, almost never took leave and never argued with seniors," said one employer at the Gurgaon e-commerce firm where he worked. A colleague who worked under him said he was "efficient and well respected".

Except, none of them truly knew Rohan Dahiya, because

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Got Aadhaar, PAN cards issued as Rohan Dahiya

Rohan Dahiya did not exist. Instead, the ideal employee was Raju Gehlot, wanted since 2011 for the murder of his live-in partner Neetu Solanki — a case that

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

FULL COVERAGE
PAGE 3

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INSURANCE AWARENESS DAY

INTERVIEW | Mr N P Sinha,

Zonal Manager, Life Insurance Corporation of India, North Central Zonal Office, Kanpur

LIC-A True Saga of Trust

LIC, the three letter abbreviation, has been a symbol of Trust in the Indian mindset. Tell us something about LIC and its objective.

Every day we wake up to the fact that more than 250 million lives are part of our family and we are humbled by the magnitude of the responsibility we carry and realise the lives are associated with us are very valuable indeed. Though this journey started over six decades ago, we are still conscious of the fact that while insurance may be a business for us, being part of millions of lives every day for the past 62 years has been a process called 'Trust' — a true saga of trust. Recently published Brand Trust Report 2019 by TRA confirms the statement. They rated LIC at 3rd spot, the only Indian company to feature in the top seven brands. Our journey started in the year 1956 when 245 Indian & foreign insurers & provident societies were taken over by the Central Government and nationalised by an act of parliament viz, LIC Act, 1956 with a capital contribution of Rs 5 crore. We started our journey with 5 zonal offices, 33 divisional offices and 212 branch offices apart from our corporate office in 1956. Today, the LIC functions with 2048 branch offices, 113 divisional offices, 8 zonal offices, 1,430 satellite offices, 1,227 mini-offices and the corporate office. We have a dedicated team of employees and agents who are always ready to serve in the best possible way.

What is the LIC's business profile and what products are on offer?

We have crossed many milestones and set unprecedented performance records in various aspects of life insurance business.

We continue to be the dominant life insurer even in the liberalised scenario of Indian Insurance and we are moving fast on a new-growth trajectory surpassing our own past records. In our 62 years of existence, the LIC has grown from strength to strength by its customer base, agency network, branch office network, new business premium and has a significant role in spreading life insurance widely across country. For the Financial Year 2018-19, we have collected Rs 41,086.31 crore total first premium income with 66.24 per cent market share and have done 2,14,03,905 policies with 74.71 per cent market share. Our Group Insurance business procured Rs 98,139.95 crore total premium in the year ended March 31, 2019. In our bouquet of products, we cater to the needs of all age groups. We have Health Plans, Endowment Plans, ULIP Plans, Term Plans, Children's plans, Money back, Pension and Whole Life Plans. We have been pioneer as pension administrator for group superannuation schemes for various organisations for a very long time. For individual annuitant under our annuity plans, we have been disbursing pension at best available rates in market. The government declared pension scheme — Pradhanmantri Vaya Vandana Yojana is also being administered by LIC. Our individual pension plan Jeevan Shanti is the most popular pension plan. We have a policy for every one.

Reforms in the insurance industry took place in 2000. It's almost 19 years. How did the LIC manage to convert challenges from private players into an opportunity for growth?

I would like to say that competing with



our own set parameters have been a challenge for us. We do not compare us with others. Every company has its strengths and challenges. I must say that opening of the sector and aggressive campaigning by various insurance companies have helped in improving awareness about insurance as a need among population. Competition comes with an opportunity to redefine your self. We are launching different products as per the need and expectation of the consumers. Our consistent policyholders are our biggest strengths. Our strong field force of more than 11 lakh agents, largest network for any life insurance company, is the backbone for our individual business

There are so many investment tools available in the market. Why

one should invest in life insurance.

You rightly said that there are many investment tools in the market but no one is as good as insurance in terms of savings as well as protection. Only insurance has the capacity to provide financial solutions to the uncertainties of life. We all have dreams and aspirations for self and family and try our best to fulfill them in our life time but at times unforeseen, death of the bread earner of the family or some accident causing major permanent disability results into discontinuance of income. Here your insurance policy can help the family in life. All finances or loans may be secured with an insurance policy so that nothing takes away the happiness from the family. These small savings in the form of premium secure bigger goals in

life. Insurance can help in financing children's education and other needs also. I would like to add one more thing here is that dying too soon is seen as a risk but living too long is also a kind of risk. You will not be able to earn in your later age. Here annuity plans of LIC helps you which no other investment tool can do.

It is said that millennials are the next baby boomers. How you are engaging them with LIC?

You rightly said that millennials are the next baby boomers. They are the ones who will drive the economy in the future and the future is here now. We understand that this generation is doing things differently. The previous generation was relying on the expert advice and the millennials are the expert themselves. They search and read everything on the internet. You can't sell anything to them which they don't understand completely. You need to provide them all the support to understand the concept and importance of the insurance. Further, we need to simplify the process of buying a policy. A lot of paper work is involved which is required to be reduced. Technology is the only source to engage them with LIC and we are moving in this direction. Social media is another powerful tool to interact with these next-gen customers and through our Facebook & Twitter pages, LIC India Forever, we are getting in touch with them.

What are the steps taken by LIC to facilitate its customers?

Our concern towards customer convenience has led us to introduce LIC e-Services where just by registering your policies one can avail anytime anywhere access to man-

age and track one's policy details. These services include policy image, online premium payment, policy status, bonus/loan/claim status, revival quotation and many more. To ensure that the services are still more handy, we have MyLIC App which can be downloaded from App store and provides immediate customised solutions to updated policy details, online premium payment and quotations for various services.

How we can save tax through life insurance investments?

Most of LIC's insurance plans qualify for tax rebate under Section 80C equal to the premium installment as per tax laws. Plans where risk cover is 10 times the premium installment may also qualify for tax benefit as per Sec 10 (10D). Our health insurance plans qualify for relief under Sec 80D as per rules.

What is the road ahead for LIC?

The future of LIC looks promising. As per a recent research paper, insurance industry is expected to reach US\$280 billion by 2020. Life insurance industry in the country is expected to grow by 12-15 per cent annually for next 5-6 years which is a good sign for LIC. Growing middle class, young insurable population and awareness for the need of protection and retirement planning will support our growth. The development of LIC will be a boon for country's economic development. We provide long term funds for infrastructure development and strengthen risk taking ability of the country. If we go through the figures of insurance density and insurance penetration, we can say that there is a untapped latent potential in Indian market and the LIC will play a key role in near future in the growth of insurance industry.

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Aditya Pancholi booked for 'rape' of actor Four bank accounts of Nirav Modi, family frozen in Switzerland

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, JUNE 27

MUMBAI POLICE on Thursday registered an FIR against actor Aditya Pancholi on charges of raping a 36-year-old woman between 2004 and 2009.

drugged her before having sexual intercourse, took private photographs of her, threatened to publicise the photos, extorted money from her and also physically restrained her from approaching the police to get an FIR registered.

tween 2004 and 2009, Pancholi on several occasions drugged the complainant and had forceful intercourse with her. Without the woman's knowledge, he took her photographs in a compromising position.

