

THREE-JUDGE BENCH TO HEAR REVIEW PLEA NEXT WEEK

SC Refers Central Govt's Plea to Review Ruling on SC/ST Act to Larger Bench

SC order intended to prevent misuse of law seen working against community, says govt

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New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday referred to a larger bench a plea by the central government to review its order of March 2018 that created a mechanism to prevent misuse of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, which had sparked fears among the community about possible dilution of the law.

A bench led by Justice Arun Mishra referred the issue to a three-judge bench, which will hear the review plea next week. The 2018 ruling by a bench led by retired Justice AK Goel had created a mechanism comprising senior police officials to ensure that no false cases were registered and no innocent people were harassed.

The bench had said that an FIR

could be registered only if the high-powered panel approved it. The panel was mandated to take a decision within a week.

The top court justified its order, citing widespread misuse of the law to harass people. Every citizen's right to life, liberty and reputation was precious, the court had said. No one can

COURT'S VIEW IN 2018

Every citizen's right to life, liberty and reputation was precious. No one can be harassed by filing a false case: SC

be harassed by filing a false case, the court had said.

The decision sparked an agitation by Dalit groups and organisations over what they alleged was a dilution of the law. They cited the low conviction rate to claim that this would further tone down the rigour of the law and encourage violence against them.

Taking note of their claims, the

Central government appealed for a review of the court's ruling. The court had initially dug in its heels to say that hadn't diluted the law in any way and had only created a mechanism to prevent misuse.

However, it later agreed to review its ruling. A bench comprising Justice UU Lalit, who was part of the earlier bench, reviewed its decision on Friday only to refer it to a larger bench.

The three-judge bench will address the concerns of the community and the central government on its earlier ruling and decide whether to recall or modify it to allay their fears by next week.

The decision sparked an agitation by Dalit groups and organisations over what they alleged was a dilution of the law

An FIR could be registered only if the high-powered panel approved it, according to the ruling

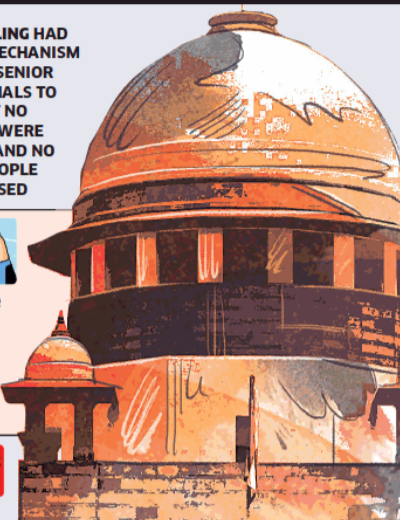
The protesters cited the low conviction rate to claim that this would further tone down the rigour of the law and encourage violence against them

AFTER 2018 VERDICT

THE 2018 RULING HAD CREATED A MECHANISM COMPRISING SENIOR POLICE OFFICIALS TO ENSURE THAT NO FALSE CASES WERE REGISTERED AND NO INNOCENT PEOPLE WERE HARASSED



An FIR could be registered only if the high-powered panel approved it, according to the ruling



Tejas LCA Clears 1st Arrested Landing Test in Goa



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New Delhi: The naval version of India's indigenously developed light combat aircraft (LCA) Tejas performed its first 'arrested landing' on Friday, reaching a major milestone towards preparing for carrier-borne operations.

The LCA Navy has been developed by the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) under the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). "This was the first ever arrested landing of the LCA (Navy). It happened at Goa's shore-based test facility and will pave the way for the indigenous platform to undertake aircraft carrier landing demonstration on board INS Vikramaditya," a DRDO official said.

The navy plans to deploy the LCA on the indigenous aircraft carrier (IAC-1), which is now under construction.

"After this test, the data needs to be analysed through sensors on the aircraft and what parameters were achieved. The next step will be decided thereafter. We know that more such tests will be done. Carrier compatibility tests will also be done," the official said. Though the aircraft was a twin-seater, only Commodore A Maolanakar, who is the programme's chief test pilot, flew the sortie. The second test pilot, Captain Shivanth Dahiya, was the landing safety officer, who cleared the aircraft for landing. Arrested landing is one of the phases in the flight testing of the aircraft. Other tests before this phase included 'ground roll' and 'ground run'.

The flight made the arrested landing when a hook under its tail snared the arrester barrier — a wire on the ground — and came to an abrupt halt.

GOA'S UNIFORM CIVIL CODE IS LARGELY A PORTUGUESE LEGACY

No Attempt to Enact Uniform Civil Code Despite Repeated Court Appeals: SC

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New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday expressed dismay over the failure of successive governments to enact a uniform civil code despite repeated appeals from the court. Delivering a verdict in a divorce case of a Goan couple, a bench of Justices Deepak Gupta and Aniruddha Bose, said that Goa — where the Portuguese Civil Code of 1867 is applicable to all — was a 'shining example' of a state that had enacted and implemented the UCC.

Muslims have no right to verbally divorce their wives nor can they prac-

tice polygamy. All property in a marriage is divided between spouses in case of a divorce, Justice Gupta noted. Goa's uniform civil code is largely a Portuguese legacy and continues to operate as Indian law with some parts repealed or modified. Though founders of the Constitution in the Directive Principles of State Policy said "that the state shall endeavour to secure for citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territories of India, till date no action has been taken," Justice Gupta said. "Though Hindu laws were codified in 1956, there has been no attempt to frame a uniform civil code applicable to all citizens of the country despite exhortations of this court in the case

GOA AS AN EXAMPLE

'Goa is a shining example of a state which has a uniform civil code applicable to all, regardless of religion except while protecting certain limited rights'

of Mohammed Ahmed Khan Versus Shah Bano and Sarla Mudgal & Others Versus Union of India & Others."

BACKGROUND

The list was created after Operation Blue Star in 1984 and the Kanishka bombings in 1985

Following several visa denials over the years, Sikh NRI groups had opposed to what they described as "systematic discrimination"

The blacklist was earlier pruned in 2016 ahead of the Punjab assembly polls

Names included mostly of non-resident Sikhs, who were residing in the USA, UK and Canada

312 Sikh Foreign Nationals Removed from Govt Blacklist

They can now visit India; only two names remain in the list

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New Delhi: With an eye on Delhi elections, the Centre on Friday has removed names of 312 Sikh foreign nationals from the 35-year-old blacklist and only two persons figure in the list now.

Last month, the home ministry allowed a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to reopen the 1984 anti-Sikh riots cases, including the one involving Madhya Pradesh chief minister Kamal Nath. The blacklist was earlier pruned in 2016 ahead of the Punjab assembly polls. It was put in place by the Congress government after Operation Blue Star in 1984 and the Kanishka bombings in 1985. The names included mostly non-resident Sikhs, who were residing in the United States, UK and Canada.

Operation Blue Star was an Indian Army offensive against Khalistani militants holed up in the iconic Golden Temple in Amritsar. Officials said the decision was taken after a committee headed by special secretary of the home ministry along with officers of the security agencies examined the names of these Sikh for-

eign nationals.

"The government of India has reviewed the Adverse List containing 314 foreign nationals belonging to Sikh community and brought it down to just two," an official said. These Sikh foreign nationals are now eligible to avail visa services to visit their families in India and reconnect with their roots, they said. This review is part of a regular exercise.

One official explained that many of the blacklisted names were arbitrary. Entire families had been blacklisted on ground that did not bear up to close scrutiny. The blacklist was never publicly acknowledged. But following several visa denials over the years, Sikh NRI groups started voicing opposition to what they described as "systematic discrimination".

In the 1980s, many Sikh Indian nationals and foreign nationals belonging to the Sikh community were involved in anti-India propaganda. Some Sikh Indian nationals fled India to escape authorities, became foreign nationals and took asylum outside India.

They were placed in the blacklist till 2016, making them ineligible to avail visa services to visit India.

PC to Remain in Tihar Jail As CBI Court Rejects Plea

ED says it would seek his custody after 15 days on completion of background probe

Our Political Bureau | Agencies

New Delhi: A CBI court on Friday dismissed former Union minister P Chidambaram's plea to surrender before the Enforcement Directorate for custodial interrogation in the INX media case. The court refused to offer relief to 73-year-old Chidambaram, detained in Tihar jail although CBI has completed his interrogation in the case.

Appearing for ED, solicitor-general Tushar Mehta had on Thursday told the CBI court that choosing the date of arrest was not the right of an accused. "It's always the right of the probe agency to take a decision in the interest of effective investigation," the ED affidavit filed before CBI Judge Ajay Kumar Kuhar said. ED said that it would seek his custody after 15 days, on completion of ED's background probe. ED requires to interrogate six persons before his custodial interrogation and it was investigating money laundering which reaches beyond this country, he had said. Chidambaram's counsel Kapil Sibal, however, alleged this argument was an 'afterthought' and



ULTERIOR MOTIVE

ED's arguments a 'ploy' to keep Chidambaram in Tihar for long, alleges PC's lawyer Sibal

'ploy' to keep Chidambaram in Tihar for long. Sibal said that ED had come to the Congress leader's house to arrest him on August 20 and 21 but did not want to do so now to ensure that he remains in jail. Earlier this week, the high court had asked the CBI to file its response to Chidambaram's bail plea. Chidambaram was remanded to 14-day judicial custody on September 5.

ENSURE MEDICAL WELLBEING: COURT

Shivakumar to Remain in ED Custody Till Sept 17

Our Political Bureau

New Delhi: A local court on Friday extended the custodial interrogation of senior Congress leader DK Shivakumar by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) till September 17.

Seeking five days of remand, the ED counsel alleged that Shivakumar needs to be questioned on materials seized by the agency relating to properties worth over ₹800 crore and 317 bank accounts spread in 20 countries. The court, however, directed the agency to ensure Shivakumar's medical wellbeing, a concern raised by his defence counsel opposing further remand and seeking the Congress leader's bail.

"Although police custody cannot be claimed and granted mechanically, it is also true that the investigating agency has to be given a chance for a free, fair and full investigation," the court said. "The pace of investigation cannot be truncated



when some material document and record remains to be put to the accused." The agency further contended that Shivakumar's 23-year-old daughter possessed assets worth over ₹100 crore.

The ED on Thursday had examined Aishwarya, Shivakumar's daughter, in connection with the money laundering case. She was quizzed for nearly seven hours.

As per available information, Aishwarya was quizzed on her Singapore visit, which she made with her father in July 2017.

Week's a Long Time

ET takes a look at events that shaped national and state politics over the past seven days

ANIRBAN BORA

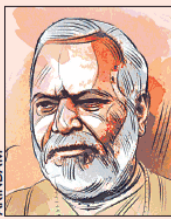


Unnao Rape Survivor Completes Recording Statement at Temporary Court in AIIMS



NEW DELHI: Unnao rape survivor on Friday completed recording her testimony at a temporary court set up at the AIIMS hospital in the case of alleged sexual assault on her by expelled BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar in 2017. The woman deposed on a wheelchair before District Judge Dharmesh Sharma during 'in-camera' proceedings held at Jai Prakash Narayan Apex Trauma Centre. Sengar and co-accused Shashi Singh were also brought from Tihar jail for the proceedings. -PTI

SIT Questions BJP Leader Chinmayanand for Seven Hours, Seals his Bedroom



SHAHJAHANPUR: The special investigation team probing a student's rape allegation against BJP leader Swami Chinmayanand questioned him for seven hours and sealed the bedroom at his home here, sources said on Friday. The SIT, formed on the orders of the Supreme Court, also brought the college student to the former Union minister's home on Friday morning, continuing the search for evidence in her presence. SIT members and a forensic team also spent six hours at his Divya Dham residence, where the bedroom was later sealed. -PTI

Fearing Blacklisting, Pak PM Plans to Meet FATF Leaders

GEARING UP FOR MID-OCT MEET Imran Khan could also utilise the opportunity to focus on Kashmir issue after failing to garner international support on his narrative

Seeking Support

Pakistan's evaluation by the Asia Pacific Group in Bangkok failed to match up to projections

Of the 27-point action plan of the FATF, Pakistan has cleared only six

Of the 40 FATF technical compliance parameters, Pakistan was 'non-compliant' on 30 parameters



Of the 11 effectiveness parameters, Pakistan was adjudged 'low' on 10

Lack of prosecutions and demonstrable action against 'globally designated terrorists and terror networks' key reason for this adverse report on Pakistan

The APG has sought answers for 125 questions from Pakistan to take the country out of the grey list

APG would present its report in FATF Plenary and Working Group meetings from October 13-18 in Paris

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New Delhi: Pakistan, after failing to satisfy the Asia Pacific Group (APG) under Financial Action Task Force (FATF) during recent meetings, has planned to lobby at leadership level of FATF countries over the next two weeks ahead of the group's mid-October meet that will take a call on blacklisting the country.

Fearing that the October meet could blacklist Pakistan, PM Imran Khan is planning to meet leaders of several FATF states in New York over the next two weeks on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, ET has reliably learnt. He could also utilise the opportunity to focus on Kashmir issue after failing to garner international support on his narrative over the past month. This list of proposed meetings includes countries from Asia, Europe and Africa. Simultaneously, Pakistan's foreign

DETAILED ANSWERS



Pak has submitted answers to 125

FATF questions on steps taken on money laundering and terror financing

ign minister also plans to meet his counterparts from FATF states in New York with same objective.

Pakistan on Monday submitted detailed answers to 125 questions posed by the FATF on moves taken for anti-money laundering and combat financing of terrorism.

The report was submitted by Pakistan's minister for economic affairs, Hammad Azhar, who is heading the 15-member delegation to Bangkok for the FATF negotiations, which will continue till Friday. The APG of the FATF began its 4-

ON FATF RADAR



Pak has been on FATF radar for its complicity

with terror groups such as Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed

day meeting on Monday in Bangkok to review the compliance report of Pakistan.

The APG has sought answers for 125 questions from Pakistan to take the country out of the Greylist. APG, as per the FATF's procedures, would present its report in the FATF Plenary and Working Group meetings scheduled for October 13-18 in Paris.

Pakistan has been under the FATF radar for its complicity with terror groups such as Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed,

among others. Besides, terrorists like Hafiz Saeed are regularly serenading anti-India rhetoric and collecting "donations."

On August 22, the APG had placed Pakistan in the Enhanced Expedited Follow Up List (Blacklist) for its failure to meet standards.

In its 22nd annual meeting held in Canberra, the APG found Pakistan was non-compliant on 32 of the 40 compliance parameters of terror financing and money laundering.

The Pakistani delegation, headed by State Bank of Pakistan Governor Dr Reza Baqir, had then briefed the APG on steps taken for improving Pakistan's Anti-Money Laundering and Countering Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) framework as well as the steps for ensuring effective implementation of the FATF action plan.

In June, the FATF had given Pakistan four months (till October) to improve its counter-terror financing operations in accordance with the agreed plan.

African Nations Seek Wider Defence and Counter-terror Ties with India



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New Delhi: Africa has sought wider defence and counter-terror ties with India at the just-concluded mega review meet between the two sides in New Delhi.

Hailing India's non-exploitative approach to the relationship, its traditional partners in Eastern and Southern Africa, and some Western African states have called for deeper partnerships that would cover training and joint exercises, ET has learnt. The two sides may soon hold a comprehensive security dialogue.

Senior Indian officials, African Union representatives and Delhi-based envoys from the continent focused on measures to expand the defence and security partnerships in the backdrop of Delhi's attempts to revive support and training programme for militaries in African countries, according to officials.

The defence ties are being revived as India seeks to emerge as a net security provider in Africa amid common challenges from terrorism and piracy, according to one of the officials quoted above.

India has had defence partnerships with Zambia, Nigeria, Ghana, Ethiopia, Botswana, Uganda, Namibia and Mozambique. It now wants more nations in the ambit. In the post-colonial Africa, India had assisted in setting up a military academy in Ethiopia, a defence college and a naval war college in Nigeria, building the air force in Ghana and training the security forces in many countries. Several army chiefs from Nigeria were trained in India.