Also, on occasions, he stopped her from taking an autorickshaw and threatened her physical harm if she went ahead to register a complaint.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



It is publically informed that, one male dead body namely Unknown S/o Unknown, R/o Unknown, Age about 32 years, Height 5'6", Complexion Wheatish, Wearing white colour sandow banyan, black colour pant and bare footed was found dead at near Pili Building, Yamuna Bazar, Kashmere Gate, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to identify the dead body but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this male dead body please inform undersigned.

DELHI URBAN SHELTER IMPROVEMENT BOARD GOVT. OF N.C.T. OF DELHI

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER E-1 A 2 BLOCK RAGUBIR NAGAR NEW DELHI-110027. 25448464 NOTICE E-INVITING Tender (4th Call) The Executive Engineer E-1, DUSIB, invites on behalf of DUSIB online Percentage rate bid on two bid system for following work:-

1. NIT No:- 07/EE/E-1/DUSIB/2019-20 Tende ID: 2019_DUSIB_174984_1 Name of work: Eius Sub Head: Supplying, installation, testing and commissioning of High Mast Lights i/c comprehensive maintenance for 4 year at various JSCs locations under the jurisdiction of civil circle-1/E-1 Estimated Amount: Rs. 88,23,808/- Earnest Money: Rs. 1,76,476/- Tender Cost: Rs. 1000/-

Date and time for down load of entire Tender document/ encryption w.e.f 01/07/2019 at 17.00 To 19/07/2019 upto 15.00 Hrs. The bid form and other details can be obtained from the website (https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in) Note: Any amendment /change/clarification (if any) will be uploaded only on https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in, therefore intending tender may inspect the website regularly.

Office of Commissioner, National Capital Region Planning Cell. U.P. Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning, Govt. of U.P.

EOI Notice On behalf of the Commissioner, National Capital Region Planning Cell, Uttar Pradesh the Chief Coordinator Planner, NCR Planning Cell, U.P. invites Expression of interest (EOI) for the comprehensive consultancy services from Public Sector Undertaking(s), Autonomous Body (s), Government Organization (s), Research Institute (s), Eminent Consultancy Firms(s), that have requisite experience and infrastructure for carrying out the preparation of Sub-Regional Plan of newly added districts of Muzarnagar and Shamli in the UP Sub-region of Uttar Pradesh of NCR.

HOME DEPARTMENT (PORTS & TRANSPORT) MAHARASHTRA MARITIME BOARD

गृह विभाग (बंदरे व परिवहन) महाराष्ट्र मेरिटाइम बोर्ड Indian Mercantile Chambers, 3rd Floor, 14 Ramjibhai Kamani Marg, Ballard Estate, Mumbai-400 001. Tel.: 022-22658375, Fax : 022-22614331 Web site : https://mahammb.maharashtra.gov.in; E-mail : ceommb@gmail.com

Office of the Superintendent Engineer, Bulandshahr Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr

On behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites online bids through e-tendering from the registered firm. The bid document upload on dated 01.07.2019 to 11.07.2019 Upto 05.00 PM. Technical bids will be open on date 12.07.2019 at 12.30 PM. by the Committee in the office of the Superintendent Engineer, Bulandshahr Circle, U.P. P.W.D. Bulandshahr, Date of financial bid will be inform separately to the technically qualified contractors.

UTTARAKHAND POWER CORPORATION LIMITED Corporate Identity No. UA40109UP2001SGC025867/2354, Victoria Cross Vijeta Gaba Singh Ujja Bhawan, Kanwall Road, Dehradun. This office e-tender specification No. CCP-11/36/2018-2019 invited previously for Work of implementation of integrated automated meter reading system (AMR) of 4000 nos. distribution transformer meters on turnkey basis including 5 years service for providing the reading are hereby extended due to unavoidable reasons.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT, SCB MEDICAL COLLEGE & HOSPITAL, CUTTACK TENDER CALL NOTICE

No. 14382/Dt.24.6.19 Sealed Tenders in plain papers/pads are invited from intending Manufacturers/ Distributors/ Stockiest/ Wholesaler for supply of medicine and medical consumable items in bulk quantity to the undersigned as per requirement of the hospital which will be valid for a period of one year from the date of approval.

ENS & PTI NEW DELHI, LONDON, JUNE 27

Authorities in Switzerland have frozen four Swiss bank accounts belonging to fugitive diamond merchant Nirav Modi and his family members. The freeze has been executed on the basis of a request from the Enforcement Directorate, which is probing a case of money laundering against him in connection with the Rs 13,500 crore PNB scam. Sources said the four bank accounts have deposits totalling Rs 283.16 crore. The ED is likely to approach Swiss authorities to attach these accounts under India's Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

Centre formulating strategy against drug menace: Shah to Amarinder

Chandigarh: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday informed Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh that the Centre was formulating a detailed strategy to tackle the problem of drugs in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir, an official spokesperson of the Punjab government said. Shah, the spokesperson said, made the disclosure when Amarinder Singh called on him and reiterated his demand for a National Drugs Policy to combat the menace.

Office of Satna Smart City Development Limited (SSCDL) Municipal Corporation, Satna (M.P.) 485001 e-TENDER NOTICE

Ref. No:278/SSCD/2019 Satna, Dated: 26.06.19 Tender No: 2019_UAD_34497.1 Online tender through e-tendering is invited by the Executive Director, Satna Smart City Development Limited (SSCDL), Satna, M.P. for the work of "Engineering, Procurement, Construction & Development of Cement Museum, Art Gallery, Exhibition Space, Workshops, Studios, Souvenir Shop, Public Utility, Restaurant, Parking, Pathway and other works including Post Completion Operation & Maintenance for 3 years under Baghelkhand Art & Craft Centre (BACC) in Satna, Madhya Pradesh".

Government of Jharkhand Directorate of Information & Public Relations Meur's Road, Ranchi, Jharkhand, 0651-2281522, 0651-2282458 iprd123@gmail.com Notice for Expression of Interest for Empanelment of Production agencies for Preparation of Audio-Visual Creatives

Union Bank of India RUDRAPUR Branch, Plot No. 7, Airon Plaza, opp. Saraswati Shishu Mandir School, Kalyani View, Rudrapur, Dist. Udham Singh Nagar, Uttarakhand Pin - 263153.

POSESSION NOTICE The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Union Bank of India, Rudrapur Branch, District Udham Singh Nagar, Uttarakhand Pin - 263153 under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement Security Interest (Second) Act, 2002 (Ord. 3 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice R0DDN:CRLD-5-692:19 dated 05.04.2019 calling upon the borrowers i.e. M/S Mangal Murti Industries, Khanpur East, Jafarpur-Dineshpur Road, Post-Gadarpur, Distt. Udham Singh Nagar, Partners & Guarantor- (1) Mr Ramesh Chandra Agrawal S/o Kirodi Agrawal, (2) Mr Amit Kumar Agrawal S/o Ramesh Chandra Agrawal (3) Mr Mohit Agrawal S/o Ramesh Chandra Agrawal, Residence A-25, Alliance Kingston Estate, Rudrapur, Udham Singh Nagar, Uttarakhand (classified as NPA on 31.03.2019) to repay the amount mentioned in the notices being Rs. 7,73,50,856.81 (Rupees Seven Crore Seventy Three Lacs Fifty Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty Six and Eighty One paise) and interest + other charges thereon of within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

विहार सरकार Bihar Urban Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited INVITATION FOR BID (IFB) FOR CONSTRUCTION OF RIVER FRONT DEVELOPMENT AT MUZAFFARPUR, BIHAR, INDIA (Through e-procurement mode only- www.eproc.bihar.gov.in)

Office of Commissioner, National Capital Region Planning Cell. U.P. Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning, Govt. of U.P. EOI Notice On behalf of the Commissioner, National Capital Region Planning Cell, Uttar Pradesh the Chief Coordinator Planner, NCR Planning Cell, U.P. invites Expression of interest (EOI) for the comprehensive consultancy services from Public Sector Undertaking(s), Autonomous Body (s), Government Organization (s), Research Institute (s), Eminent Consultancy Firms(s), that have requisite experience and infrastructure for carrying out the preparation of Sub-Regional Plan of newly added districts of Muzarnagar and Shamli in the UP Sub-region of Uttar Pradesh of NCR.

HOME DEPARTMENT (PORTS & TRANSPORT) MAHARASHTRA MARITIME BOARD गृह विभाग (बंदरे व परिवहन) महाराष्ट्र मेरिटाइम बोर्ड Indian Mercantile Chambers, 3rd Floor, 14 Ramjibhai Kamani Marg, Ballard Estate, Mumbai-400 001. Tel.: 022-22658375, Fax : 022-22614331 Web site : https://mahammb.maharashtra.gov.in; E-mail : ceommb@gmail.com

Office of the Superintendent Engineer, Bulandshahr Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr No. 3595/96M(4)-BSR CIRCLE/2019-20 Dated.- 19/6/2019 E-Procurement Tender Notice On behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites online bids through e-tendering from the registered firm. The bid document upload on dated 01.07.2019 to 11.07.2019 Upto 05.00 PM.

Government of Jharkhand Dr. Ram Dayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute, Ranchi Schedule Tribe, Schedule Caste, Minorities and OBC Welfare Department Ref no. 710 Expression of Interest Ranchi, Dated 26.06.2019 Dr. Ram Dayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute (TRI), Ranchi invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from interested Universities (all colleges) / Department of Universities/ Govt. Organization/ Educational Institute/ Research Institute/ NGOs for undertaking a Research Project of TRI, Ranchi during the year 2019-20.

इलाहाबाद बैंक ALLAHABAD BANK (A Govt. of India Undertaking) Head Office: 2, Netaji Subhash Road, Kolkata-700001 POSSESSION NOTICE FOR (IMMOVABLE PROPERTY) Notice is hereby given under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement (Security) Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rules 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer issued a Demand Notice on the dates noted against the account as mentioned hereinafter, calling upon them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice.

HARVEY WEINSTEIN'S TRIALS

Court in the act

The case that started #MeToo demonstrates the difficulty of making sexual assault accusations stick



Harvey Weinstein, the main villain of #MeToo, has lost his company, reputation, wife and some hair. But, bar an ankle tracker, he retains his liberty and much of his fortune. Reuters

THIS CASE is testing the presumption of innocence in our country," Harvey Weinstein's then defence lawyer, Jose Baez, told reporters last January, cameras shuttering as the movie mogul shuffled out of a New York courthouse. For a man who, the state attorney-general says, required his drivers "to keep condoms and erectile dysfunction injections in the car at all times" that is undeniably true.

But the justice system's ability to hold those accused of sexual crimes to account is also being tested. The low conviction rates for rape and sexual assault are often blamed on under-reporting. Less than a quarter of estimated sexual assaults are reported to police. No such excuse exists in the Weinstein case. Since late-2017 he has been accused by more than 90 women of acts ranging from harassment to rape. The main villain of #MeToo has lost his company, reputation, wife and some hair. But, bar an ankle tracker, he retains his liberty and much of his fortune. It is not at all clear that the justice system will take either.

Most of Mr Weinstein's accusers are not going to court. Expired statutes of limitation or other legal hurdles prevent some; others

do not wish to go through a gruelling public trial. Well over a dozen are suing for damages through civil procedures, though. The New York attorney-general has also filed a civil-rights suit against Mr Weinstein, his brother and their former company for endangering employees. And the 67-year-old faces criminal charges for allegedly attacking two women in 2006 and 2013. If found guilty Mr Weinstein, who denies all charges of non-consensual sex, could spend decades in prison. His much-delayed criminal trial is set for September 9th. It may be delayed again after Mr Baez asked the court to excuse him from the case, making him the second member of Mr Weinstein's defence team to walk away in quick succession.

Women in America, Britain and Canada are suing for damages related to what one of their lawyers calls "Weinstein events" involving allegations such as rape, assault, false imprisonment (for instance, holding a woman while he masturbated) and career sabotage. They are going after not just Mr Weinstein, but also the companies that employed him: Miramax, Disney and The Weinstein

Company (TWC). At TWC his contract included an unusual clause which listed escalating financial penalties for using company resources to pay someone off if he acted "improperly in violation of the Company's Code of Conduct".

In May rumours appeared in the media of an imminent "global settlement" for \$44m that would close most civil suits. TWC is currently going through the bankruptcy process and some attorneys, such as Elizabeth Fegan, who represents several plaintiffs in a class action, believe this is the best hope for getting compensation.

Several accusers, including actresses Ashley Judd and Rose McGowan, quickly distanced themselves from any rumoured settlement. Part of the problem was the amount, less than half of the \$90m that had been suggested in early 2018, nearly a third of which would be reserved for the legal fees of Mr Weinstein's co-accused directors and board members. Going after Mr Weinstein's enablers has been a priority for financial reasons as well as moral ones. "At the end of all of this, given all his legal fees, we expect that Mr

Weinstein himself will be relatively asset light," says Ms Fegan.

But will he do time?

For those seeking the sort of justice that involves steel bars, Mr Weinstein's criminal trial will be the one to watch. It has been marred by delays and false starts. Charges relating to a third woman were dropped after a police blunder, something Mr Weinstein's lawyers argue taints the whole case. The remaining five criminal charges are serious. They concern a woman who claims Mr Weinstein forcibly performed oral sex on her in 2006 and a woman who says he raped her in 2013. The crimes he is accused of include predatory sexual assault—a class A felony—rape in the first degree and rape in the third degree.

Proving such charges beyond a reasonable doubt, the burden of proof in a criminal court, will be hard. "The case will probably centre around 'forcible compulsion' or, for the least serious offence, whether the victim clearly expressed 'non-consent,'" predicts Margo Kaplan of Rutgers University. She believes

New York's broad definition of consent is particularly "victim-unfriendly". The assumption that women by default always consent to sex unless they are forced or clearly state otherwise makes rape hard to prove in many jurisdictions, prosecutors less likely to pursue charges, and convictions of watered-down charges more likely.

More important than the letter of the law will be the mood of the jury. Cultural norms determine judgments in rape cases far more than legal definitions, found Dan Kahan, a professor in law and psychology at Yale, in a 2009 study. Working in Mr Weinstein's favour is the fact that he is on bail, which studies have shown greatly increases his chances of acquittal. Beyond that, "his chances now directly relate to his lawyers' ability to impeach the credibility of his accusers," predicts Daniel Hochheiser, a criminal defence attorney.

Their job may be about to get harder as the court considers whether other women should be allowed to testify about Mr Weinstein. This strategy, aimed at demonstrating a pattern of abuse, was successful in helping convince the jury at the Bill Cosby re-

trial last year of the comedian's guilt. For several women it was also cathartic. But it is controversial and Mr Weinstein's lawyers have fought hard against it. One problem for prosecutors in sexual-misconduct cases is that each accusation tends to be treated as a one-off, which makes it far easier for the defence to argue it was a "he said, she said". Settlements with gag-clauses make it yet harder to give a jury more context.