"Aware of the many security challenges that the world is facing today not only because of terrorism, but also due to many other problems such as climate changes, a profound dialogue between the two sides on defence and security is expected in the near future," Nejmehmedine Lakhali, the Tunisian ambassador to India and co-chair of the African Heads of Mission's India Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) sub-committee, told ET.

The summit also reviewed the various development ties that gathered momentum in the past few years. The partners discussed new areas of cooperation such as solar energy, digital technology and traditional medicine.

India appreciated Africa's support for International Solar Alliance, said a joint statement.

Toeing a Different Line

Pashtun Tahaffuz Movement (PTM) was launched by human rights activist Manzoor Pashteen to address the grievances of Pashtuns



It is the second largest ethnic group in Pakistan

PTM could be second Bangladesh movement in the making

PTM leaders barred from travelling to various parts of Pakistan and abroad

Pashtuns have been bearing the brunt of Pak's so-called 'war on terror' for nearly two decades

Pak's Pashtun Body Refuses to Join PM's J&K Rhetoric

Pashtun Tahaffuz Movement has issued a statement on social media supporting India

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New Delhi: Pakistan has not only had limited success in mobilising international opinion against India on the Kashmir issue since August 6 but it has also failed to influence some key domestic constituencies. They include the Pashtun Tahaffuz Movement, the principal body representing Pashtuns in Pakistan, which has rejected Prime Minister Imran Khan's recent call to

Jammu & Kashmir. It pointed out in the statement that Jammu & Kashmir is now "free from shackles of Pak-sponsored terrorism and vested interest groups."

It called on US President Donald Trump to put pressure on Pakistan to shun violence in J&K instead of offering to mediate between the two neighbouring countries.

PTM leaders alleged in their statement that Islamabad has displaced 100,000 Pashtuns from their native place during the past decade and the ISI was behind the disappearance of 3,300 Pashtun youth in recent times.

The PTM advised Imran Khan to learn from India how to handle the crisis in Kashmir without using fighter jets against its own population, according to the statement.

The Pakistan government, according to people who did not wish to be identified, wrote to the founding members of the PTM, demanding that they agitate against India. But the PTM leaders and other Pashtun leaders residing in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa claimed in their statement that during the past 15 years, 362 Kashmiri civilians may have been killed at the hands of forces in Kashmir

FREE J&K



PTM said on social media that J&K is

now "free from shackles of Pakistan-sponsored terrorism and vested interest groups"

come out on the streets in support of Pakistan's narrative on Kashmir, ET has reliably learnt.

PTM, a social movement for Pashtun human rights based in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, is gaining in prominence as a champion of Pashtun rights in Pakistan. It organised a long march on January 26 last year, demanding rights and justice for Pashtuns including in cases of enforced disappearances.

The movement's leaders have refused to agitate against India on the Kashmir issue despite letters from the ruling administration and have instead issued a statement on social media supporting India for its decisions on

LEARN FROM INDIA



PTM advised Imran Khan to learn from

India how to handle the Kashmir crisis without using fighter jets against its own population

CALLING ON TRUMP



Pashtun body has called on US President

to put pressure on Pakistan to shun violence in J&K instead of offering to mediate

In comparison to the demolition of 120,000 houses of Pashtuns during the past two decades, leading to the loss of scores of lives.

In recent times, the Pakistan army has destroyed 25 markets of Pashtuns in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), impacting the livelihood of hundreds of locals, the PTM has alleged. The Pakistan military allegedly used F-16 fighter jets against the Pashtuns and bombed 1,200 schools.

PTM has instead presented a list of demands, including creation of a truth and reconciliation commission for all those killed extrajudicially in alleged fake encounters.

Conservationists Ask Govt to Tread Carefully on Parl Redevelopment

Say correct way is to first have a proper heritage assessment plan of historic area

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New Delhi: The government needs to tread carefully with its ambitious plan to redevelop Parliament and Central Vista, conservationists have warned. They say the correct way is to first have a proper heritage assessment plan of the historic area and then invite architecture firms to plan the redevelopment.

The government's move to redevelop Central Vista and Parliament and develop a new Common Central Secretariat to house ministries has raised the hackles of conservationists. Heritage experts say that though there is a need to redevelop the area and there is nothing "objectionable" about the government's plan, there is a need to tread carefully.

Conservationist AGK Menon said, "Nobody can deny that there is a need to redevelop. I am a conservationist but we cannot freeze heritage. But at the same time the government needs to tread carefully. Before we start conservation there's need to do an assessment about what needs to be done in these sensitive areas. After all we need to decide the parameters."

The Central Public Works Department (CPWD) has floated a request for proposal inviting national and international architecture firms for "development or redevelopment of Parliament Building, Common Central Secretariat and Central Vista (a 3-km stretch extending from Rashtrapati Bhawan, North and South Blocks till India Gate)". Menon said: "This is not a simple conservation exercise. It is complicated. When INTACH undertook projects inside Rashtrapati Bhawan and when Delhi sent its nomination for World Heritage City, a heritage impact assessment was done. It was then discussed with Central Vista Committee and Delhi Urban Art Commission (DUAC) before we even started on these projects."

Heritage conservationist KT Ra-

Heritage Value

CPWD, the primary construction arm of the govt, floated an RFP (request for proposal) on Sept 2

It has invited national, international design and architecture firms for the development or redevelopment of Parliament Building, Common Central Secretariat and Central Vista



Heritage experts & conservationists have warned the govt to tread carefully

Conservationists say there should first be a heritage impact assessment, approved by DUAC and Central Vista committee

vindran also stressed on the need for a vision document, discussed and passed by experts in DUAC and Central Vista Committee. "It is not a parcel of land in Gurgaon. We are talking about a national asset, an iconic place which is symbolic of national pride. There are critical questions that need answers - most important impact on climate. We are talking about cutting trees from the area which forms Delhi's green core."

MODI'S SEPT 9 LETTER

Free Villages of Single-use Plastic: PM to Sarpanchs

Wants heads to create awareness on risks during 'Swachhta Hi Seva' period

Our Political Bureau

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has asked all sarpanchs to ensure their villages were free of single-use plastic before Diwali. In a letter to sarpanchs on September 9, Modi asked them to create awareness in their villages on the issue.

"I want to make an appeal to you to generate awareness and inform every person in your village on the risks and hazards of single-use plastic during the 'Swachhta Hi Seva' period from September 11 to October 2. You can also motivate them for taking a pledge on October 2 to make your village free of plastic waste, to collect all plastic

waste from their surroundings at an identified place in the village and to ensure its safe disposal with the support of the local administration. This way we will be able to make our villages, towns, schools and surroundings free from plastic waste by this Diwali," the PM said in his letter.



PM wants sarpanchs to motivate villagers to collect all plastic waste and ensure its safe disposal

India." The PM has stressed that plastic pollution has a highly detrimental impact on humans, other living beings and the environment. "In my Independence Day speech, I urged all of you to discard the use of single-use plastic such as plastic bags," the letter said.

NEW AMBEDKARITE PARTIES ALSO CAUSE FOR WORRY

BSP Moves to Woo Traditional Base in Maha, Haryana and Jharkhand

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New Delhi: The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) is putting a special focus on its traditional supporters in Maharashtra, Haryana and Jharkhand, to ensure that they don't desert the party in the upcoming assembly polls.

"The biggest source of worry for the BSP is its decreasing vote share in different states. Moreover, there are new Ambedkarite parties which compete with the BSP in different states," a person in the BSP said. "The challenge for the BSP, particularly in Maharashtra, is to retain its old base."

The party, which has been passing through a tough time after its poll debacle in Uttar Pradesh, is going solo in the assembly polls in

Ground Work

BSP is going solo in Assembly polls in Maharashtra, Haryana & Jharkhand

MAHARASHTRA Party has deployed RS member Ashok Siddarth & old party hand Ram Acal Rajbhar to remain in touch with workers

HARYANA BSP's national gen secy & RS member Satish Chandra Misra has started touring different areas

JHARKHAND BSP has started process to select candidates for 81 seats

the three states. In Maharashtra, it has deployed Rajya Sabha member Ashok Siddarth and old party hand Ram Acal Rajbhar to remain in touch with workers. "We have already started

our preparation to contest all the 288 seats in the coming assembly polls on our own in Maharashtra," BSP state unit president Suresh Sakhar told ET a few days ago. The party is seeking to put up a go-

Indian Films Lack Authenticity, says Prasoon Joshi

CBFC chairman takes a dig at films made on the plight of farmers; says when farmer's son makes a movie on farmers, the pain would be felt

Our Political Bureau

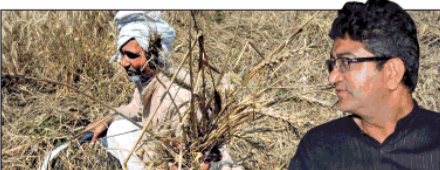
New Delhi: Central Board of Film Certification chairman Prasoon Joshi has said the film industry lacked authenticity in content.

He took a dig at films made on the plight of farmers which apparently failed to depict their struggles. He said filmmaking must be 'democratised' by opening it to more people.

"Someone who has made a film on farmers by watching another film

on farmers will never be able to do justice to it. He can only come up with fancy-dress farmers. When a farmer's son will make a movie on farmers, the pain would actually be felt," Joshi said.

Speaking at an event at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts on Hindi Diwas, Joshi said when he had joined advertising, he was often a spectacle during office meetings for speaking Hindi and as there were just a few bilingual people. "They used to think of me as a grassroots person. Times have



changed now. At that time, it was just thinking in English and back translation," he said. He also said there was a need to revive and sup-

port languages that have lost audiences. Hindi has an innate attractiveness about it and should accommo-

PRASOON JOSHI CBFC chairman
Someone who has made a film on farmers by watching another film on farmers will never be able to do justice to it. He can only come up with fancy-dress farmers

date words from other languages without insecurity. "Words represent culture. I cannot translate go-bar and I cannot accept mitti is ter-

racotta," the CBFC chief said. It was also important for Hindi speakers not to ridicule those who struggle to speak it. "Mistakes will happen, but they eventually disappear. Hindi should not be presented as a space of threat," he added. The writing in films and advertising is often governed by what works well in the market. However, this is not the case with literature. "There are warriors in literature who are committed to the cause of writing. However these fields often influence each other," Joshi said.

ABVP Wins 3 Posts in DUSU Polls



Press Trust of India

New Delhi: The RSS-affiliated ABVP on Friday won three posts, including that of the president, in the Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU) polls, while the Congress-backed NSUI bagged the secretary's post. Celebrations broke out outside the counting centre in Kingsway Camp with supporters dancing to dhol beats and rose petals being showered on the winners.

The winners wearing garlands then proceeded to the varsity's Arts Faculty, from where they will take out a victory march. Ashwini Dahiya of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) defeated National Students Union of India (NSUI)'s Chetna Tyagi for the president's post by a margin of over 19,000 votes, the highest ever.

"Our presidential candidate has won by a margin of over 19,000 votes, the highest ever margin in recent times. We have won on three posts. We intend to start 'Mission Sahas' to empower women," Monica Chaudhary, National Media Convenor, ABVP said.

E-assessment Scheme Notified for Taxpayers

Our Bureau

New Delhi : The government has notified the e-assessment scheme for taxpayers, paving the way for faceless assessment aimed at bringing transparency in tax administration.

The scheme envisages creation of a national e-assessment centre.

The centre will serve notices to the assesses specifying the issue for selection of their case for assessment and, after a response is received from them within 15 days, it will allocate the case to an assessing officer using an automated system, the notification said.

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the scheme will be rolled out from October 8.

"A person shall not be required to appear either personally or through authorised representative in connection with any proceedings under this scheme (e-assessment) before the Income-tax authority at the national e-assessment centre or regional e-assessment centre or any unit set up under this scheme," the notification said.

In case assesses or their authorised representatives want personal hearing to make their submissions or present their case before the Income-tax authority they will be allowed to do so "in any unit" and such hearings shall be conducted exclusively through video links or any other such facility, it said.

It does away with the term 'officer' and instead uses the term 'units' as in assessment unit, verification unit, technical unit and review unit as per their functions in the e-proceedings. Interactions between units are also to be conducted via electronic mode.

States May Support GST Relief on Hotel Tariffs

TAX ISSUE Move to boost tourism; consensus unlikely on GST cut on auto

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New Delhi: India's apex decision body for goods and services tax (GST) could consider relief for the hotel sector, a proposal that is likely to be backed by states that remain divided over a reduction in the rate on automobiles and biscuits.

The GST Council will also discuss two notes circulated by the Fifteenth Finance Commission—one on rate rationalisation and the other on revenue projection for both the Centre and the states for five years.

Finance Commission chairman NK Singh will also meet state finance ministers amid demands from the states for extending the GST compensation period, ending in 2022, by another three years to 2025. If the suggestion is accepted by the commission and subsequently by the government, it could mean extension of the compensation cess for three more years.

States are amenable for GST cut on hotel tariffs of ₹7,500 and more to 18% from 28% or to raise the threshold for the higher tax rate, a government official said. Goa and Rajasthan, which generate substantial revenue from tourism, have been pushing for relief on this front. The council will consider proposals for GST rate rationalisation for auto and other sectors as well, but there doesn't seem to be a consensus among stakeholders. The auto industry has demanded that

Not on Same Page

STATES MAY BACK GST CUT ON HOTEL TARIFFS OF ₹ 7,500 AND MORE

Goa & Rajasthan have been pushing for this

The 2 states earn huge revenue from tourism



Industry wants 18% GST rate instead of 28%

States like Bihar & Kerala against it

West Bengal & Punjab likely to back decision

CENTRE WOULD WANT STATES TO SHARE THE BURDEN IF RATES ARE CUT

GST on passenger vehicles be cut to 18% from the 28% to help turn around a sales drop amid a broader economic slump. Biscuit makers want GST on biscuits priced below ₹100 kg to be cut to 5% from 18% now.

The decision now rests with the GST Council but the Centre would want the states to share the burden if rates are lowered. "Taxes alone are not the reason behind slowdown in automobile sales... Personally, I don't feel rate reduction can be taken up at the current juncture," said Sushil Modi, Bihar deputy chief minister and finance minister. Kerala has also opposed any reduction in the GST rate for autos.

West Bengal and Punjab may back a reduction in GST for the automobile sector due to the economic slowdown.

Amit Mitra, West Bengal finance minister, had previously written to finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman

backing a move to cut GST on hybrid and vehicles that conform to Bharat State VI emission norms.

In an earlier letter to the Centre, Punjab finance minister Manpreet Badal sought a comprehensive review of tax rates for automobiles, textiles, micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and real estate to provide a boost to the slowing economy.

Shared burden

As in the past, states want the Centre to shoulder the entire burden of the revenue loss on account of any tax cuts. But the Centre itself may not be keen on cuts if it has to compensate states for the losses. The Centre is already witnessing pressure on this front, having promised a 14% compounded annual growth rate over FY16 revenue collections.

Exports Fall 6% in Aug, Imports at 3-Year Low

Trade deficit narrows to \$13.45 b from \$17.92 b from a year earlier as imports decline sharply to \$39.58 b

Our Bureau

New Delhi: India's exports declined for the second time in three months in August as global trade tensions and sluggish demand brought down shipments by 6.1%. Imports shrank by 36-month low of 13.4% on year in August, led by non-oil and non-gold sectors, indicating weak domestic demand in a slowing economy, according to official data released on Friday.

Exports slipped to \$26.13 billion last month, pulled down by a decline in shipment of traditional, labour intensive sectors like cotton yarn, gems & jewellery, petroleum products, carpets, and handicrafts.

A sharper decline of imports to \$39.58 billion helped the country lower the trade deficit to \$13.45 billion in August from \$17.92 billion a year ago. However, the trade gap widened marginally from \$13.43 billion in July.