Just as most civil cases are dismissed or settled before trial, so over 95% of criminal cases are either thrown out or settled with a plea-bargain before trial. Lack of resources or the hope of a shortened sentence can push poorer and younger suspects into taking a plea, but are less likely to persuade Mr Weinstein. The prospect of facing not just two isolated women but a couple of platoons may push him towards a deal, should one be offered. Yet given the high-profile nature of the case, and the severity of the charges, insiders predict that the prosecutor is unlikely to do so and would prefer to roll the dice in trial.

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PHARMACEUTICALS

Profit warning

American drugmakers are raising prices. Again

"IF YOU think the cost of your drug will scare people from buying your drugs, then lower your prices." That blunt warning was issued recently by Alex Azar, America's health secretary, to global pharmaceutical giants. A new report by UBS, an investment bank, finds that Americans spent nearly two-thirds of all money spent globally on new drugs from 2012 to 2017. On June 14th Bluebird Bio unveiled a gene therapy to treat an inherited blood disorder that will cost nearly \$1.8m per treatment. Shortly before, Novartis, a Swiss giant, priced its gene therapy for spinal muscular atrophy at \$2.1m, making it the world's most expensive medication.

Outrage over such headlines is a rare thing to unite President Donald Trump and his Democratic detractors. Many cheered the administration's latest effort to force drugmakers to disclose the list price of drugs in television advertisements.

On June 14th Big Pharma struck back. Amgen, Merck and Eli Lilly sued Mr Azar (who used to work at Eli Lilly) and his department in order to block the rule. They argue that buyers seldom pay the full list price, since insurers and other middlemen wrest hefty (and often secret) discounts.

Working out how profitable drug firms are is not a simple matter. Their net margins of 11%, less than restaurants and one-fifth those of railways, do not exactly scream price gouging. But a fairer picture can be reached by adding back interest costs, adjusting for



Reuters

Although in the past four years spending on drugs by patients and private insurers has barely budged, an annual report published by PwC forecasts that it is about to rise again

leases and, crucially, by also treating research and development expenses as an investment that is depreciated gradually over time. According to a recent study by Aswath Damodaran of New York University's Stern School of Business, on this basis drug firms' margins are 24%, higher than most other sectors (see chart).

Drug firms retort that the returns on that R&D investment will not be as good as they

used to be. They have to spend ever more prospecting for blockbuster molecules. The alternative is to pay top dollar to acquire biotechnology firms which have already identified them. On June 17th Pfizer said it would pay \$11.4bn for Array BioPharma, which has developed therapies for cancer. In April Bristol-Myers Squibb approved a \$74bn purchase of Celgene.

Whatever the true level of pharmaceuti-

cal firms' financial returns, they could become juicier again. Although in the past four years spending on drugs by patients and private insurers has barely budged, an annual report published on June 20th by PwC, a consultancy, forecasts that it is about to rise again. Most of the increase will be the result of higher prices.

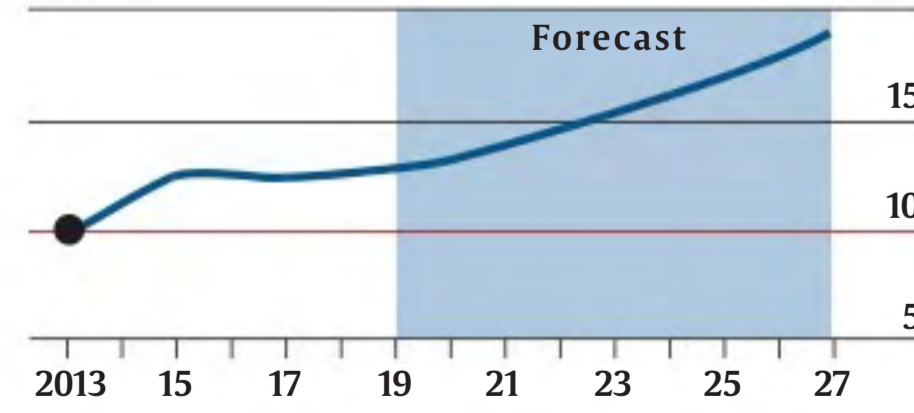
Peter Bach of Memorial Sloan Kettering, a leading cancer hospital in New York, thinks

the million-dollar price tags are unjustified. Novartis, he argues, cherry-picked health-economic studies that supported its pricing. In 2012, his hospital refused to offer patients a new cancer drug from Sanofi after his analysis showed its high price was not justified by better outcomes. The French firm reduced it—just as Mr Azar would counsel.

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PROGNOSIS: PROFITABLE
United StatesReturns* on pharmaceutical R&D
12 biggest firms, %

Private-health-insurance retail spending on prescription drugs, 2013=100

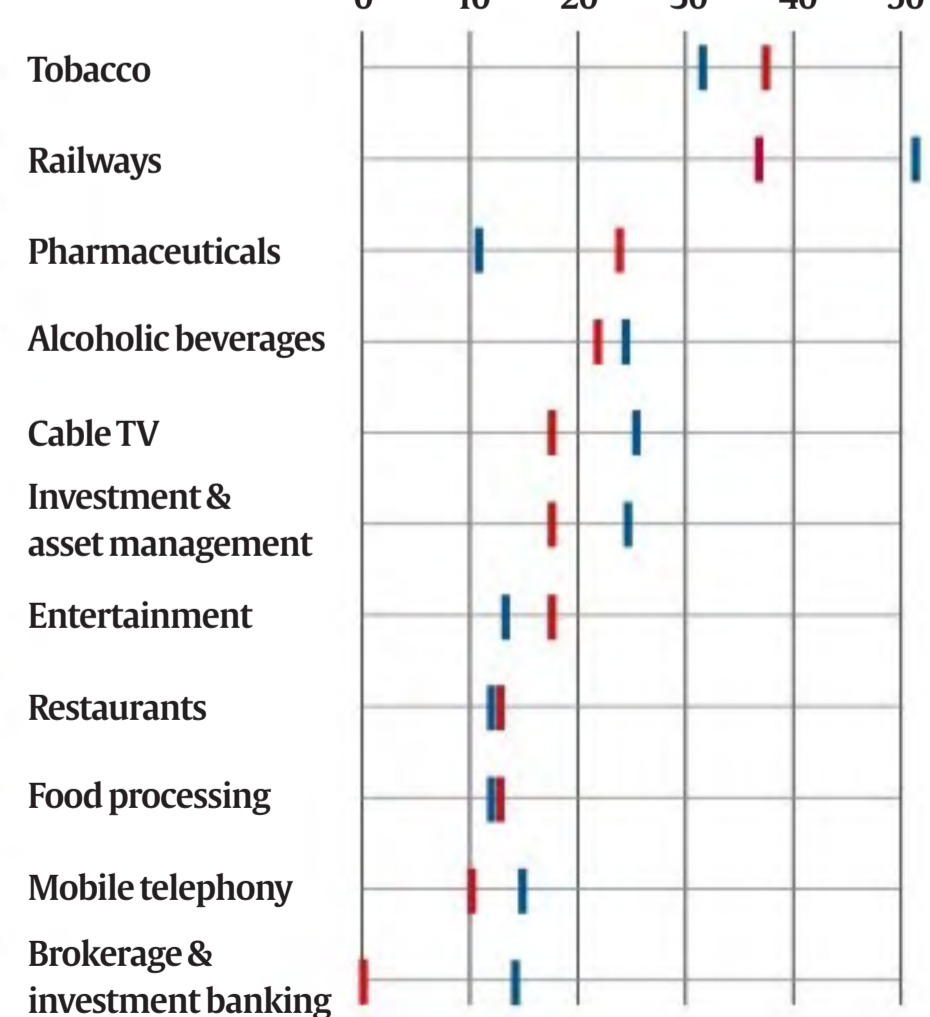


Sources: PwC; Deloitte; A Damodaran, NYU Stern School of Business

Margins, selected industries

2018 or latest, %

■ Net ■ Adjusted operating †



*Internal rates of return † After tax, capitalising leases and R&D

Classifieds

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NORTHERN RAILWAY

21 TALK ART, MUSIC, STYLE, FOOD

AROUND TOWN



In Memoriam

LISTEN TO professor Irfan Habib speak on "The Significance of Jallianwala Bagh in Our Struggle for Freedom". Sahmat is presenting "In Solidarity 1919-2019 – 100 years of Jallianwala Bagh Massacre", to commemorate the historical incident. A Hindi book *Jallianwala Bagh ke 100 Saal* will also be released and musician Sumangala Damodaran will present 'Songs of Struggle'. There will be recitation of poetry by Nanak Singh, survivor of the massacre. At Jawahar Bhawan, June 29, 4.30 pm onwards. Entry is free.



Rainbow Dreams

ATTEND THE screening of *The Kids are Alright* as part of the Friday Night Flicks 2.0, at the American Centre. Directed by Lisa Cholodenko, *The Kids are Alright* stars Annette Bening and Mark Ruffalo and centers on a lesbian marriage. It's one of the first films to show a same-sex couple raising teenagers. It won two Golden Globe awards. On June 28, 6 pm, at American Centre, KG Marg.



Tap Away

ATTEND A Bharatnatyam dance recital by Geeta Chandran titled "Samagama Leela". The performance is an autobiographical journey into the ocean of bhakti and devotion. At IIC, June 29, 6.30 pm onwards.



Laugh Out Loud

TUNE INTO Sumukhi Suresh, as she comes to Delhi with her latest standup comedy show "Don't tell Amma". Suresh will tell jokes that "one should not share with anyone's mother". At the Canvas Laugh Club, Noida, June 30, 7.30 pm. Tickets on Bookmyshow.



Mexican Soiree

LOOK AT Mexican engravings, which form the core of Mexican artist Joel Rendon's work. Organised in collaboration with the Embassy of Mexico, the exhibition features works by Rendon that combine the long-standing Mexican tradition of relief print, contemporary techniques and motifs linked to the cultural heritage of the country. Considered one of the most important engravers in Mexico, Rendon has generated a movement to revalue engraving in Mexico and abroad. On till July 2 at IIC Annexe, 11 am to 7 pm.



(Clockwise from above) A scene from *Subarnalata* staged in 1999; *Tinka Tinka*; the rehearsal for *Subarnalata*; Kirti Jain

'We'd thought it would get better for women'

Theatre director Kirti Jain revisits a classic story about a Bengali middle-class housewife to comment on present-day patriarchy

DIPANITA NATH

CONFINED TO the *andar mahal* (inner chamber) of her husband's home, *Subarnalata* in Ashapurna Devi's eponymous novel, fights patriarchy all her life and searches for a space that is her own. The novel, the second in Devi's trilogy about three generations of women of a family, was adapted for the stage by Gitanjali Shree and directed by Kirti Jain in 1999. This weekend, Jain will revive the play with Kshitij Theatre Group at Stein auditorium, India Habitat Centre, Delhi.

"What surprised me 20 years ago and surprises me now is that things haven't changed much. The play is set in the early 20th century Bengal but the situation remains just as grim for women. I keep thinking, 'How have reforms and protests helped the common woman?' I don't mean that activism is not required because it is. *Me Too* and *Nirbhaya* are just two types of violence against women. What about the oppression women face in society in several other ways?" says Jain, who was honoured with the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for Direction in 2011. She specialised in direction at the National School of Drama (NSD) in Delhi, and was the director of the institute between 1988 and 1995.

Born in 1949, Jain grew up in a country that was undergoing sociocultural and political transformations, fuelled by new ideas and idealism. "When we were young, we thought that the situation was going to get better for women and it did. But, the present is worrying me. I feel that the empowerment of women isn't becoming a reality. What is ironic is that women themselves have accepted this as their unavoidable reality," she says.

Her father, celebrated theatre critic and poet Nemichand Jain, was progressive and their house was a hub of intellectuals, Jain and her sisters would be studying while poetry or debates among her father's friends raged in the next room. "I didn't have to struggle at all as a woman and I know I am privileged and lucky in this. That is why I feel the oppression more sharply when I see it all around," she says.

The play highlights *Subarnalata's* attempts to assert herself, such as making a new friend with a neighbour, and talking to her by secretly removing a brick from a wall. Jain shows how women often fail in self-expression due to lack of support. There is none for *Subarnalata*. When she goes home, her father is so scared of social backlash that he sends her back to her in-laws. "I feel that the position of women is not going to get better in the near future because our country is now looking back. Society will continue to decide what a woman should wear and whether she can travel alone," she says. *Subarnalata's* final scenes reflect this sense of doom.

People, usually women, caught in the cross-hairs of upheaval are the heroes of Jain's productions. "Every time I have done a play,



SOME PLAYS BY JAIN

AUR KITNE TUKDE (2000): Based on Urvashi Butalia's *The Other Side of Silence*, the play deals with women survivors of the Partition.

BAGHDAD BURNING (2007): The episodes in the play are from a blog from Iraq about the US invasion.

HAMARA SHAHAR US BARAS (2011): Gujarat's communal divide is the foundation of this play.

RUKA HUA FAISLA (2010): The play adapted Reginald Rose's classic, *Twelve Angry Men*, in Hindi.

VIRASAT (2018): One of the significant works of modern Indian drama, it was made with students of Bhartendu Natya Akademi in Lucknow.

unless it was assigned to be at the NSD, was because some social or political crisis was disturbing me. I would look for material to do a play on the issue so that I could share my anxiety, fears and concerns with a larger section of people. My plays are also intended to explore the human situations behind the problems and how people are responding to what was happening," she says. In 2004, more than a decade after India opened up, Jain worked on the theme of globalisation and the market economy with the NSD Repertory Company in the play, *Kaun Thagwa Nagaria Lootal Ho* (2004), based on an important Hindi story by Kashinath Singh. In 2002, she dwelt on the human stories surrounding the Gujarat earthquake in *Tinka Tinka* with students of the NSD.

She has adapted Girish Karnad's *Hayavadana* (1982) with students of the Dartington College of Arts, UK, Mohan Rakesh's *Ashadh ka Ek Din* (1980) and *Lehron Ke Rajhans* (1992) and Mahesh Elkunchwar's *Holi* (1998), among others. In Jain's plays, the actor is prominent and props are also treated like performers and must evolve and grow. *Baghdad Burning* (2007), for instance, features benches that morphed into boundaries, beds and tables, among others. In the 1999 production of *Subarnalata*, there was one table and one chair on stage and actors had to mime the protagonist's removing a brick from an imagined wall to talk to the neighbour. "Audience have to imagine the wall, the brick and the chatter of a restricted woman," says Jain.