"The decline in non-oil non-gold imports in August, led by sectors such as transport equipment, machinery, coal and chemicals, provides a cautionary signal regarding the strength of underlying economic activity," said Aditi Nayar, principal economist at rating agency ICRA.

This was the worst decline in imports since August 2016 when imports fell 13.8% on year.

India's economic growth had plunged to a 25-quarter low of 5% in the June quarter. Private consumption growth plunged to 3.1% in the quarter from 7.2% in the trailing quarter. Non-oil and non-gold imports fell 9.33% to \$27.3 billion in August.

Oil imports declined 8.9% to \$10.9 billion while gold imports fell 62.5% to \$1.37 billion from the year earlier.

The increase in customs duty on gold and the recent spike in prices dampened imports, but Nayar said such imports may revive to some extent in the festive season.

Import Worry

Growth (%)	Export	Import	Trade deficit (\$b)
Jun	-9.71	-9.06	15.28
July	2.25	-10.43	-
Aug	-6.05	-13.45	13.45

Global doldrums

US-China trade war ■ Brexit concerns ■ Iran curbs hit trade

Import dampeners	Growth (%)
Chemicals	-14.95
Machinery	-8.8
Petroleum products	-8.9
Coal, coke & briquettes	-23.75

Domestic demand slows ■ Non-oil, non-gold imports fall 9.3% ■ Indicates economic weakness



Imports of electronics goods, a major import item, declined 4.12% in August.

According to official data, 22 out of the 30 export sectors registered a decline year on year in August. Experts partly attributed the decline in exports to the US terminating preferential tariffs to India under the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) effective June 5. "Plastics and chemical exports were doing well especially because industry shifted out from China due to their strict pollution norms," said Ajay Sahai, director general of Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO). "We need to analyse the export of these products especially to the US where they are no longer getting GSP benefits."

US-China trade war, Brexit and developments in Iran further aggravated the problem of the world economy, the organisation said.

The World Trade Organisation had in April cut the global trade growth forecast for 2019 to 2.6% from 3% in 2018 on account of rising trade tensions and increased economic uncertainty.

No Flexi Fares for Humsafar Trains

New Delhi: In a relief to passengers, railways has removed flexi-fare scheme from its premium Humsafar trains and has also decided to introduce sleeper class coaches, a senior official said on Friday. —PTI

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tender Notice No. MGS/EL/G/E-Tender/19-20/13 Date : 11.09.2019. On line (through E-Tendering) for the following work is invited by DRM/Elect/MGS for and on behalf of the President of India from experienced and financially as well as technically sound contractors including those enlisted with the Railway, CPWD, BSNL, MES, PWD and other public sector undertakings.

1. Name of Work with its location : No. MGS/EL/G/E/19-20/11 Sub : (Electrical work of officers Rest at Lodhi Road New Delhi Under SR/PHM/GS. Approx. cost of the work : ₹24,03,710.13, Earnest Money : ₹48,100/-, Tender closing Date Time : 04.10.2019 15:00 Hrs. Website particulars of E-Tendering : www.ireps.gov.in.

2. Name of Work with its location : No. MGS/EL/G/P/19-20/11 Sub : (Electrical work) - Extension of existing pilgrim siding at Mughalsarai. Approx. cost of the work : ₹2,54,456.54, Earnest Money : ₹5,100/-, Tender closing Date Time : 04.10.2019 15:00 Hrs. Website particulars of E-Tendering : www.ireps.gov.in.

Sr. Divl. Elect. Engr. (G)/ECMR/Mughalsarai PR/1197/MGS/Elect/T/19-20/36

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tender notice no. -SG 664-1-DHN-2019-20. Sealed tenders are invited for and on behalf of president of India from competent and experienced contractors for execution of the work mentioned below:-

1. Name of the work its location and Completion Period : 'Design, manufacture, supply, installation, testing and commissioning of Solid State Interlocking (Electronic Interlocking) System conforming to RDSO Specification No. RDSO/SPN/19/20/05 and RDSO/SPN/20/20/1 for big ways with latest amendments at Patherdi Station in Dhanbad Division of E. C. Railway, including all Indoor & Outdoor Signaling Works'. Section : Dhanbad Division. Nine (09) Months. 2. Approx. cost of the work : ₹12,96,56,201.71 (₹ Twelve Crore Ninety Six Lakhs Fifty Six Thousand Two Hundred One and Seventy one paisa only). 3. Earnest Money to be deposited : ₹ 7,96,300/- (₹ Seven Lakhs Ninety Eight Thousand Three Hundred Only). 4. Date & Time for Submission of tender and Opening of tender : 15.10.2019 up to 12.00 Hrs. and 15.10.2019 at 12.30 Hrs. 5. Website : www.vedantaonline.com.

particular, Notice Board Location where complete details of tender can be seen and Address of the Office from where the tender form can be purchased etc. : www.ecr.indianrailways.gov.in, on the Notice Board of Principal Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer / East Central Railway / Hajipur & Dy. Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/Works, East Central Railway Dhanbad and can be purchased from the office of the Principal Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer, East Central Railway at Hajipur or from the office of the Dy. Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/Works, Dhanbad (2nd Floor) Divisional Railway Manager Office, East Central Railway Dhanbad (Jharkhand) - 826001.

Dy. Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/Works, ECR/Dhanbad PR/1196/DHN/SG&T/17/19-20/56

KOLKATA METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY e-NIT No.11/SE/C-I/R&B/KMDA of 2019-20

Superintending Engineer, Circle-II, R&B Sector, KMDA, Unnayan Bhawan, Block-A, 7th Floor, Salt Lake City, Kolkata-700091 invites online tender from reliable, resourceful, bonafide and experienced firms/companies/individual contractors for the following works - Name of Work, Value of the Work, Earnest Money are as follows - 1) Renovation & strengthening with Cement Concrete road commencing from Main Road to the House of Biswanath Sarda and Banstala to Shanti Sangha of Dakshin Kalyanpur under Shikharbaili GP under Baraipur Paschim Assembly, District- South 24 pgs; Rs. 1,18,33,472/-; Rs.2,36,669/-; 2) Renovation & Strengthening with Bituminous road commencing from the House of Sunil Pal to Paranki Para Bottala of Shikhar Ball under Baraipur Paschim Assembly, District-South 24 pgs; Rs.98,28,122/-; Rs.1,96,562/-; 3) Same as SI No.2 from Dhap Dhap Bazar to Badfartala under Dhap Dhap-II GP under Baraipur Paschim Assembly, District-South 24 pgs; Rs.1,96,44,321/-; Rs.3,92,886/-; Time of Completion: 120 days each for SI. No.1,2&3. Online Bid submission last date & time: 16.10.2019 upto 14.00 hrs. For details contact the above office or visit both our websites.

KMDA/T-410/Campaign/3/19-20 Visit : www.kmdaonline.org / www.wbtenders.gov.in

PUNJAB STATE TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001 Corporate Identity No. : U4010PB2010SGC033814 www.pstcl.org O/o Dy. CE/TS (D),Telefax: 0175-2207774, E-mail : se-trd@pstcl.org

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

Type of tender	Open tender
Name & complete address of office giving tender	The Chief Engineer/TS, 3rd Floor, Shakti Sadan, PSTCL, Patiala
Tender Enquiry No.	STQ-1042
Scope of work	L/I/O of one ckt of 400 kV D/C (Quad Moose) line from 400kV Jalandhar - Kurukshetra line at proposed 400kV S/Sn Dhanasru - 5 Km (approx.)
Starting date of downloading	Date of publication
Last date of downloading	14.10.2019 upto 11:00 hrs.
Last date/time for bid submission	15.10.2019 upto 11:00 hrs.
Date/time for opening of bids	17.10.2019 at 11:00 hrs.

Detailed NIT/Specification may be downloaded from PSTCL E-Tendering website <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in/nicepp/app> Corrigendum if any, will not be published in newspapers. As such the website may be visited regularly for updates.

Dy. CE/TS (Design), PSTCL, Patiala, DRP/RP/ C7119

Northern Coalfields Limited (A Miniratna Company) (A subsidiary of Coal India Limited)

Tender Notice

Open Tender is invited under e-procurement mode No.NCL/SGR/MMD/39/19-20/Open/ (1) 219A1054/55 Date, 05.09.2019 & Global Tender under e-procurement mode No. NCL/SGR/MMD/40/19-20/Global/ (2) 219A1047/56 Date, 05.09.19 (3) 21903055/57 Date, 05.09.2019 for (1) Procurement of AAA Conductor (2) Supply of BEMO Bucket Spares of 24/96 Dragline (3) Supply of Shaft Pinion for 1070 Dragline of Bina Project. Estimated cost (Lakh): (1) Rs.216.75 (2) Rs.234.66 (3) Rs.23.79 & Due date of opening on (1) 09.10.2019 (2) 21.10.2019 (3) 21.10.2019.

Open Tender is invited under e-procurement mode No. NCL/BB/PUR/OTE/19-20/48 Date, 09.09.2019 for Procurement of Spares Parts for Shovel (BE700), Swing Pump Assembly, Estimated cost (Lakh): Rs.11.78 & Due date of opening on 08.10.2019

Open Tender is invited under e-procurement mode No.B/PUR/OTE/ 6166/78 Date, 08.09.2019 for Procurement of Capacitor Bank at Bina Project, Estimated cost Rs. 17,09,82,00.00 Due Date of opening on 15.10.2019

Note:- Above tender(s) has/have been uploaded on website <https://coalindiatenders.nclncln.coalindia.com> All prospective bidders are advised to visit aforesaid website for participation against the above tender(s). Full details of above tender(s) are also available on websites "nclncln" or "eprocure.gov.in" or "tenders.gov.in".

R-71

BHAKRA BEAS MANAGEMENT BOARD (POWER WING)

Corrigendum-1 NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER Dated : 29.07.2019 N.I.T. No. 462/PHD/Bh-I/465 Name of office : Chief Engineer / System Operation, Planning & Design (Power Plant) Die., BBMB (PW), Flat No. 75 SLDC Complex, BBMB, Industrial Area, Phase-I, Chandigarh. Tel-Fax: 0172-2637035

Name of Work : Design, Manufacturing, Testing, Supply and commissioning of 2 nos. three phase, 3300/415 volts-100 KVA, 2 nos. three phase, 3300/415 volts-400 KVA, 1 no. three phase, 3300/415 volts-1000 KVA and 2 nos. three phase, 3300/415 volts-2000 KVA auxiliary Dry Type Transformer for Left Bank Power House Bhakra.

Tender document Download Start Date & Time 09.08.2019 from 1100 Hrs. Last date and time of uploading complete prequalifying document 09.10.2019 upto 1700 Hrs.

Tender documents download End Date & Time 05.11.2019 upto 1700 Hrs.

Last date & time of online bid submission 06.11.2019 upto 1700 Hrs.

Date & time of online bid opening 07.11.2019 from 1100 Hrs. onwards The PQ documents, Bids are to be submitted online. For cost of specification, Earnest money Deposit and detailed NIT, please visit BBMB website <http://bbmbeproc.abcpocure.com>, www.bbmb.gov.in

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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Shweta Parganekar W/O, Lokesh Vijay Parganekar R/o B-12 Flat 1202, Tower B, Unitech Horizon, Sec Pl-2, Gr. Noida-201310, Dist. GB Nagar UP have changed my name to Shweta Mathur for all purposes.

I, Usha Rani Pathania W/O Ranbir Singh Kharyal R/O R-146, Gate No.1, Mall Apartments, Mall Road, Delhi-54 shall henceforth be known as Usha Kharyal.

I, Nishika Kalra S/O, Ramesh Kumar Kalra R/O 381, Dr Mukherjee Nagar Delhi 110009 have changed my name to Nishika for all purposes.

I Mohan Singh S/o Late Ratan Singh R/o 292/5 S.F. Vaishali Ghaziabad UP. Have changed my name to Mohan Singh Bisht permanently

I, Raj Rishi Chahal F/o Manju R/o, Flat No. 503, Tower-D4, KJL Platinum Plus, Sector-77 Faridabad have changed the name of my minor daughter to Tina Chahal.

I, Manisha D/o Rohitash Kumar R/o RZG-264, Raj Nagar-2, Palam Colony, Delhi-77 have changed my name to Manisha Kumari for all future purposes.

I Rizwan s/o Mohd Suleman R/o H-119/120 New Seelampur Delhi -53 has changed my name to Mohd Rizwan. Permanently

KAPIL S/o Jugal Kishore R/o E-1636, Dabua Colony, NIT Faridabad have changed my name to Kapil Aggarwal.

I, Puttilal S/o Baiju R/o ghashi pur wa, sumrava sitapur, sumrawan UP-34 have changed my name to Amit Kumar

190X/S Suresh Kumar R/o VIKAS/1, Block-353, Brahmanawas, Julana, Jind HR have changed my name to Vikash.

SIMRAN D/o Kashmeer Singh R/o Titoda Mohalla Scheme No.2, Alwar Rajasthan have changed my name to Simran Kaur.

I Satypal Sharma @ Satyapal Bhardwaj @ Satya Pal Sharma @ Satpal Sharma S/o B S Sharma R/o H.No.39, Sarai Julana New Delhi are same persons.

I Divya Rani Jhawar D/o Pawan Kumar Jhawar R/o H.No-297C, East Faridabad have changed my name to Divya Jhawar for all purposes.

I Pratibha Rani Chauhan W/o Rajkumar Chauhan R/o H.No. 812, Near Shiv Mandir, Garhi Brahmanan, Dist.Sonapat have changed my name to Pratibha Chauhan for all purposes.

I, Rajeev Singhannia R/o C-1/70 Keshav Puram, Delhi-35 have changed my minor son's name from Divyansha Singhania to Divyansh Singhania for all purposes.

I, Abhishek S/o, Ajay Kumar Singh R/o 718, Sector-14, West Patel Nagar, ND-06 have changed my name to Abhishek Singh for all purposes.

I, Mansi Nath W/o Prashant Kumar Nath R/o C-121 DDA, Jats phase-I katwaria sarai ND-16 hereby declare that both Mansi Roush and Mansi Nath is one and same person only.

TIMES interact

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I Ramesh Kalra S/O, Dayal Dass Kalra R/O 381, Dr Mukherjee Nagar Delhi 110009 have changed my name to Ramesh Kumar Kalra for all purposes.

I, Reji Bhaskaran S/o P Bhaskaran R/o B-76, Raksha Vikas Apartment, Vikaspuri, N.Delhi-110018 that my minor son name has been wrongly written as Pranav Raged 15 years in his school records but his actual name is Pranav R Bhaskaran.

I, Sushila Negi W/o Late Mahipat Singh Negi R/o H.No. 386, Sec-16, Faridabad have changed my name to Shashi Negi for all purposes.

I, BHUVAN Aggarwal R/O A-001,Hyde Park,ITTL NIMBUS, Sector-78, Noida, U.P. 201301 Hereby declare that my fathers name is wrongly spelled in my Passport as Surinder kumar Aggarwal.My fathers Name's correct spelling is SURENDER KUMAR AGGARWAL for all purposes.