Subarnalata will be staged at Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre, on June 29, 7.30 pm



CLIMBING HIGH

American artist Brian Donnelly is displaying his site specific installation as part of the exhibition "Kaws: Holiday" near Mt Fuji in Japan. The installation is 40 metres long and features his signature character, Companion.

FROM MY PANTRY



Chef **MANISH MEHROTRA** on his favourite ingredient

TRUFFLES

FIRST TASTE: Growing up in Patna, Mehrotra hardly ever saw mushrooms, let alone develop a taste for them. "We didn't even know about mushrooms back then," he recalls. He did develop a taste for them later, although it wasn't until he sampled truffles for the first time that he understood the transformative power of this ingredient. "It was some eight or nine years ago, in London, that I first tasted truffle, served shaved over a mushroom risotto. I already had developed a taste for mushrooms for many years, by then, but this was different. It had a distinct, earthy flavour and fragrance that I immediately liked," recalls Mehrotra.

INDIAN TOUCH: Mushrooms of all variety are not just available for purchase in India now, many varieties are also being cultivated in farms across the country. Truffles, however, remain an exotic ingredient that, Mehrotra feels, is yet to be fully explored in the context of Indian cuisine. "The challenge isn't just that it's exotic and expensive (around Rs 1.45 lakh per kilo), but it's also how to make sure that the delicate flavour of a truffle isn't overwhelmed by spices and other ingredients," he says. This is precisely the balancing act that has drawn Mehrotra to the truffles, which his kitchen gets from Umbria in Italy, and which he has used to create a summer tasting menu with dishes such as aloo tikki chaat (pictured) and ice cream — all of it flavoured with truffles.

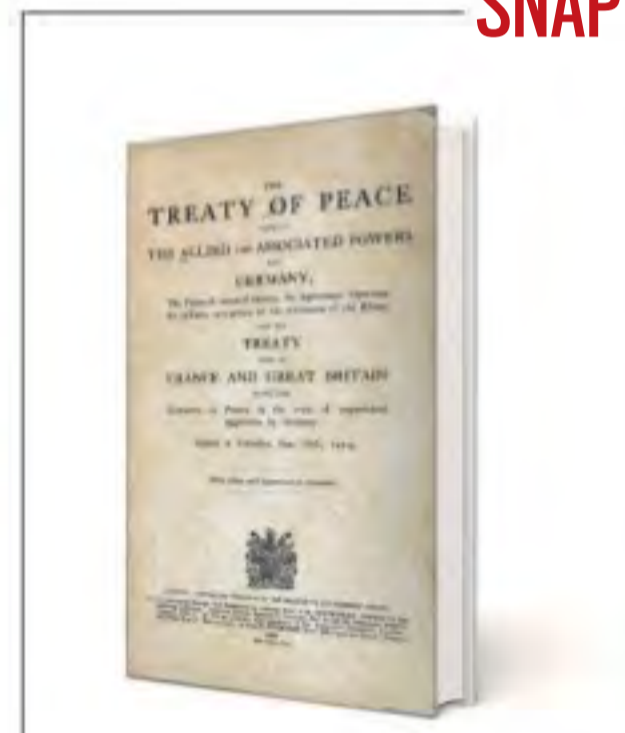


AT HOME: With his daughter having developed a taste for this fungus as well, Mehrotra has also enjoyed experimenting with it at home. "Whenever I travel, I try and get some back home, so that I can serve it to her shaved over an omelette or scrambled eggs or pasta," he says.

Manish Mehrotra is Corporate Chef at Indian Accent Restaurants

POOJA PILLAI

SNAPSHOTS



For Peace

CONSIDERED ONE of the most important peace treaties that brought World War I to an end, Treaty of Versailles is being exhibited at the UK National Archives. The exhibition that marks the centenary of the treaty, also features various other peace treaties, including The Treaty of London signed by the then British Prime minister Lord Palmerston in 1915 and the Locarno postwar territorial settlements. The private exhibition has been organised for historians attending a conference on the post-war peace process.



The Smell of Art

LOUVRE MUSEUM in Paris has collaborated with perfumers to reinterpret its exhibited artworks into unique fragrances. Perfume experts Ramdane Touhami and Victoire de Taillac have put together a team of perfumers to browse the Louvre's vast collection. The chosen works include the sculpture titled *The Winged Victory of Samothrace* (pictured) and two paintings, *Conversation in a Park* and *The Bather*. The Louvre collection of perfumes, postcards, candles and scented soap sheets will debut on July 3 in stores across Europe, the US and Asia.

In Fantasy Land

AFTER BUILDING a strong fan base with her role as Cersei in the series *Game of Thrones*, Lena Headey will join the cast of *The Dark Crystal: Age of Resistance*. The web show that will stream on Netflix is a prequel to filmmaker Jim Henson's 1982 dark fantasy film *The Dark Crystal*. The series will focus on three Gelfling heroes — Rian (Taron Egerton), Brea (Anya Taylor-Joy) and Deet (Nathalie Emmanuel), who discover the horrific truth behind the power of the evil Skeksis and set out on an epic journey to save the world.



On the Work Front

Actor Mukul Chadda on the art of storytelling and how the Indian adaptation of *The Office* retains the deadpan humour of the original

SHANAYAD'SA

MUKUL CHADDA has no interest in filling Steve Carrell's shoes. In fact, he'd never watched an episode of *The Office* (US), a sitcom featuring Carrell and an ensemble cast. The 56-year-old Golden Globe-winning actor plays Michael Scott, a regional manager in charge of a paper distribution company, and a handful of employees whose shenanigans at the workplace make for comedy gold. "But when I found out about the role, I auditioned for it. It was a long process and from the very beginning, I was in love with the part," says Chadda. Sitting in the living room of his Bandra apartment, Chadda, 45, looks a little tired — the afternoon has been packed with interviews, but he gamely answers every question. After all, the Indian re-

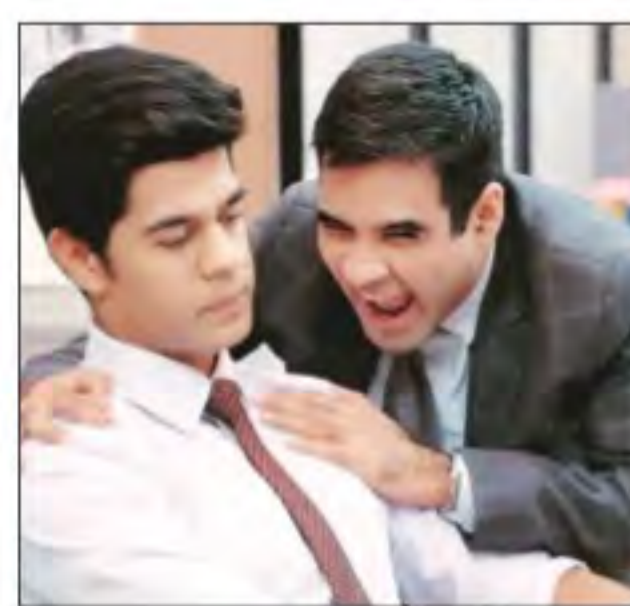
make of *The Office*, the 10th international remake of the American show, is arguably the most commercial project of his career.