IT is notified that my original exam certificate of main senior secondary exam of year 2017 & 2019 and Roll no. 7190251&9208118 issued by cbse has been lost.Name. Abhishek A n a b h i s h e k S e c t o r - 3,Rohini,8785120237

IT is notified for the information that my original qualifying examination certificate of main secondary examination of year 2018 and Roll No. 8198875 issued by the CBSE has been actually lost Name SAHAJ ARORA,WZ-283/322,2nd Floor, Gali No 10 Maddwalli Gali, Vishnu Garden, ND-18, M: 9871644567

MY Original Certificate & Mark sheet of Main Senior Secondary Examination Year 2016 Roll No. 9616357 Pass out from CBSE has been actually lost. Rakshit Jain R/o s/3090 street no. 4 raghubar pura no. 2 gandhi nagara delhi-110031

IT is notified for the information that my Original Qualifying Grade cum Examination Certificate of Main Secondary Examination of Year 2012 and Roll No 8205212 issued by CBSE has been actually lost. BHANU PRATAP SINGH DEV, G-1, police compound, teen murti marg, chakrapuri New Delhi-110011, 7982164914

IT is for general information that I Dablu Saw, S/o Sh. Neman Saw, R/o B-442, Kusumpur Bahari, Vasant Vihar-1, ND-57 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Sahadev in my daughter educational documents. The actual name of mine is Dablu Saw, S/o Sh. Neman Saw respectively which may be amended accordingly. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

I Komal Devi @ Komal Bhardwaj @ Komal Sharma W/o Satyapal Sharma R/o 11, Sector-13, Sarai Julana New Delhi are same persons

LOST & FOUND

LOST of Demand letter of Plot Number. 233 Pocket No C2 Block No. Sector No. 37, ROHINI RESIDENTIAL SCHEME, Delhi Please ret-urn If anyone found: Madan Mohan Arora: 9818920022

I, hitherto known as Sita Kumari Gautam alias Sita Gautam D/o Shyam Bihari Lal Gautam W/o Suman Kumar Gautam residing at 182-D/DC-2, Vikas Puri, Delhi-110018 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Sita Gautam.

I Amit Kumar S/o Kishan Chand R/o A-1-A/42B, Janakpuri N.Delhi-58 have changed my minor daughters names from Mehak Kumar Arora to Mehak Arora & Tanishka Kumar Arora to Tanishka Arora for all future purposes.

Sanjay Bhatt S/o Maluk Ram Bhatt R/o RZ -1 1ind Floor, Street no.1 NSIT Bajaj Enclave, Kakrola, Delhi-78 declare that name of mine and my father have been wrongly written as Sanjay Kumar & Maluk Ram in my all education documents. The actual name of mine and my father are Sanjay Bhatt & Maluk Ram Bhatt which may be amended accordingly.

I Vishan Dass S/o Rammu Ram R/o Flat No. 159, Jai Apartment, Sector-9, Rohini, Delhi-34 have lost my Original Share Certificate & Original Allotment of aforesaid flat issued by TAB/CCHS somewhere. If anybody found, please contact on above address.

IT is notified for the information that my Original Qualifying Examination Certificate of main Senior Secondary Examination of year 2018 and Roll no. 8749471 issued by CBSE has been lost. Moksh Sharma- RV-10 AF Station Palam M.8847576139

I Vishan Dass S/o Rammu Ram R/o Flat No. 159, Jai Apartment, Sector-9, Rohini, Delhi-34 have lost my Original Share Certificate & Original Allotment of aforesaid flat issued by TAB/CCHS somewhere. If anybody found, please contact on above address.

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IT is notified for the information that my Original Qualifying Examination Certificate of main Senior Secondary Examination of year 2018 and Roll no. 8749471 issued by CBSE has been lost. Mok

Market Trends

STOCK INDICES		% CHANGE
Nifty 50	11075.90	0.85
Sensex	37384.99	0.76
MSCI India	832.11	1.15
MSCI EM	2357.80	0.65
MSCI BRIC	625.11	0.65
MSCI World	9283.11	0.25
FX 40	21843.33	0.83
Nikkei	21988.29	1.05
Hang Seng	27352.69	0.98
Strait Times	3211.49	0.52

OIL (\$)		BOND
DUBAI CRUDE	58.15	10-YR YIELD
Absolute Change	0.46	6.64
		0.03

GOLD RATE	
Prices per Troy Ounce (\$)	
US	India
OPEN 1506.50	1654.28
LAST 1509.70	1658.84

*At 10.30pm, After adjusting for import duty, Indian spot gold lower by \$1.83 to US Comex gold price on Friday. The premium on local gold is due to tight supply following import curbs.

FOREX RATE (₹-₹ Exchange Rate)	
OPEN	LAST
71.01	70.93

Finmin, Bank Heads Meet Next Week on Rate Transmission

Our Bureau

Kolkata: The finance ministry has called a meeting next week with the heads of state-run banks to review transmission of rate cuts by the central bank and the availability of cash for non-bank lenders amid concerns over an economic slowdown.

Finance secretary Rajiv Kumar will chair the meeting on September 19 in New Delhi.

Follow-up action on rate cuts by the Reserve Bank of India will be the top of the agenda at the meeting.

The RBI has lowered its policy rate by 110 basis points since February, but banks have transmitted only 40-55 basis points of that to customers.

This has prompted the ministry to tell banks to link their loan products with repo rate from October 1 for quicker transmission.

The secretary will also review the purchase of pooled assets of NBFCs, including housing finance companies under the government's credit guarantee scheme. The scheme was announced in the budget to infuse liquidity of up to Rs 1 lakh crore to the NBFC sector that is under stress, but has not gained traction as yet.

INVESTORS LAP UP UNDERVALUED SBI LIFE SHARES

SBI Raises up to ₹3,500 cr by Selling 4.5% Stake in Life Arm

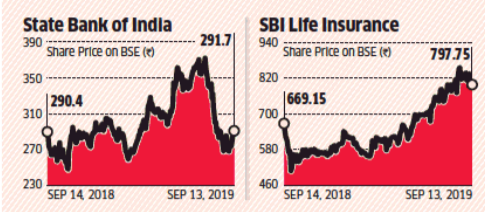
Our Bureau

Mumbai: The offer for sale (OFS) of SBI Life Insurance by its promoter State Bank of India was subscribed more than two times on the end of the two-day offer. The largest public sector lender has raised about ₹3,500 crore by offloading 4.5% in its insurance arm.

The bank aims to grow loan book after it merged its associate banks last year. The lender aims to improve net interest margin, a gauge of profitability, this financial year through credit expansion.

SBI has raised about ₹3,000-3,500 crore via perpetual bonds that offered 8.75% two weeks ago. A group of mutual funds, insurers and a large private bank subscribed to those debt papers. Perpetual bonds have no fixed maturity but normally come up with 'call' option—an exit route for investors.

The OFS got bids for 8.52 crore shares from institutional and re-



tail investors as against 4.05 crore shares on offer. The retail portion was subscribed 76% of the base size by Friday noon. The retail quota received bids for 34,13,442 shares against the base size of 35,00,000 shares.

Earlier on Thursday, the quota for non-retail portion saw combined bidding for 8.5 crore shares, covering 2.7 times the base size of 3.5 crore shares. The aggressive non-retail bidding prompted parent SBI to exercise the option to retain oversubscription up to one

crore shares over the 3.5 crore base shares put on offer.

The floor price for the sale was fixed at ₹770 per share while SBI has received bids at about ₹783 per share. Shares of SBI rose 1.69% to ₹291.70 on Friday while SBI Life Insurance stock gained about a percent to close at Rs 798.

SBI held a 62.10% stake in the life insurance company as on June 30, while BNP Paribas has 5.2%. Most of the analysts are bullish on SBI Life as the stock was undervalued compared to other list-

RCap Gets ₹2,480 cr Via RNAM Stake Sale

Reliance Capital, the flagship company of ADAG Group, has raised about ₹2,480 crore by selling 17.06% stake in Reliance Nippon Life Asset Management in three successive offers. The last offer-for-sale of ₹1,000 cr was subscribed 2.6 times on Thursday. Our Bureau

ed insurance companies.

"Valuations for SBI Life remain at a discount from HDFC Life and, hence, comfort on risk reward remains high," said Pritesh Bumb, analyst, Prabhudas Lillidher. "We estimate EV CAGR growth of 19% over FY20 & FY21 with strong RoEVs of 19% and retain buy with a target price of Rs 906."

SBI Life reported robust growth in premium at 40% YoY to Rs 6,655 crore, led by strong growth in new business premium at 52% YoY and renewals at Rs 3,150 crore, up 32%.

RBI Issues Draft Guidelines for Licensing SFBs 'On-tap'

Our Bureau

Mumbai: The Reserve Bank of India on Friday issued draft guidelines for 'on-tap' licensing of small finance banks (SFBs). Existing non-bank lenders, micro-finance institutions, Indian professionals with more than 10 years of experience in the banking system, and local area banks can apply for on-tap licences.

"Existing NBFCs, MFIs and local area banks in the private sector, that are controlled by residents and having successful track record of running their businesses for at least a period of five years, can also opt for conversion into small finance banks after complying with all legal and regulatory requirements of various authorities and if they conform to these guidelines," the regulator said.

After a review of the performance of existing SFBs, RBI had in June announced it would put out draft guidelines for 'on-tap' licensing of SFBs, in a move to encourage competition. Stakeholders can send suggestions and comments on the draft guidelines to the central bank by October 12.

Currently, seven small finance banks work on the holding company structure, which is the promoter of the bank. AU Small Finance Bank, Capital Small Finance Bank and Suryodad Small Finance Bank are exceptions where promoter holding is directly with individual investors.

As per the draft guidelines, the minimum paid-up voting equity capital requirement has been raised to Rs 200 crore from Rs 100 crore in the guidelines issued in November 2014. However, for primary (urban) cooperative banks, desirous of voluntarily converting into SFB, the requirement will remain at Rs 100 crore in the initial phase.

The promoters' stake will have to be brought down to a maximum of 15% within 15 years, as against existing norm of 26% within 12 years, from the date of commencement of business of the bank.

RBI has also allowed existing payment banks to apply for converting to a SFB. "If an existing payment bank desires to convert into a small finance bank, they can submit their application, if they meet the eligibility criteria," it said.

AMID LIQUIDITY CRUNCH

BoFA ML Sees a Possibility of 50-BPS Rate cut in Oct Meet

Says lower lending rates hold key to growth bottoming out by early 2020

Our Bureau

Mumbai: Bank of America Merrill Lynch (BoFA ML) said there is a possibility of a 50-basis point cut in interest rates by the Reserve Bank of India in its upcoming monetary policy on October 4 following lower-than-expected August inflation data.

India's retail inflation climbed to a 10-month high of 3.2% in August but strayed below the central bank's 4% medium-term target, strengthening expectations of another rate cut next month. India's industrial production growth slowed to 4.3% in July, dragged mainly by manufacturing sector's poor show.

"Our base has the RBI MPC following Governor Das into another 'out-of-box' 35-bps cut," said BoFA ML in a note.

"We see the RBI MPC cutting to a 4.5% RBI repo rate by September 2020, if global growth weak-



ens," the bank said.

BoFA ML said lower yields or lending rates hold key to growth bottoming out by early 2020. Liquidity crunch is still hurting growth with India Activity Indicator of BoFA ML pointing to weakness for another quarter.

The bank said that time for lending rate cuts is running out with the October-March 'busy' industrial season around the corner. Transmission should be faster with banks linking 50% of their book to an external benchmark, it said. The bank plans to review its rate call after the September 18 meeting of the US Federal Open Market Committee. "As real lending rates are high-

er, a more negative real policy rate is surely justified, in CPI terms, especially as CPI inflation averages 100 bps above wholesale price index...further RBI rate cuts are necessary to bring real lending rates down to our estimated 7% potential (in old GDP series) to incentivise investments," said BoFA ML.

RBI had cut repo rate by 35 bps to 5.4% in its August policy review to revive the Indian economy. It was the fourth rate cut by RBI in a row. RBI had cut the policy rate by 75 basis points prior to the August policy review, through three rate cuts of 25 bps each in February, April and June.

HIGHEST EXPOSURE

Mashreq Bank has the highest exposure to Altico with ₹660 crore of outstanding term loans

risk to us since we have enough securities covering the loan," said a senior official from HDFC Bank.

A senior SBI official too said his bank's exposure was negligible. "I don't think we have such an exposure. And even if true, it is too small to impact us. It looks like a case of cash flow mismatch that can be resolved," he added.

Some analysts, however, said the incident has heightened risks of contagion in the debt-laden NBFC sector. "If a company with such marquee investors faces liquidity stress, then it raises concerns for others. Banks will be reluctant to lend to these companies, which could worsen the liquidity squeeze," said Nitin Aggarwal, an analyst at Motilal Oswal.

Yes Bank and UAE-based Mashreq Bank had provided a six-year, Rs 340-crore loan to Altico. On Thursday, the finance company failed to pay Rs 20 crore that was due as interest. The NBFC's total debt amounts to about Rs 4,000 crore.

Mashreq Bank has the highest exposure to Altico with Rs 660 crore of outstanding term loans, including external commercial borrowings. Among Indian lenders, HDFC Bank has the maximum exposure at Rs 500 crore, followed by Yes Bank at Rs 450 crore and SBI at Rs 400 crore, according to a report by India Ratings.

BANKERS SAY EXPOSURE SMALL Spokespersons from HDFC Bank, Mashreq Bank, Yes Bank and SBI did not reply to emails seeking comment. However, officials of these banks said on the condition of anonymity that their exposure was relatively small and manageable. "Our exposure is peanuts compared to our Rs 12-lakh-crore loan book. It is half of what has been projected in the India Ratings report. I do not think this account poses any serious

Investors Nervous

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Many NBFCs are yet to recover from the 2018 crisis, and investors are still nervous about the poor liquidity condition of many small players. On Friday, mutual funds were quick to take advantage of 'slidocking' rules put out by the SBI after the IL&FS crisis, which allow funds to segregate illiquid securities from defaulting companies till the fund houses are able to realise some value from these papers. The process creates two schemes—one that contains the illiquid paper and the other holding the good ones.

As and when fund houses are able to recover money from Altico Capital, it will be distributed to investors in proportion to their holdings in the segregated portfolio.

UTI Credit Risk Fund, with assets of Rs 3,536 crore, has an exposure of Rs 202.82 crore to Altico papers (5.85% of assets under management). Reliance Ultra Short Du-

ration Fund, with assets of Rs 3,258 crore, has an exposure of Rs 150 crore (4.61% of assets under management).

In a note, UTI Mutual Fund said existing investors shall be allotted the same number of units in the segregated portfolio of the scheme as in the main portfolio. "No subscription and redemption will be allowed in the segregated portfolio. The AMC will disclose separate NAV of segregated portfolio and enable transfer of such units on receipt of transfer requests," it said.

Reliance Nippon AMC said it will suspend all subscriptions in the affected fund from September 13 till further notice. The fund house said it had informed investors about the segregated portfolio in the scheme and given them time till September 24 to redeem units. The AMC said it will create a segregated portfolio on September 25.

Top Indian lenders including HDFC Bank, State Bank of India,

Cash Flow Squeezed

>> From Page 1

Bhel has told its employees that it needs to judiciously utilise cash for buying raw material, manufacturing operations and execution of projects and is making efforts to realise locked up cash.

"In the recent times, the company has been facing strain over the availability of funds for running its operations. Business sectors/units are taking special efforts to realise the cash locked up with customers due to various reasons. This financial condition thus demands that cash outflow on various accounts are regulated to survive in the current situation and cash availability is prioritised for meeting the working capital requirements for purchase of raw materials, manufacturing/operations and project execution. Under these compelling circumstances, it has been decided to suspend in-service encashment of earned leave," the company said in its circular issued to its employees.

Encashment of earned leave will, however, be allowed for meeting financial requirements for higher education or marriage of children and in case of resignation, superannuation, death, or accumulation of more than 300 leaves, Bhel told its employees. It did not re-

spond to an emailed query from ET. Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd has also suspended leave encashment. "HAL has stopped leave encashment for employees who are in service as part of austerity measure. However, those retiring are given the full benefits including the leave encashment," company spokesman Gopal Sutar said in response to ET's query.

However, the company is promptly paying all perks and allowances included in salaries. "We are hopeful of improvement in our financial position in near future," he said.

Analysts said HAL has receivables of over Rs 20,000 crore from the government, which has squeezed its cash flow and forced it to take advances from banks to pay salaries. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) has penalised staff that failed to meet deadline and broadband expansion targets in August, by way of deductions in their September salary.

An Internal BSNL memo, dated September 9, said a review of the achievements for August 2019 shows that many field units had failed to meet deadline and broadband targets for which "penalty in the form of recovery from salary in proportion to non-achievement of

targets is hereby imposed".