In *The Office* (India), Chadda plays Jagdeep Chaddha, the manager of Wilkins Chawla, a Delhi-based paper company. "If I had to describe Jagdeep, I'd say that he's naive, almost child-like, with an absurd personality that creates a lag between the Freudian id and super-ego. Normally, the id and super-ego work simultaneously, but in Jagdeep's case, the id works separately, and super-ego only begins to strike after a noticeable lag. This makes his character unpredictable," he says.

A remake of a cult show can be quite a risk — what with *The Office's* dry and absurd humour and pitch-perfect performances — but Chadda says the upcoming show has not made any attempt to cater to an Indian audience. "I



Mukul Chadda; (right) the actor in a still from *The Office*



don't think there's been any attempt to change the flavour of the jokes — they remain the same — as does the mockumentary style, deadpan humour and long pauses," he says.

Having previously worked with Gopal Datt, who plays TP Mishra (the Indian version of Dwight Schrute) and a few other cast members, Chadda was easily able to pick up on the improvisations during the scenes. In order to get the best out of the takes, the show's cre-

ators, Debbie Rao, Vivek "Bumpy" Bhushan and Rohan Sippy, shot multiple takes. "After the good take, there was the fun take, where everyone got to do what they wanted. What would invariably happen is that something else would occur and then we would push that line further and end up doing another 10 takes to get the best out of each scene," says Chadda. Since he began his career in 2004, Chadda has primarily worked in theatre, along with

appearances in TV commercials. After completing his MBA from IIM-Ahmedabad, he moved to New York, where he worked as a mortgage debt research analyst at Lehman Brothers, a decade before the company filed for bankruptcy in 2008. "But theatre has always been a part of my life. I was actively involved in the theatre societies throughout school and college," says Chadda, who enrolled in part-time classes at The Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute in the Big Apple. By the early 2000s, he was beginning to lose interest in his corporate job, and in 2004, Chadda went on a year-long sabbatical from work and returned home to Mumbai.

"I've always loved the art of storytelling. It's a talent to be able to engage with an audience while narrating an event. Acting is an important part of that process, with character development and getting the scenes right. Writing is also something that I want to get back to," says Chadda, who has appeared in several storytelling projects and has also been involved in improv groups. For the past year, he has been working on *Fairy Folk*, touted as India's first improvised film, with his wife, actor Rasika Dugal. "I'm really excited about it," says Chadda. All 13 episodes of *The Office* will premiere on Hotstar today



BLUE MOUNTAIN

Old Trafford on Thursday was packed to the rafters with India fans wearing the blue shirts, as these two pictures — adjoined for effect — show. AP & Reuters

Arsenal at Old Trafford

India's varied and potent bowling attack put on a perfect show, eliminating WI and taking another step towards semifinals

SCORECARD >>
IND vs WI

Old Trafford | Toss: India

INDIA		268/7 IN 50 OV
KL Rahul b Holder	48 (64b, 6x4)	
Rohit Sharma c Hope b Roach	18 (23b, 1x4, 1x6)	
Virat Kohli c sub b Holder	72 (82b, 8x4)	
Vijay Shankar c Hope b Roach	14 (19b, 3x4)	
Kedar Jadhav c Hope b Roach	7 (10b, 1x4)	
MS Dhoni not out	56 (61b, 3x4, 2x6)	
Hardik Pandya c Allen b Cottrell	46 (38b, 5x4)	
Mohd Shami c Hope b Cottrell	0 (2b)	
Kuldeep Yadav not out	0 (1b)	
Extras: (b 1, w 6)		7
Fall of wickets: 1-29 (Sharma, 5.6 ov), 2-98 (Rahul, 20.4 ov), 3-126 (Shankar, 26.1 ov), 4-140 (Jadhav, 28.5 ov), 5-180 (Kohli, 38.2 ov), 6-250 (Pandya, 48.2 ov), 7-252 (Shami, 48.5 ov)		
Bowling: S Cottrell 10-0-52-2, K Roach 10-0-36-3, O Thomas 7-0-63-0, F Allen 10-0-52-0, J Holder 10-2-33-2, C Brathwaite 3-0-33-0		

WEST INDIES		143 IN 34.2 OV
C Gayle c Jadhav b Shami	6 (19b, 1x4)	
S Ambris lbw b Pandya	31 (40b, 2x4)	
N Hope b Shami	5 (10b, 1x4)	
S Pooran c Shami b Yadav	28 (50b, 2x4)	
S Hetmyer c Rahul b Shami	18 (29b, 1x4)	
J Holder c Jadhav b Chahal	6 (13b)	
C Brathwaite c Dhoni b Bumrah	1 (5b)	
F Allen lbw b Bumrah	0 (1b)	
K Roach not out	14 (21b, 3x4)	
S Cottrell lbw b Chahal	10 (8b, 1x4, 1x6)	
O Thomas c Sharma b Shami	6 (11b, 1x4)	
Extras: (b 9, lb 3, nb 1, w 5)		18
Fall of wickets: 1-10 (Gayle, 4.5 ov), 2-16 (Hope, 6.5 ov), 3-71 (Ambris, 17.6 ov), 4-80 (Pooran, 20.2 ov), 5-98 (Holder, 23.5 ov), 6-107 (Brathwaite, 26.1 ov), 7-107 (Allen, 26.2 ov), 8-112 (Hetmyer, 28.3 ov), 9-124 (Cottrell, 29.5 ov)		
Bowling: Shami 6-2-0-16-4, Bumrah 6-1-9-2, Pandya 5-0-28-1, Yadav 9-1-35-1, Jadhav 1-0-4-0, Chahal 7-0-39-2		
India won by 125 runs		



SRIRAM VEERA
MANCHESTER, JUNE 27

FOR THE first time ever, fans can actually buy tickets just to see Indians bowl in an ODI match. The way the batsmen are playing, it might be more than a good reason to do so but that gripe can be kept for some other day. For the first time their attack can be used as an adjective, not just a filler that one has unconsciously internalised in childhood. India rarely attacked, they could defend, hustle with scoreboard pressure, but this unit is different. What scoreboard pressure? They can create it with their sheer talent, out of thin air. The cynics would say — and they won't be wrong — that this unit also can have an average day and what if the batsmen continue to plod along? But why mess up a beautiful day of high-quality bowling with such clichés? These are days to cherish, to enjoy. The best Indian-English phrase to discuss India's bowling is 'Tip Top!'

It was all on view as India thrashed West Indies by 125 runs to move within one win of a semifinal spot. Defending a good, but by no means insurmountable, total of 268, all the elements of India's bowling attack were working in unison as the men from the Caribbean were sent packing from the World Cup, bowled for 143 with more than 15 overs remaining.

Different arrows in the quiver
What do we watch when a seamer has a new ball in his hands? When it's an Australian, we watch out for the hard ball, the hit-the-deck-er. When it's an



Replacing the injured Bhuvneshwar Kumar in the XI, Mohammed Shami has taken eight wickets in two matches.