The memo, however, said that the salary deductions "would be rolled back," for employees who achieve their pending as well as September targets. A BSNL spokesman declined to comment.

In July, BSNL set aggressive salary targets in a bid to rein in operational losses. Its headline team was asked to retain the fixed-line user base as on March 2019, and at least double the fibre-to-the-home connections provided in FY19.

BSNL, which has 164,000 employees, had delayed salary payments for March, July and August this year. Its average monthly salary bill is Rs 800 crore.

The state-run telco, which operates in 20 circles barring Mumbai and Delhi, has accumulated losses of over Rs 57,500 crore since FY10 in the face of private competition. Losses in FY19 are likely to be another Rs 14,000 crore.

Another company where severe austerity was considered is South Eastern Coalfields Ltd, a subsidiary of Coal India Ltd, whose board took note of its audit committee's recommendation that all executives from the level of deputy general manager and above should lose 25% of their salary from August this year in view of the poor performance in the June quarter. The recommendation was rejected because Coal India adopts a uniform HR approach across subsidiaries.

Poll Ploy, says BJP Leaders

>> From Page 1

But the odd-even scheme is an "emergency measure," he said. "It cannot be implemented for too long. Details will be clarified and laid out in the next few days."

Top Bharatiya Janata Party leaders criticised Kejriwal for what they said was a poll ploy. Union roads minister Nitin Gadkari said that there was "no need" for odd-even in Delhi. "The new ring road we have built is helping reduce pollution in Delhi to a certain extent," he said. "Besides, my ministry is pursuing road works of about Rs 50,000 crore. Cleaning of Yamuna and other works to curb pollution are also underway."

Delhi BJP president Manoj Tiwari and party MP Meenakshi Lekhi were among those who attacked the scheme. "The main cause of pollution are trucks and the government has done nothing about it so far," Lekhi said.

Officials said modalities will be considered closer to November, depending on the quality of air. Last time, women drivers and two-wheelers were exempted, as were commercial vehicles such as cabs. Odd-even is already part of the graded response action plan (GRAP) devised by the Central Pollution Con-

trol Board and is to be implemented for private vehicles when the pollution level persists at 'severe plus' for 48 hours or more.

Kejriwal said the decision followed a week-long exercise to gather suggestions on tackling winter air pollution. "We received nearly 1,200 suggestions from citizens, experts, RWAs (resident welfare associations) and think tanks from Chicago and Harvard," he said.

"Odd-even is the best way to tackle it on a short-term basis," said a senior government official who is part of the team tasked with drawing up the plans.

Kejriwal had met experts from the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago (EPIC) and Washington-based World Resources Institute (WRI) on September 12 as part of consultations. The government cited a study by EPIC that showed pollution dipped 14-16% during the January 2016 edition of odd-even, when it was first implemented in response to the smog that had engulfed the city.

"Our April 2016 edition of the odd-even scheme had not worked, but odd-even is the best way to tackle vehicular pollution in the winter months ahead and we are bringing it in as per the feedback

FEAR OF BEING TERMED AS A DEFAULTER

Altico Moves HC Against AU Small Fin Bank Action

Maulik Vyas & Salkat Das

Mumbai: Altico Capital has approached the Bombay High Court to prevent any move by AU Small Finance Bank to declare the non-banking finance company a defaulter and transfer back about Rs 50 crore lying in an escrow account from a loan that the bank had given.

Altico is believed to have breached a covenant that could allow AU to move the deposit to itself against the loan of Rs 64 crore, people in the know said. Under their loan agreement, Altico must maintain a certain level of cash position below which AU could declare it a defaulter, said one of them.

The suit was filed earlier this month. On September 9, after hearing both parties, Justice AK Menon gave AU two weeks to respond to the petition and adjourned the case for further hearing on September 23.

Emails sent to Altico and AU did not elicit any response until press time Friday. Altico, which seeks credit opportunities in the real estate sector and is backed by Clearwater Capital Partners, Varde Partners and Abu Dhabi Investment Council, said on Thursday that it missed an interest payment to Dubai-based Mashreq Bank.

The company has called a lenders' meeting on Monday as it seeks to address the liquidity crunch.

"We are currently evaluating options to address the liquidity situation, and we request for a meeting of our lenders at 3.00 PM on 16th September 2019 to discuss the way forward," chief financial officer Dhruv Jain wrote in an email addressed to investors. ET has seen a copy of the email.

Seeking Relief

Bombay High court will hear the matter on Sept 23

Altico sought a lenders meeting on Monday

"Altico's cash balance as on August 31 stands at ₹515 cr"

It defaulted interest payment of ₹19.97 cr Thursday

Such default may lead to breach of other loan covenant

As recently as on September 4, a day before it approached the HC against AU, Altico told lenders that it had a cash balance of Rs 515 crore.

"Even in the present economic scenario, Altico continues to realise cash in excess of amounts contractually due from its borrowers," the company said in its note to debt investors on September 4. Altico's cash balance as on August 31, including from external commercial borrowing, was Rs 515 crore, with zero commercial papers (a short-term instrument) outstanding.

AU had extended an about Rs 100-crore loan facility to Altico. After the NBFC defaulted on payments, AU blocked the bank guarantee of NBFC.

Senior counsel Rahul Narichania, who appeared for Altico in the high court, said the company had received a notice dated August 30 from AU, informing of a "material adverse effect" arising as a result of inadequate cash balance and that this allowed it to recall the facility in accordance with standard terms and conditions and the terms of sanction letters.

Real Estate Exposure Bleeds Altico

Joel Rebello@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Little known Altico Capital became a talking point on Thursday, after the company said it missed interest payment of around Rs 20 crore on a loan from Dubai-based Mashreq Bank. This latest default by a non-banking finance company, when the sector is going through a liquidity crisis, has led to fears of the contagion spreading wider.

Formed in January 2004, Altico is promoted by Hong Kong-based \$6.5-billion private equity fund Clearwater Capital Partners with a 44.2% stake. Other investors are sovereign wealth fund Abu Dhabi Investment Council (33.60%) and US-based Varde Partners (22.2%).

The company's main focus is on lending to builders and other real estate companies. It had a loan book worth Rs 6,906 crore at the end of March 2019, according to information on its website. It slumped to a loss of Rs 13 crore in the half year ended March 2019 from a profit of Rs 100 crore a year earlier, mainly due to higher financing costs and a loss on the sale of loans to asset reconstruction companies (ARCs).

Financing costs increased to Rs 304 crore from Rs 193 crore a year earlier and Altico recognised Rs 294 crore as its loss from the transfer to assets to ARCs. Bankers said the company's exposure to illiquid real es-

tate debt is now coming home to roost.

"This company has a 100% exposure to real estate and it is the dirtiest of assets in today's times. The way things are, this company should just transform into a bad loan company because some of these loans are toxic," said an investment banker closely tracking the company. "Altico is backed by marquee investors, so it may well come out of this crisis, but how and for how long it will survive is a question mark."

The troubles for the company started when India Ratings & Research downgraded its debt to A+ from AA, citing a challenging environment for real estate development.

Altico's loan book has exposure to real estate developers, many of whom have weak and stretched credit profiles. In terms of the lifecycle, 31% (FY18: 26%, 1HFY19: 28%) of Altico's loan book was attributable to early-stage funding of projects as of July 2019, and about 70% of the loan book was under moratorium as of June 2019. Headline NPA numbers remained under control till March 2019 (GNPA: 1.8%), though incrementally pressure could build up as the loan book comes out of moratorium, the ratings firm said.

What the Studies Say

*A joint IIT-IIM study conducted by atmospheric scientists found that in the first phase of the odd-even scheme (January 2016), the levels of pollution declined by 2-3%. Three areas — Najafgarh, Shalimar Bagh and Greater Kailash — witnessed an 8-10% drop in pollution due to the scheme.

*In a recent study in the Economic and Political Weekly, Shuvabrata Chakraborty and Samir K Srivastava concluded that the scheme had not worked in 2016 because it kept commercial vehicles out of its purview and they are the main contributors to air pollution in Delhi.

years. In 2015, Delhi was hit by an outbreak of dengue with more than 15,000 cases and Kejriwal and his deputy Manish Sisodia were at the receiving end of the Bharatiya Janata Party-led opposition for being unable to control it.

DIFFERENT STROKES CG Power's board is looking for more independent directors to work towards avoiding an IBC resolution, while Gautam Thapar wants a reentry after denying all allegations of assets diversion

Ousted Thapar Seeks Reelection to CG Board

Kala.Vijayraghavan
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Mumbai: Gautam Thapar, ousted chairman of CG Power, has sought reelection to the board at the annual general meeting (AGM). His term as director comes to an end this month. The board, on the other hand, is seeking to reconstitute itself with more independent members, and "quickly get the company back on its feet," an executive close to the board told ET.

CG Power is starved of funds and it's estimated that the balance sheet will take a hit of ₹3,000 crore in the form of understated loans and advances that may have to be written off. "We are taking urgent measures and looking at multiple options so it (the company) does not have to" undergo resolution under Insolvency and

Bankruptcy Code (IBC), said people with knowledge of the matter. Thapar, ousted by the board over alleged diversion of assets without approval, has denied all accusations of wrongdoing and plans legal action against the move.

"The company needs funds desperately not just for working capital but to ensure it does not go" to bankruptcy court, said the person cited above.

Another person said Thapar didn't have enough shareholder support to get re-elected.

Officials close to Thapar said he has called his removal illegal based on an "inconclusive report" by Vaish Associates. On August 29, the board removed Thapar as chairman following a preliminary investigation by Vaish, which said money had been siphoned out of the company.

Thapar holds 8,574 shares of a to-

tal 626 million, a minuscule holding. As founder promoter of CG Power, he lost sizeable stakes after lenders invoked pledges against which he'd borrowed money. CG disclosed that advances to related and unrelated parties have been potentially understated by ₹1,990.36 crore and ₹2,663 crore, respectively, as of March 31, 2018. "Any shareholder with even ₹50,000 worth of shares can move a proposal to throw Thapar out as a director," said Shriram Subramanian, managing director of In-Govern, a Bengaluru-based advisory firm. "The board has to move fast on getting the company back on its feet although I feel the board and auditor reacted a bit late on developments. Why should the debt given to a holding company be written off? It has to be recovered from the ousted chairman."

The board will try to legally re-

cover as much as possible from Thapar, said people with knowledge of the matter. Thapar has written to the company seeking details of the August 30 board me-

eting along with any video recordings. Thapar has also asked whether the board had recorded his categorical rejection of the allegations against him.

NO ENTRY?

Thapar ousted by board over alleged diversion of assets without approval

Vaish Associates' report said money had been siphoned from CG Power

Officials say he has called his removal illegal, based on an "inconclusive report"

Thapar may not have enough shareholder support to get re-elected

8,574 shares of 626 million held by Gautam Thapar

Thapar lost stake when lenders invoked pledges against which he borrowed money



PRIVACY CONCERNS

Social Media A/cs Must Not be Linked to Aadhaar: Official

New Delhi: Social media accounts should not be linked with Aadhaar, a top government official told ET arguing that use of the 12 digit unique identity number should be carefully contemplated.

This comes after the Supreme Court (SC) has sought the central government's view on the matter after it agreed to hear the pleas of Facebook seeking the transfer of four public interest litigations (PILs) on such a linkage that were pending before the Madras, Bombay and Madhya Pradesh high courts.

"Aadhaar should not be linked with social media... There are a lot of concerns that are there around privacy which the earlier judgement had highlighted. The use of Aadhaar has to be very carefully studied from many angles,"

said the official. The person who did not wish to be named said that the Puttaswamy judgement which ruled that privacy is a fundamental right has to be carefully considered before any such linkage can be suggested. "Aadhaar is not material to tackling crime on social media," the official said.

ET had reported last week that the ministry of electronics and IT (MeitY) has written to the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) to seek its opinion on the matter. Even though MeitY is yet to have a final opinion on the matter, such linkage seems difficult since the unique identity number can be linked only with the welfare schemes and subsidies which are funded out of the Consolidated Fund of the India. Even if the Aadhaar number is linked to the social media account, it will serve no purpose since in the event of a crime, the government will require the mobile number or other details linked with the Aadhaar number which is not permitted under the Aadhaar Act.

UIDAI has not yet responded to MeitY so far, another official told ET. The SC meanwhile has deferred the matter for a hearing on September 24 on Friday. OUR BUREAU



IT (MeitY) has written to the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) to seek its opinion on the matter. Even though MeitY is yet to have a final opinion on the matter, such linkage seems difficult since the unique identity number can be linked only with the welfare schemes and subsidies which are funded out of the Consolidated Fund of the India. Even if the Aadhaar number is linked to the social media account, it will serve no purpose since in the event of a crime, the government will require the mobile number or other details linked with the Aadhaar number which is not permitted under the Aadhaar Act.

UIDAI has not yet responded to MeitY so far, another official told ET. The SC meanwhile has deferred the matter for a hearing on September 24 on Friday. OUR BUREAU

Give Status of Social Media Accountability Norms: SC

Bigger Issue Apex court will hear linking Aadhaar to Facebook a/cs, other tech platforms on Sept 24, says govt stand on accountability more important

Anumeha Chaturvedi
& Megha Mandavila

New Delhi | Bengaluru: The Supreme Court on Friday asked the government about the status of draft intermediary guidelines on social media accountability, and deferred the matter related to linking of Aadhaar with user accounts of Facebook and other online platforms to September 24.

Justice Deepak Gupta asked the government for its stance on the issue and the draft intermediary guidelines, stressing that the matter needs to be decided as early as possible. He said the court may give more time if the Union of India is considering framing something in the near future.

Draft amendments to the intermediary guidelines, which make social media companies more accountable for content posted on their platforms, were released by the government last year but have not been finalised yet.

The court reiterated that it will only hear a transfer petition at this point and not the merits of the case. In August, Facebook and WhatsApp sought the transfer of four similar petitions on linking social media accounts with Aadhaar from various high courts to the apex court.

The Tamil Nadu government has requested Supreme Court to permit Madras High Court to continue hear-

A 'Like' For Speed

Draft amendments to intermediary guidelines make social media cos accountable for content



They were released by govt last year but have not been finalised yet

Justice Deepak Gupta stresses that a stand needs to be taken expeditiously

SC says it will only hear a transfer petition at this point, not merits of case

SC orders all applications to be listed for Sept 24

FB, WhatsApp sought transfer of four petitions to apex court

Tamil Nadu requests SC to permit Madras HC to continue hearing

ring and decide on a case related to social media platforms sharing information on origins of messages with the state. The court ordered all applications to be listed for September 24.

The transfer petition was listed before a Supreme Court bench comprising Justices Gupta and Aniruddha Bose. Senior advocates Kapil Sibal and Mukul Rohatgi appeared for WhatsApp and Facebook, respectively. The Union government was represented by solicitor general Tushar Mehta, who said it is not opposed to transferring all cases to the Supreme Court. He added the high courts had spent a lot of time on the matter already.

The petition in the Madras High Court was filed by Antony Clement Rubin in July last year, seeking the linking of Aadhaar with social media user profiles for authentication of identity. A division bench of the Madras High Court has since expanded the scope of the petition to include issues such as curbing cybercrimes and intermediary liability within the ambit of the legal proceedings.

At the previous hearing, the Supreme Court asked for issuing of notices to the Centre and social media entities including YouTube, Google and Twitter on Facebook's plea for the transfer petition.

Panel may Examine Non-Personal Data Regulation

MeitY wants Infy's Kris Gopalakrishnan to head the committee and has sent a proposal to finmin

Surabhi Agarwal
& Megha Mandavila

New Delhi | Bengaluru: The electronics and IT ministry has proposed to set up a committee headed by Infosys cofounder S (Kris) Gopalakrishnan to look into non-personal data and suggest specific regulations for such data, officials said.

This comes after the ministry (MeitY) in its latest stakeholder consultation had sought suggestions on what should be the contours of a policy to govern non-personal data such as community data, anonymised data, and e-commerce data held by companies such as Uber, Google and Amazon.