Englishman, one looks for the seam presentation. Enter Mohammed Shami. But India wanted more. Something different, that they never had before. And they found Kuldeep Yadav, the only discussion around him is whether it's politically right to call him a chinaman or a left-arm wrist spinner. Then India got greedier. They wanted someone that no country had. Not even our neighbours. What can it be? They had everything, what could we do better? What is that we have never seen before from anywhere? A pacer who could get the ball to skid and bounce, two qualities rarely seen from the same bowler. Enter Jasprit Bumrah. What else could be done? Why not contemplate keeping out your best Test spinner of recent years, for one who has got variations for the limited-overs game? And so,

they took out R Ashwin and brought in leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal. He was perky, crafty, sensed big moments well — and in this tournament, has got the ball to drift more than he has ever done before. With him, India felt they could attack in the middle overs and not see it as a meandering construct — something where they need to hold the runs in check, and wait for their better seamers to come back. Now, they could make the batsmen think and work up a sweat in the middle overs as well. What else? How about someone who can go as low as any bowler in history? Enter Kedar Jadhav. He is seen as an amusing figure but on certain pitches, his style can be as effective, if not more, than specialist spinners. It's a mystery why he wasn't used on that Southampton track against Afghanistan — on

a sluggish, sticky surface where the ball peeled off like gum from a shoe. And so, someone like Bhuvneshwar Kumar can take his time to get fit without the team nudging the physio to look for a miracle cure. And once he gets over his bouncer fascination in his first two overs, Hardik Pandya has shown that he can keep it pretty tight, working the angles, slipping in the slower cutters, sprinkling the short balls. "The last two games haven't been perfect with the batting but we have found ways to win. The intensity in the first 15 overs on the field has been something really good," Virat Kohli would say later — and he is spot on. As far as Indian World Cup attacks go, the 1987 one was pretty good with Kapil Dev, Manoj Prabhakar, Maninder Singh and Ravi Shastri, but 32 years later, it's still difficult to

understand why they allowed Graham Gooch to sweep them out of the tournament. One can watch the highlights of how West Indies were felled and would get the sense of how it all came together. One of the balls of the tournament (Shami to Shai Hope), a heavy ball that startled the batsman (Shami to Chris Gayle), one that kicked up, seamed in but also presented the illusion that it was coming in a lot more than it did (Bumrah to Carlos Brathwaite), a classic quick nip-backer (Bumrah to Fabian Allen), a clever off-spun cutter (Pandya to Sunil Ambris), a googly (Chahal to Sheldon Cottrell), and one well-planned dismissal (a deep cover in, Chahal tempted Jason Holder with a flighted dolly outside off and the batsman obliged). And still, despite all this, India would need their batting unit to click together if they are to be more confident about pulling off something special in this tournament. The absence of Shikhar Dhawan has thrown the unit in disarray. KL Rahul still gets caught playing from the crease, the reason for his failures in Test match cricket in the last year. And then, it opens up the middle order. Everyone seems to be batting at least a position above their skill. Vijay Shankar, who invariably ends up driving inside the line so often that one is bound to nick his outer edge, Kedar Jadhav, who loves the feel of bat on ball, fishes at stuff that should be well left alone, and then Dhoni is dragged too early into the piece, having the unenviable task of judging the target to set, and how to keep the innings together. He should have been stumped on 8 in the 34th over when India were 154 for 4 — and who knows what would have happened had Hope, the 'keeper, pulled it off. He had two opportunities at it but kept groping for the ball in broad sunlight. And that was that. Dhoni struggled through for a while but didn't give it up, fought his way through and with more than a bit of help from Pandya, pushed India to a formidable total on this pitch. And then Indian bowlers came on and made everyone wonder what was all the fuss about.

DREAM DELIVERY

Shami's nip-backer from hell that extinguished all Hope

WHEN THE slow-motion replay came on, it almost felt like a doctored video — shopshopped to perfection. Something Alt News, the organisation that detects fake news, would be interested to investigate. It was perhaps the best delivery with the new ball this tournament — the Shami cracker to knock out Shai Hope. The dreamy seam presentation, the landing on the seam's edge, the jugging nip-backer from well outside off-stump, and the clattering of the leather on wood. When one saw it live, the first reaction was an audible gasp. Then a doubt. Was there an inside edge, you nagged the person sitting next to you. His jaw is open, neck craning at the television screen, waiting for the replay. In the middle, Shami is being mobbed by team-mates. One waits for the replay to clear the doubts. If you are at the ground, the big screen shows the replays faster than tel-

evision. But it's at a distance. One isn't sure whether there was any contact. Back to the idiot box. That gasp again when visual confirmation comes. Perhaps, it hit a crack. The next visual shows no such spot on the pitch. Then one looks at Shami's fingers — in the subsequent replays that is. To see if he did something special, a special whip from the middle finger. Nothing again. You give up and just enjoy the whole spectacle again — the whistling seam and the extent of deviation. We have had bowlers with great seam presentation before. S Sreesanth, for example. The difference lies in how Shami gets the ball whooshing through the air with a slight inward tilt. That enables the ball's seam to land on its rough jagged edges as opposed to falling on its stomach, so to speak. Sreesanth's would invariably land straight, with no tilt. And hence, he wouldn't get the ball to deviate in as much. This one from Shami was a beast: perfect in every way. It needed every little part to fit in the whole. To make the whole greater than

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the sum of its parts, if you will. From the seam to the tilt to the jagged-end landing. Everything had to be synchronised for the bedazzling result. That's why these deliveries don't happen often. Indians have bowled far more vital nip-backers in the World Cup before. The most famous is Balwinder Singh Sandhu's peach to startle Gordon Greenidge, shouldering

arms in the 1983 World Cup final. He even put it on his visiting card. Dilip Vengsarkar tells a lovely story about it. "Ballu was organising his best boyfriend and I told him to invite Gordon Greenidge, that will help him get a bigger crowd. Gordon said of course he'll play. Sandhu then gave him his visiting card and Gordon saw that there was a batsman who was shouldering arms and the stumps flying. He asked Sandhu who that was and he replies, 'Of course that's you, Gordon!' Shami is a far better bowler than Sandhu, of course, but it's levelled by the fact that Greenidge was a legendary batsman, several levels higher than Hope. And it was the World Cup final. So, that would still remain the greatest nip-backer bowled by an Indian but this gem of a delivery is worth salivating over for the sheer wizardry behind it. There are bowlers like Mohammad Asif and Dale Steyn, more talented than Shami who have great in-cutters but their technique is understandable. And to an extent repeatable. And that's why their nip-backers

were recognised as great and batsmen looked out for it. You could see an Asif or Steyn's middle finger actually cutting the ball. Going from off to leg. This ball from Shami was different. It was almost as if he was bowling an inswinger. James Anderson does it and the ball curves in the air. But this was a seaming delivery that changed its destination after landing. A seaming ball that was delivered as if it was a swinging delivery, if that makes sense. More reasons for anti fake-news sites to investigate. The World Cup has already produced a few gems so far: Mitchell Starc's corker of a yorker to knock down Ben Stokes, and don't forget his wicked inswinger to take out Joe Root. There was that delicious ripper of a ball from Kuldeep Yadav that drifted away before it spun in viciously to make the classy Babar Azam look like a novice. And now this. Close matches, great deliveries — after feeling it might be a dud after the first 10 days, the World Cup has come alive and how.



Shami's delivery jugged back viciously after landing well outside the off-stump to sneak through the gap between Shai Hope's bat and pad before hitting the off-stump.

LEADING SCORERS

500 David Warner (AUS), 496 Aaron Finch (AUS), 476 Shakib al Hasan (BAN)

LEADING WICKET-TAKERS

19 Mitchell Starc (AUS), 16 Mohammad Amir (PAK), 16 Jofra Archer (ENG)