Non-personal data is unlikely to be part of the Personal Data Protection Bill which is at an advanced stage of being finalised, a senior official told ET. "The government could possibly look at drafting a separate policy for non-personal data," said the official who did not wish to be identified.

The proposal for the panel has been sent to the finance ministry for approval and will be finalised after getting it, the official said.

The committee would have seven members: additional secretary or joint secretary of the department for promotion of industry and internal trade, Nasscom president Debjani Ghosh, National Informatics Centre director general Neeta Verma, Avanti Finance chief technology officer Lalithesh Katragadda, Ponnuram Kumaraguru of IIFT Hyderabad, non-profit organisation IT for Change's executive director Parminder Jeet Singh, and MeitY joint secretary Gopalakrishnan.

MeitY says there is need to recognise the economic dimension of data and suitable taxonomy

It said the government had set up a committee under Justice BN Srikrishna to deliberate upon the data protection framework, and the committee had strongly recommended that the government should consider a suitable law for community data.

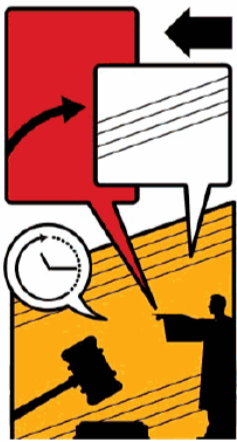
"...there is also a need to recognise the economic dimension of data and suitable taxonomy of data.

This could include aggregated data, derived data, anonymous data, e-commerce data, AI training data, etc. Access to and control over various kinds of data is critical for economic advantage," it said.

Privately collected digital data could be a necessary requirement for policy making, governance and public service delivery in many areas, the memorandum said.

The committee may co-opt other members for their specific inputs and shall try to submit its report as expeditiously as possible, it said.

In its feedback letters sent last month, MeitY had asked whether there was "a case to mandate free access to community data, anonymised data, e-commerce data, etc." It also asked whether the data protection authority (DPA) be the regulator in respect of all non-personal data.



OkCredit Raises \$67m from Tiger, Lightspeed

Funds raised by OkCredit over the past few months now total \$83 million

Aditi.Shrivastava1@timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: OkCredit, a cloud-based digital application provider for small and medium-sized merchants, has raised another \$67 million from existing investors Lightspeed Venture Partners India and US, and Tiger Global just three months after mopping up one of the largest Series A rounds. This takes OkCredit's total fundraising over the past few months to \$83 million.

OkCredit lets small business owners and their customers record credit and payment transactions digitally. Its app, which can run on a basic smartphone, helps automate the transactions of retailers with their customers and wholesalers. The company claims it's been growing 100% every month for the past six months, with more than 1.7 million active merchants.

OkCredit competes with Sequoia Capital and InfoEdge-backed KhatuBook and IndiaMART-backed Vyapar. These companies digitise transactions of small merchants and help in the recovery



of credit while reducing the need to maintain paper account books. As it expands, OkCredit is also fighting for the same merchant base that uses apps like BharatPe, Paytm and PhonePe and is aggressively trying to digitise small merchants.

In India, close to 40% of sales at a neighbourhood store are made on credit. However, over the past few years, technology has slowly penetrated and been adopted by this merchant base.

"Technology has moved from collecting payments in cash to using POS (point of sale) machines... But the one thing that has not changed is the fact that most customers still purchase goods on credit recorded in a notebook," said OkCredit's cofounder Harsh Pokharna.

"OkCredit represents a rare breed of companies that are discovering digital and viral growth in a market where traditionally, feet-on-street was the only acquisition strategy," said Harsha Kumar, partner at Lightspeed India. For every paid acquisition, two organic merchants join the platform, the company said.

In August, OkTech Inc, the parent company based in Delaware, brought in Rs 35.4 crore in share capital, regulatory filings showed. The company was founded in 2017 by Pokharna, Gaurav Kumar and Aditya Prasad.

India Inc Spent 14% More on Legal Fees in FY19

Reasons include new laws on insolvency over past 5 years

Maulik Vyas & Shallesh Kadam

Mumbai: Legal expenses of listed Indian companies increased 14% to over ₹38,660 crore (\$5.6 billion) during FY19 as new laws on insolvency and debt restructuring, among others, came into force over the past five years, according to data compiled by ETIT from annual reports.

That's a 49% increase from the ₹25,832 crore that the companies shelled out five years ago. The legal expenses include spending on litigation and arbitration, professional fees, regulatory filings, penalties and general stamp duty.

"There is a sudden increase in regulations and companies are left with no choice but to comply with them and that translates into higher legal spend," said Rajiv Choubey, director-law at ACC Ltd, a LafargeHolcim subsidiary.

"Several companies are going through debt restructuring—also companies are forced to



recover their dues and claims through arbitration, which results in huge costs."

Sectors such as manufacturing, mining and power are highly regulated. "Due to vexatious issues related to various clearances and approvals, it leads to litigation, increasing litigation spending," Choubey added.

According to data compiled by ETIT, research & analysis division of ET, legal spending of listed companies was 0.4% of total revenue of ₹95.7 lakh crore (\$1.3 trillion) in FY19 and 0.49% of total expenditure of ₹78.8 lakh crore.

Over the past five years, legal changes such as the enactment of the Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code have led to litigation, restructuring and mergers & acquisitions. According to Hemant Kumar, group general counsel for Larsen & Toubro, litigation for Indian companies has increased not only in India but in other countries. There are very few law firms and counsels in India and abroad that understand nuances of businesses and applicability of law. This dearth of good advocates has resulted in increased costs for firms.

The depreciation of the rupee, too, has contributed to higher legal costs.

Reliance Industries continues to be the biggest legal spender, with ₹2,083 crore, followed by Sun Pharmaceutical (₹1,437 crore), Infosys (₹1,324 crore) and Fortis Healthcare (₹1,081 crore). L&T is among the top five legal spenders among listed entities, with a total spend of over ₹943 crore.

NCLT Okays Start of Lanco Amarkantak Bankruptcy Process

Power co pleaded that proceedings were under RBI norms invalidated by Supreme Court

Mohit.Bhalla@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: The National Company Law Tribunal has allowed Axis Bank to start bankruptcy proceedings against Lanco Amarkantak Power after it defaulted on a ₹960 crore loan, court documents revealed by ET show.

The power producer had sought to quash proceedings, claiming Axis Bank had initiated them as per Reserve Bank of India guidelines of February 12, 2018, which were invalidated by Supreme Court.

Turning down the company's appeal, the tribunal noted, "The (Insolvency and Bankruptcy) Code will override RBI circulars issued under the banking regulation act."

The tribunal appointed KPMG's Saurabh Tikhmani as interim resolution professional to run the company during bankruptcy process.

RBI had authorised banks last year to initiate insolvency proceedings against companies within 30 days of loan defaults. Those guidelines have been replaced by a more 'borrower-friendly' regime that allows banks six months to resolve stressed accounts before going to bankruptcy court.

Lanco Amarkantak Power has generation facilities near the pilgrim town of Amarkantak in Madhya Pradesh. The 600 MW plant uses coal as the primary fuel. An additional 1,320 MW of capacity is under construction.



The company owes banks almost ₹12,000 crore. Attempts to resolve the default under previous schemes such as corporate debt restructuring have failed. The tribunal had ordered liquidation of Lanco group parent, Lanco InfraTech, last year after banks failed to agree on a resolution plan for the company during its insolvency proceedings. The parent company alone owes banks in excess of ₹45,000 crore.

Other Lanco companies undergoing insolvency include Lanco Kondapalli Power and Lanco Solar.

JSW Moves NCLAT for Immunity from Claims on Bhushan

To contest distributing profits earned during insolvency period to financial creditors

Our Bureau

Mumbai: JSW Steel has moved the appellate tribunal to seek immunity from any future claims arising from the investigations for alleged money laundering frauds at Bhushan Power and Steel that it is acquiring for ₹19,700 crore under the bankruptcy law, the company announced on Friday through a stock exchange filing.

Challenging the September 5 NCLT order allowing it to acquire the 3.5 million tonne plant, JSW Steel will also contest the clause that asked for profits earned during the insolvency period to be distributed among the financial creditors. The NCLAT has agreed to hear the appeal on Monday, said one person aware of the developments.

"...we hereby inform you that on detailed examination of the terms and conditions of the NCLT Order approving the Resolution Plan, it has come to our notice that the approval contains certain modifications. Further, certain important reliefs sought by the Company have also not been granted. The Company has therefore appealed against the said Order dated September 5 before the relevant judicial forum," JSW Steel said in a notification on the stock exchange.

In the last few months, two banks—Punjab National Bank and Allahabad Bank have declared loans



worth ₹5,580 crore given to the company collectively as fraudulent.

With the Delhi High Court April ruling—that held the money laundering law above the bankruptcy law—JSW Steel is worried that company assets may get attached as "proceeds of crime" and prevent it from successfully turning the company around. It had sought this relief from NCLT but the tribunal threw its hands up saying it cannot grant the relaxation as it would amount to interfering with other statutory authorities.

JSW Steel has offered ₹19,700 crore upfront cash for the company and has also agreed to infuse ₹350 crore to revive operations. Bhushan Power and Steel owes ₹47,141 crore to lenders.

EVs on Radar as Well

From Page 1

"It's more in the NCR (National Capital Region) and northeast regions and these cars are sold in UP, the northeast and J&K," said a person with knowledge of the matter.

Thieves target new models that gain in popularity and compact SUVs have been the flavor of the season for some time as these can be used for commercial and private use. Though most have immobilisers, thieves have devices that can break the code.

Car companies such as Hyundai, Maruti Suzuki and Mahindra & Mahindra hold regular reviews with insurance companies, police officials, dealer partners to tackle organised car thefting. Hyundai's recently launched Venue seems to have held its own. It has inbuilt tracking along with notification and immobilisation systems as well as a geofencing feature. The latter sounds an alarm through a notification alert when the car crosses a set perimeter. Hyundai has sold a little over 18,000 Venues and no theft cases have been reported yet.

Many dealerships install anti-theft devices as an after-purchase fitment, with the cost ranging from Rs 900 to Rs 5,000.

"Theft ratios are low at these dealerships," said a senior insur-

ance company official. "If all dealers come together and decide to promote anti-theft devices, the problem can be addressed to some extent."

Insurance companies are working with automobile trader associations, transport authorities and police departments to suggest mechanisms to deal with such thefts.

Car manufacturers, through dealerships, have tightened the process of issuing duplicate keys. Customers are instead asked to change all the locks—the cost varies across models. Electronic tracers are being installed on some cars.

Thieves target electric vehicles (EVs) too. "In EVs, the battery is an important component. In Delhi, e-rickshaw battery thefts have been high," said Kumar of Digit Insurance.

"Battery is the expensive part in EVs, so even if the cost goes down, premium may not," said Sanjay Datta, head of underwriting at ICICI Lombard General Insurance. "The cost of replacing the battery is high and the chances of battery theft are high too."

Once telematics is embedded in vehicles, tracking will become seamless and help bring down thefts, said experts.



Govt Plans a Pvt Sector Core Team for Stats of the Nation

Govt is planning a core team comprising private sector data crunchers to help increase the scope and quality of official statistics collection. **Yogima Seth Sharma & Kirtika Suneja** report

The ministry of statistics and programme implementation (MoSPI) is in talks with the ministry of skills development and entrepreneurship to build skill development courses and set criteria to rope in enumerators through private agencies.

"There is a shortage of enumerators and we are looking at some capacity building for core survey work," said an official in the know of the details but said there are no numbers to corroborate how many statisticians the country can produce.

Consider this: The ongoing Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), that is India's first computer-based survey, had around 10% sanctioned posts and above 700 people were hired on contract basis for investigatory and supervisory roles.

The two ministries are in preliminary

ECONOMIC CENSUS OF 2013

58.5 m establishments
128 m workers

95.5% establishments had 1-5 workers
1.37% employed 10 or more workers

UNINCORPORATED ENTERPRISES SURVEY OF 2015-16

63.4 m unincorporated non-agri enterprises
51.3% in rural areas, 48.7% in urban

UPCOMING SURVEYS

- Unincorporated enterprises to include trusts, SHGs
- Annual survey of services
- Time use survey



nary stages of talks to build skill development courses and set criteria to rope in enumerators.

While the skills development min-

istry would select agencies to train people to become enumerators, both ministries will jointly lay the criteria for them to fulfil.

Data from the National Statistics Organisation (NSO) is central to India's policy making as it is the official source of key socio-economic

Indicators including consumption and employment, collected via large-scale sample surveys.

Separately, the government is also considering to rope in agencies like KANTAR IMRB that could recruit trained enumerators.

It also plans to get on board International Institute for Population Sciences and state governments who can take trained enumerators.

"The country needs more statisticians and the capacity of the system at present is limited. It needs to be strengthened," said another official.

Staff constraints had prevented the NSO from increasing the sample size, that is, the number of people surveyed. The higher the number of people surveyed, the lower is the margin of error, and more reliable is the data. Manpower shortage also limits the office from taking up new surveys. The quality of data, therefore, suffers both on account of insufficient sample sizes as well as relatively untrained field staff.

"This will reduce the pressure on MoSPI especially because there is a plethora of surveys across sectors which need to be conducted. Moreover, we will end up creating a skills set irrespective of the education background. We want more people to qualify as enumerators," the first official said, adding that a separate sector skills council can't be created for this exercise.

The issue of capacity building also came up at a recent meeting of the National Statistical Council.

Cherishing Our Food Heritage

Silk Stalkings



Reshmi Dasgupta

For more than half my life I proudly used to proclaim, "I don't cook. I eat." This was a natural defensive reaction to the fact that I wrote on food but could not turn out a mean biryani or pineapple upside down cake, unlike my peers. That all changed once we spent two years in London, where household help was unaffordable so I had to eat my words—and my cooking.

It's been over 20 years since I performed acquired culinary skills, but I've also realised so many great memories are inextricably linked not only to food but to the people who cook them. Family history can be accurately traced via food, not only by changes in recipes through time but also inputs of new entrants from different cultures and shifts in domicile down the years.

A case in point is the cuisine of the Kashmiri Pandits or Hindus. The ones who emigrated from Kashmir generations ago to occupy important positions in British India and the princely states inevitably took on the mannerisms, patois and flavours of their new homes. The Pandits who came down to the plains later have a distinctly different take on many traditional dishes.

The same can be said of the East Bengalis, West Punjabis, Sindhis and other communities displaced by the vagaries of geopolitics. But 70 years of post-independence intermarriage and transferable jobs has also resulted in another type of confluence of flavours which needs to be examined and chronicled, not as an academic study but as part of our individual family histories.

My friends Jayashree and Sundar, a Bengali-Tam-Brahm couple, are an obvious case of intermingling of cultures. And given my zeal for documenting personal histories, I was naturally thrilled to learn that Jayashree had recently marshalled her widely-dispersed family to put together a book of her late mother's recipes, called Dolly's Table, for private circulation.

This self-produced book features each family member's recollections—including her favourite aphorisms—and also their food memories. Not only what she rustled up, but also the occasions

(including explanations of traditional Bengali feasting occasions like Aiburobhaat and Annaprasham), the instigations and the improvisations have all been engagingly chronicled.

Given that the youngest generation of Jayashree's family—like so many others that we know—will grow up in North America, far removed from the culture and context that shaped their ancestors, the importance of this book cannot be overstated. It will forever remain a link to their original roots, and eventually a way to instantly reconnect with "Dolly" through her recipes.

In more ways than one, Dolly's Table reminded me of the Sood Family Cookbook by Aparna Jain, formally published in 2003. Blessed with an amazingly diverse set of culinarily-talented Mamas, Masis, Mamis and cousins stretching from the Himalayas to North America, she put together a delicious compendium of memory-dredged family recipes that have a universal appeal.

Last week I wrote about the passing away of my aunt-in-law, Jaya Sen. She was a great—and thoughtful—cook and so many of my memories of her are inter-twined with her food. She was the last of her generation in our family and I suddenly realised that her recipes—and the associated memories—are in imminent danger of being lost once my own generation passes on.

Until relatively recently, cooking was probably the only way many women in Indian families expressed themselves. They not only learnt the basics but added elements based on their experiences. They put more of themselves in their recipes than perhaps their counterparts do today as we now have other avenues. So recipes are their legacy, and we have a duty to safeguard them.

Rare is the person who does not have a single signature recipe, even if means just a properly soggy bowl of Maggi noodles. Even my best friend, Nandini, who still loves to proclaim her culinary ineptitude, can make properly fluffy Bengali luchis, albeit mostly shaped like Australia if not Greenland. And with her daughter now a willing guinea-pig, she may yet expand her repertoire.

Unless we all take steps to preserve our families' food heritage—and thereby also the memory of those who contributed to it—we will lose a lot more than just recipes. Traditions, a disappearing way of life, intrinsic values, relationships and much more are also secreted in them. And it does not have to be a professionally published effort. Dolly's Table shows the way.

Automakers Test the EV Market

Many new entrants bought into the hype created by the government's push and media coverage but are keeping investments low. **Nehal Chaliawala** reports

Mumbai: Contrary to the Indian government's electrifying dreams for the sector, electric vehicles (EV) have not been the magnet for auto enthusiasts as expected primarily because there are few with performance comparable to conventional vehicles, though EV makers have mushroomed since the policy to boost EV adoption was announced.

There are at least 50 companies, largely two-wheeler makers that have either established or are in the process of setting up manufacturing or assembling operations for EVs in the country. This is a jump from 12 in 2015, when the government announced the FAME-India (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid & Electric Vehicles in India) scheme.

However, only about half of these companies are selling their EVs commercially, like Ather Energy, Hero Electric, and Ampere to name a few. Many have simply showcased prototypes with no clear visibility

on marketing their products. Case in point, 22 Motors, which showcased its production-ready electric scooters at the 2018 Auto Expo, is yet to launch its products in the market. The company has now tied-up with Kymco, a Taiwanese two-wheeler maker, and is gunning for a commercial launch by April 2020.

Experts say that EVs are a new business opportunity that companies do not want to miss out on. Many new entrants bought into the hype around EVs created by the government's push and media reports.

So, companies often ready a technology demonstrator to get their foot in the door and gauge customer reaction. To keep investments low, many even come up with products developed in collaboration with Chinese companies.

"Even if they are not meeting the government norms to receive subsidies, they are not bothered because they are not here right now for making big business. They just want to test the market,"



said Sohinder Gill, director general of Society of Manufacturers of Electric Vehicles (SMEV), an industry body.

What also works for EV companies is that these vehicles are not as complex as the vehicles with combustion engines. They have fewer parts and require a less elaborate manufacturing setup.

"A lot of these people have ventured into this space because it has more to do with technology and less to do with manufacturing because there are fewer parts. A lot of the engineering input would have come from Chinese companies," said Avik

Chattopadhyay, co-founder of brand strategy firm Expearel. The trend is clearly observable in electric scooters and three-wheelers, he said.

Not just new players, traditional combustion-engine vehicle makers too have speeded up their EV programs though only some, like Tata Motors and Mahindra and Mahindra, are selling these products in the market and that too only to fleet segments.

"The government had at one point of time almost threatened that everything will become electric in two-wheelers by 2025. If the

government keeps giving these jitters, any big player would not like to be caught on the wrong foot," said Gill, who is also the chief executive of Hero Electric.

EV makers in the country could be divided into three categories—start-ups that developed their vehicles in-house, companies that borrowed technology from overseas EV makers, and manufacturers of conventional vehicles who are reading EV technology. Chattopadhyay tags them as "Disruptors", "Piggybackers" and "Traditionals", respectively.

Along with EV makers, component makers of batteries and charging stations have also increased. As per data from SMEV, the number of member companies with the organisation has gone up from seven to 96 since the announcement of FAME-India scheme in April 2015.

On the demand side, the market for personal electric vehicles in India is still nascent. In FY19, about 126,000 electric two-wheelers and 500,000 electric three-wheelers were sold in the country, data from SMEV and other industry sources showed. Sale of electric cars was negligible. In fact, the only segment where EV adoption is taking off is in three-wheelers as these have become a popular last-mile connectivity option in the NCR region.

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(2) Approx cost of the work of : Rs. 23,16,90,496.93 (3) Earnest money to be deposited : Rs. 13,08,500/-

(4) Date and time for closing of tender : 30.09.2019 at 14.30 hrs. (5) Website particular, Notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and addressed of the office from where the tender form be purchased etc. - The above E-Tender, E-Tendering document alongwith full information is available on website i.e. <http://www.ireps.gov.in>. Note: In case of any discrepancies found in tender notice, English version will be final.

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NOTICE

EMANELMENT OF ADVOCATES TO REPRESENT TDB BEFORE VARIOUS COURTS IN DELHI AND BEFORE ARBITRATORS

Technology Development Board (TDB) invites applications from Advocates within the meaning of Advocates Act, 1961 enrolled with the respective State Bar Council, having requisite qualification and experience in Banking Laws, Insolvency Laws, N.I Act, Arbitration Proceedings, Recovery Suits, Corporate Laws & Service matters before different courts & forums including High Court, DRT, DRAT, NCLT, NCCAT etc. with minimum 5 years of court experience.

The proforma of the application is available on the TDB website: www.tdb.gov.in. The fee structure would be in compliance with the GoI Rules, Eligible applicants may send their applications to the Under Secretary, TDB, Wing 'A', Ground Floor, Vishwakarma Bhawan, Shaheed Jeet Singh Marg, New Delhi-110016. The last date of submission of application is 4th October, 2019.

Applications received after the closing date and not submitted according to proforma will not be considered.

davp 36106/11/0004/1920

Under Secretary, TDB

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Higher Education

Technical Section - 1

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3. The detailed advertisement is available on the website (www.mhrd.gov.in). Interested individuals may apply giving detailed resume in the format available on the website. The application alongwith enclosures may be sent by Registered /Speed Post to Under Secretary (IIITs), Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Room No. 203, 'C' Wing, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110001 so as to reach within 30 days from the date of this advertisement.

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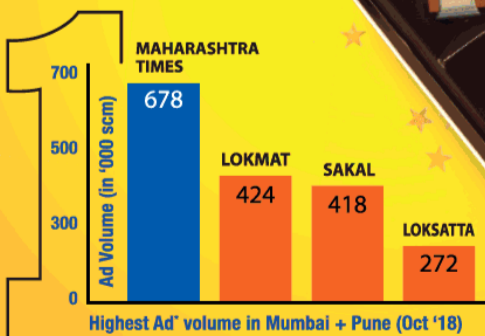
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Mild Cheer From July IIP Numbers

No call to let up on measures to boost growth

Quick estimates of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) for July (over the like period last year) suggest notable turnaround in the growth momentum, with marked buoyancy in the output of both consumption goods and intermediate goods, plus decrease in deceleration of capital goods production. As the latter segment is a pointer to investment demand, an uptick in the overall economic growth momentum could well be anticipated sooner rather than later, if the trend holds.

It is dicey to draw conclusions from just one month's data, but a solid 8.3% rise in consumer non-durables output and a big 13.9% increase in intermediate goods — the two segments together have over 32% weight in the index — suggests that a growth upswing is on the cards. True, the output of consumer durables has declined. But the base-effect is to blame as the increase was a huge 14.1% in the segment in previous July. Also, while the output of manufactures has risen by a modest 4.2%, note that manufacturing grew by a handsome 7% in the like period last year. So, the growth this time around is on a high base, which seems to imply strong underlying demand in the run-up to the festive season and beyond. Electricity generation and mining output show a rising trend as well. The output of infrastructure goods at 2.1%, and an actual decline in production of capital goods, do imply continuing lacklustre growth. But here again, the production growth of infrastructure goods is on a high base of 9.2% and that for capital goods shows much reduced declines, which suggest that the slowdown in economic activity could be winding down and further that turnaround growth seems near at hand. If one reads the economic tea leaves right, better growth numbers are likely soon.

This optimistic scenario is in contrast to the Purchasing Managers' Index for both services and manufacturing, which softened in August, as compared to July. This means there can be no let-up in measures to boost growth, including fast-tracking an active secondary market for corporate bonds, along with attendant risk-management instruments.

Odd-Even Curbs More Show Than Real Policy

Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal's seven-point plan, including the return of the odd-even system for limiting vehicles on the city's roads, serves to score better on publicity than on reducing pollution. Analysis of the 2016 runs of the scheme reveals that it did little to reduce the city's pollution load — especially since private cars account for less than 10% of the pollution. In the January run, marginal decline in PM_{2.5} levels were registered between the hours of 11am and 2pm, while the April 2016 run had no impact. Global experience has shown that driving restrictions are a surge-control instrument, and not the fulcrum of a pollution control plan.

Serious pollution control plans would focus on road dust, loose soil from tracts without vegetation, biomass and solid waste/garbage burning. Not only is the reintroduction of driving restrictions ineffective in terms of improving air quality, it also ignores Delhi residents' mobility recourse in the absence of reliable, affordable and accessible mass public transport: private cars and two-wheelers, in addition to ride-shares and autorickshaws. Twenty-one years ago, the Supreme Court had pegged city's bus requirement at 11,000, the city is still operating with half that number. After a hiatus of eight years, last month Kejriwal augmented the city's public bus fleet by just 25.

Delhi's poor air quality is a public health problem. But it does not require a showboating chief minister and administration. What is required is a comprehensive policy package that includes congestion fees, expansion and integration of public transport, improved fuel quality, minimising sources of soil, road and construction dust, no burning of municipal waste and biomass, in addition to ending crop residue burning in neighbouring states.

'Brexit' adds fresh heat to the ever febrile Anglo-French war of words

Mon Dieu! C'est bon Franglais. Oh, Really?

If Britain and the US are divided by a common language, the 'Sceptered Isle' and France have long been engaged in a verbal duel. The Duke of Wellington's victory over Napoleon's Grande Armée on a rain-sodden battlefield in Belgium became a double victory for the English who commandeered the word 'Waterloo' to denote someone's comeuppance, and the phrase 'Pardon my French' is the anglophone apology for having used impolite language. While tipping a grudging nod to the superiority of Gallic gastronomy over the Anglo-Saxon, Gilbert and Sullivan confessed to a "sentimental passion" for a "not too French French bean". In tit-for-tat response, the Académie française has zealously guarded its lingual legacy from the cross-Channel incursions of 'franglais', such as 'le bifstek', 'le weekend' and 'le piknik'.

Now, however, the French — dismissed by Shaw's Henry Higgins as a people who "don't care what they say, as long as they pronounce it right" — are contemplating the inclusion of the word 'brexit', with a small 'b', in their officially approved vocabulary to signify "a cacophonous and insoluble debate or a shamolic meeting". The definition, which was retweeted 2,700 times within six hours, might ensure that even in the event of a no-deal Brexit, 'brexit' might be a done deal for those who parlez vous Français.

Bringing back a scheme that has minimal impact as an air-cleaning mission is nothing but a political stunt

Even-Odds Don't Stack Up



Himangshu Watts

Delhi's 'odd-even' scheme that allows each car on roads only on alternate days will wound the city after Diwali. Which is a blessing only for taxi- and autorickshaw-drivers, and those who revel in the hardship of people who own cars.

The controversial scheme is serious bad news for those who care for the environment and want to improve metropolitan air quality. It is touted by the Delhi state government as a noble air-cleaning mission. But this has been empirically proved as being ineffective by scientists.

The hardship that the scheme causes, and its proven uselessness in reducing pollution in the city will malign the noble cause of improving air quality, and could well make the common man cynical — or downright hostile — towards green initiatives the country desperately needs.

The scheme has been proven ineffective in combating air pollution by the Central Pollution Control Board's (CPCB) scientists, whose views are formed on the basis of hard data from instruments across the country — and not solely out of a burning desire to increase business for those who drive autorickshaws and taxis. In other words, the very set of people who happen to be the most loyal voters of Delhi's Aam Aadmi administration and chief minister Arvind Kejriwal.

Hard data shows (see table) that during the odd-even scheme of January 1-5, 2016, the concentration of hazardous particles in Delhi was often higher than it was before or after the scheme.

me. More disturbingly, the level of carbon monoxide (CO), the most poisonous gas in Delhi's polluted air, increased substantially during the implementation of the controversial scheme. This, according to some scientists, calls for a detailed analysis of emissions from vehicles that run on natural gas.

There is nothing political about CPCB's data. It was collected from eight Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Systems, half of which were CPCB's own, while the rest belonged to Delhi's pollution control body that reports to the Kejriwal government. Analysis of this data prompted the central statutory body to say: "With no clear trend and wide fluctuations observed in the concentrations, it is evident that the meteorology and emissions from other polluting sources have been major factors impacting air quality of Delhi during the period." Wind speed and other atmospheric conditions were reportedly the key factors in dispersing the pollutants.

No Truck With Reality

It is pertinent to note that the Delhi government had no problem with trucks entering the city while past odd-even schemes were being implemented. You don't have to be an expert to know that long-distance trucks are often poorly maintained by roadside mechanics and overloaded, making them far more polluting than personal cars that are generally well-serviced in authorised workshops.

Those who championed the controversial scheme also had no quarrel with standby generators and two-wheelers that are often far more polluting than personal cars — or women drivers. There is no reason why the power distribution company should not be held accountable for pollution if a cut in electricity supply forces people to switch on smoky generators. But, perhaps, such a move would not please any vote-bank.

The most disturbing aspect of various rash, often politically oriented,



FILE PHOTO

Spot the real culprit

Initiatives to curb air pollution is that they totally ignore what scientists say. A study by IIT Kanpur shows that the overall contribution of vehicular emissions from trucks, buses, cars and two-wheelers in Delhi's air pollution is 20-25%. The contribution of cars to particulate matter is about 10%, the study shows. If half of them are disallowed on a particular day, air quality can at best improve 5%.

This is not to suggest that one should not improve air quality by 5%, even though that's similar to shooting someone with 10 bullets instead of 20. What is more important is to tackle the cause of 90% of the pollutants in Delhi's air, which include polluting two-wheelers, as well as the wholesale markets of various goods, fruit and vegetables that generate oceans of filth and dust apart from bringing trucks to the heart of the city.

Built for Noise Pollution

Doing this will be good environment management but won't be politically comfortable for the city's ruling party that was soundly defeated in the last Lok Sabha elections. Not only did AAP lose all the seven Lok Sabha seats in Delhi, it stood third in most contests. The odd-even scheme may help Kejriwal win votes of taxi- and autorickshaw-drivers. After all, many of them campaigned for his party when it swept the assembly elections in 2015, even as they had supported BJP in the national elections.

There are other problems that such

Pollutants at Delhi's Dilshad Garden Before, During and After 'Odd-Even', Jan 1-15, 2016

	Pre-Odd-Even	During Odd-Even	Post-Odd-Even
Carbon monoxide			
Max	1,006	1,610	1,316
Min	321	371	363
PM _{2.5}			
Max	221	295	229
Min	85	107	103

Figures in micrograms/cu m
Source: Central Pollution Control Board

ill-advised schemes create. If this becomes a regular item on Delhi's roads, the rich will buy another vehicle, at least a standby second-hand car with a suitable registration number. Many others will postpone their decision to buy a car until an appropriate authority calls the Delhi government's bluff. The scheme adds to the uncertainty in India's automobiles market, which is reeling under the biggest sales contraction in decades.

It is high time that the government and other trigger-happy authorities and tribunals that get brainwaves about pollution-control steps invite specialists and scientists to study air pollution in detail and prescribe measures to combat it. If scientists are totally ignored in scientific matters, politicians will use the issue for political gains.

himangshu.watts@timesgroup.com

Those who championed the scheme also had no quarrel with standby generators and two-wheelers that are often far more polluting than personal cars

WIT & WISDOM

"Anyone can do any amount of work, provided it isn't the work he is supposed to be doing at that moment."

Robert Benchley
Humourist

Safe Cities

Tokyo continues to be rated as the world's safest city, not only in personal security but in terms of other parameters such as health & infrastructure security as well, according to the latest EIU Safe Cities Index.

Safe Cities Index 2019, overall score
■ Very High 75.1-100 ■ High 50.1-75 ■ Medium 25.1-50



The Safe Cities Index ranks 60 cities across 57 indicators covering digital security, health security, infrastructure security and personal security (100 = best health)

Bell Curves

SALES ■ R Prasad



The government should make consumption mandatory for all citizens and ensure strict compliance!

INTERNET BROADCASTING

Bring Streaming on Board the Ship



Kalyan C Kankanal

Earlier in April, the Bombay High Court ruled in the 'TIPS Industries vs Wynk Music' case that Wynk, a digital music app, can't store or use music owned by TIPS without its consent, and did not have statutory broadcasting rights under Section 31D of the Copyright Act. Ever since the court essentially stated that internet broadcasting does not come under the law, record labels are on a drive to convince government, industry and academia that statutory licensing does not provide fair value to copyright owners. Their efforts seem to have intensified after the staying of the court's order and publication of the draft Copyright Rules, 2019, which seek to include internet broadcasting within the scope of statutory licensing under Section 31D.

Led by the music industry, record labels are arguing that fair value and industrial growth is only possible through voluntary, rather than statutory, licensing. Such arguments are merely self-serving, and do not further the objectives of copyright law.

The primary objective of a copyright law is to promote creativity and works of authorship for public benefit. Authors and the public are at the core of the copyright system. All other stakeholders play only secondary roles. If copyright holders, such as record labels, exercise their copyrights in a manner detrimental to the interests of authors or the general public, the law includes mechanisms such as statutory

licensing to address imbalances originating from such behaviour. The statutory licensing scheme for broadcasting music under Section 31D of the Indian Copyright Act is one such mechanism.

Section 31D was incorporated in the Copyright Act through a 2012 amendment, which provided, among other things, the right of royalty to authors, introduced statutory licensing schemes and expanded infringement exceptions. The amendment addressed issues relating to the pre-existing copyright law, such as unfair treatment of authors, unethical practices of copyright-holders, and failure of collective management of works. Section 31D's objective was to establish a fair, transparent and workable licensing scheme for the growing broadcasting sector to facilitate public access.

Section 31D provides a statutory licensing scheme for broadcasting organisations to broadcast and perform literary or musical works and sound recordings. The scope of the licence available under the

section is very narrow, and only two specific rights are covered, which relate to three types of works.

The first clause of Section 31D doesn't refer to the nature of broadcasting organisations eligible for the licence, even as the definition of the term 'broadcast' in the Copyright Act covers all forms of wired and wireless broadcasting. Clause 3, which deals with royalty, mentions that rates for radio and television broadcasting must be different.

Based on a narrow and selective reading of this clause and relevant copyright rules, the Bombay High Court arrived at the conclusion that only radio and TV broadcasting are covered under the section. By doing so, the court not only ignored the broad language used in the first clause of Section 31D, but also improperly attributed legislative intent to limit the provision to radio and TV broadcasting by constructing a subsequent clause that was merely meant to be illustrative for differentiating royalty rates based on usage. To possibly remedy the misconstruction of the law, GoI published draft

copyright rules in June to include internet broadcasting within the scope of statutory licensing, which are yet to be notified.

Section 31D was necessitated by the failure of the music industry to license works in a fair and equitable manner, and to facilitate access to the public. The diversity in the music industry, combined with the lack of organised licensing mechanisms and the failure of copyright societies to effectively license works, led to statutory license legislation. If the music industry was organised, united, fair and transparent with respect to licensing, statutory licensing wouldn't have been required.

As matters stand today, acquiring music licences is arduous, time-consuming and effort-intensive. The music industry has not been able to establish a well-organised system of licensing music and facilitating public access. The only alternative, in such a scenario, is statutory licensing. It will, in one stroke, remove hurdles to licensing, compliance and access.

Statutory licensing of music for broadcasting will further the interests of authors and the general public, the most important stakeholders in the copyright system. It will make licensing music easier, transparent and more organised. It is expected to enhance compliance, reduce piracy, promote economic and technological progress, and facilitate equitable sharing of proceeds.

Owing to the failure of voluntary licensing models, statutory licensing for broadcasting and performance is the need of the hour. It is, in fact, time to implement Section 31D by setting royalty rates for all forms of broadcasting without any further delay.

The writer is senior partner, BananaIP Counsels, Bengaluru



Remove the buffer



THE SPEAKING TREE

Secularism in India

THE XIV DALAI LAMA

For me, the word 'secular' holds no fear. Instead, I am mindful of the founders of India's secular constitution, such as B R Ambedkar and Rajendra Prasad. Their intention in promoting secularism was to recognise formally the religious diversity of Indian society. Mohandas Gandhi, the inspiration behind the Constitution, was himself a deeply religious man. In his daily prayer meetings, he included readings and hymns from all the country's major faith traditions.

The kind of religious tolerance Gandhi personified is nothing new in India. It has ancient roots, stretching back more than 2,000 years. It is revealed, for example, on inscribed pillars dating from the reign of Emperor Ashoka in the third century BCE. One inscription contains the exhortation to "honour another's religion, for doing so strengthens both one's own and that of the other".

Furthermore, Sanskrit literature reveals a classical culture that was intellectually tolerant and rich in debate. In India, many philosophical positions have been subjects of great discussion since ancient times. Even positions that look much like modern materialism and atheism have an honourable and respected history in Indian tradition.

Classical philosophical texts contain many references to the Charvaka school, whose adherents rejected any idea of God and the existence of any soul or afterlife. The proponents of Charvaka ideas were also accorded a certain level of recognition and respect by some Indian rulers — many of whom were outstandingly tolerant of other religious faiths.

Citings

Managing Directors

JIE CHEN ET AL

A number of governments (notably those in India, California and parts of Europe) are pushing for greater female representation in the boardroom. And several studies suggest why: having women on the board results in better acquisition and investment decisions and in less aggressive risk-taking, yielding benefits for shareholders.

What's less clear is why these effects happen. Our research suggests one potential reason: having female board members helps temper the overconfidence of male CEOs, improving overall decision-making for the company. We were interested in studying overconfidence because prior research has shown that it can be detrimental to the firm and is more prevalent among male CEOs.

Overconfidence leads CEOs to overestimate returns and underestimate risk, which can result in overinvestment and excessive risk-taking, destroying shareholder value. We were curious how the board — which is responsible for supervising the CEO — might moderate a CEO's tendency to get overconfident. One benefit of having female directors on the board is a greater diversity of viewpoints, which is purported to improve the quality of board deliberations, especially when complex issues are involved, because different perspectives can increase the amount of information available.

From "When Women are on Boards, Male CEOs are Less Overconfident"

Chat Room

Opposition Let the Nation Down

Apropos 'Today's Dominant Species' by Nilanjana Mukhopadhyay (Sep 13), excessive 'minority appeasement' by the secular political parties led to 'majority angst'. It also enabled Narendra Modi-led BJP to gain power, thus removing a major cause of concern. However, there is also a new concern: absence of a strong and responsible opposition that is so vital for a vibrant democracy like ours. When the top leadership of the ruling party is so powerful, there is a genuine need for a powerful opposition leader. It is in the interest of the nation and opposition that they coalesce and discover a challenger.

Y G CHOUKEY
Pune

QUICK HITS

Germany to Run World's Largest Current Account Surplus in 2019

Berlin: Germany will run the world's largest current account surplus in 2019 for the fourth consecutive year, the Ifo economic institute said on Friday, likely putting further pressure on Berlin to help reduce global imbalances and stimulate domestic demand. This year's surplus in the current account – which measures the flow of goods, services and investments – is seen at \$276 billion, Ifo economist Christian Grimme told Reuters. He added that Japan's surplus is projected to come in at \$188 billion, followed by China with \$182 billion. In contrast, the US is expected to post a current account deficit of \$480 billion, the world's largest, despite President Donald Trump's trade war with China and additional tariffs imposed on products imposed on Chinese products. **Reuters**

China Exempts US Pork, Soybeans from Extra Tariffs

Beijing: China said on Friday that some US agricultural products including pork and soybeans will be exempt from added tariffs, ahead of trade talks between Beijing and Washington scheduled for October. "The Customs Tariff Commission of the State Council will exclude some agricultural products such as soybeans and pork from the additional tariffs on US goods," China's state news agency Xinhua reported, citing sources. **AFP**

Eco Group's Drones Stall in Bid to Shut Heathrow Airport

London: Climate change activists who had hoped to bring Europe's biggest airport, London Heathrow, to a standstill on Friday found instead that it was their drones that struggled to get off the ground. Last December, reported drone sightings near London's Gatwick airport prevented hundreds of flights taking off, and the Heathrow Pause group aimed to cause similar chaos on Friday to put pressure on the government to take tougher steps to reduce carbon emissions. A Reuters photographer saw activist James Brown being arrested. He held the drone aloft rather than trying to fly it and handed himself in to police at Terminal 2. Heathrow Pause said it had completed one flight with a toy drone but other attempts had been less successful. **Reuters**

Lantern-Waving HK Protesters Take to Hills

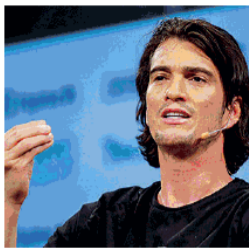
Hong Kong: Hong Kong pro-democracy protesters took to the hills to form flashlight-carrying human chains on Friday, using the colourful Mid-Autumn Festival as a backdrop to the latest in more than three months of sometimes violent unrest. The peaceful protests came after Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam promised to focus on housing and jobs to try to end the turmoil. **Reuters**

WeWork Curbs CEO's Voting Power to Boost IPO

No member of Neumann's family will sit on the company board

London | New York: WeWork announced a series of governance changes to assuage investor concerns as it pushes ahead with its embattled listing on Nasdaq. The company will change its high-vote stock from 20 votes to 10 votes a share, and no member of co-founder's Adam Neumann's family will sit on the board, it said in an updated prospectus on Friday. WeWork had been targeting a share sale of about \$3.5 billion in September, people familiar with the matter said in July. A listing of that size would be second only to Uber Technologies's \$8.1-billion listing and ahead of Avantor's \$2.9-billion IPO and the \$2.34 offering by Uber's ride-hailing rival Lyft.

The new filing also revealed that Neumann will give to the company any profits he receives from the real estate transactions he has entered into with the company, and that any chief executive officer who succeeds Neumann will be selected by board of directors. WeWork, which leases and owns spaces in office buildings and



WeWork CEO Adam Neumann

then rents desks to businesses ranging from startups to large corporations, has raised more than \$12 billion since its founding nine years ago and has never turned a profit.

After the company filed publicly for the offering in August, its valuation shrank amid investor scrutiny. SoftBank Group, which with its affiliates is WeWork's biggest backer, invested in January at a valuation of \$47 billion. The company is now expected to be worth as little as \$15 billion in the

IPO, people familiar with the matter have said.

SHARE CLASSES

WeWork's original IPO plan included three classes of common stock, with holders of Class A shares getting one vote per share while Class B and Class C owners got 20 votes for each. This arrangement would have given Neumann the majority of the voting power.

WeWork also made the unusual statement that no family member of Neumann's will sit on the board. Rebekah Neumann, the CEO's wife and a cousin of Gwyneth Paltrow, is listed as a founder, chief brand and impact officer of WeWork and founder and CEO of WeGrow, a corporate project to build and run private elementary schools.

Neumann will also limit his ability to sell in each of the second and third years following this offering to no more than 10% of his shareholdings. WeWork's Class A stock has been approved for listing on Nasdaq under symbol "WE". **Bloomberg**

Google to Pay €1 Billion to Settle French Tax Probe

Paris: US Internet giant Google has agreed to a settlement totaling €965 million (\$1.07 billion) to end a tax dispute in France under an agreement announced in court on Thursday.

The company will pay a €500-million fine for tax evasion, as well as a further €465 million to settle claims with French tax authorities.

In a statement, Google confirmed the settlement and hailed the fact it had put an end to fiscal differences that it had had with France for numerous years.

The settlement follows similar out-of-court agreements reached by Google in Italy and Britain in recent years, though the French agreement is much larger than the previous ones. Google said it now wanted to see a coordinated reform for a clear international taxation framework.

French justice minister Nicole Belloubet and budget minister Gerald Darmanin welcomed the "definitive settling" of all the contentious issues, adding in a statement that it was the result of two years of intense work by the French authorities. "This outcome is good news for the public finances and fiscal fairness in France," their sta-



The investigation was opened by anti-fraud prosecutors in 2015

tament said. Belloubet said the settlement showed that the French authorities have the tools to ensure an equitable tax system. "It is a historic settlement both for our public finances and because it marks the end of an era," Darmanin said. "By normalising Google's situation in France, (the settlement) responds to our citizens' demands for fiscal fairness," he said.

The settlement comes as France and its European allies seek to find common ground with the US in a long-running dispute over the taxation of digital giants.

Google has its European headquarters in Ireland, where the government has set the corporate tax rate at just 12.5% in a bid to attract big companies

Google, like several other big American tech companies, has its European headquarters in Ireland, where the government has set the corporate tax rate at just 12.5%. In a bid to attract big companies. But leading EU states like France argue that this is allowing tech giants to avoid paying sufficient taxes on the huge profits and sales they accrue in big countries outside where the tech giants are headquartered.

The Google investigation in France was first opened by anti-fraud prosecutors in 2015 and was followed by searches at its Paris headquarters in 2016, an operation codenamed "Tulip" that mobilised a hundred police and experts.

In 2016, Google paid €130 million (\$160,000) in a settlement with the British authorities and in 2017 agreed to pay €306 million to settle a tax dispute in Italy. **AFP**

Huawei Planning to Sell Access to 5G Tech: Report

London: Amid the US-China trade war, Huawei has disclosed that the company is willing to share its knowhow of existing 5G technology for a fee with a western firm.

The proposal, made by Huawei Founder and CEO Ren Zhengfei, in interviews with The Economist and the New York Times, is seen as a move to put concerns about the security of the company's 5G technology to rest.

According to a report in the BBC, while the US and Australia have banned their networks from using Huawei's equipment, the UK is still weighing a decision.

Huawei has repeatedly denied accusations of spying for the Chinese government. "(Huawei is) open to sharing our 5G technologies and

techniques with US companies, so that they can build up their own 5G industry," the NYT quoted Ren as saying. "This would create a balanced situation between China, the US and Europe."

He noted that Huawei would be looking for a buyer based outside Asia, somewhere in the West. In the interview to The Economist, Ren said that for a one-off payment a

buyer would be given access to the company's portfolio of huge 5G patents, licences, code, technical blueprints as well as production expertise. **IANS**

Filmmaker Coppola Gets into 'Godfather' Spat with UK's Johnson

London: Filmmaking legend Francis Ford Coppola is not impressed with Boris Johnson's love for his bloody 1972 gangster classic The Godfather. The Brexit-backing UK prime minister told The Daily Mail newspaper during his successful leadership challenge in July that his favourite piece of filmmaking was the "multiple retribution scene in The Godfather". The comment turned into a social media meme after Johnson expelled 21 of his own MPs — including Winston Churchill's grandson Nicholas Soames — from the ruling party for straying from his headline Brexit stance.

Coppola, who wants Britain to stay in the EU, told London's Fi-



Francis Ford Coppola

nanial News that Brexit looked like it was heading for a disaster more reminiscent of the 1979 war film Apocalypse Now.

"The Godfather seems to be the favourite film of modern history's most brutal figures, including Saddam Hussein, Muam-

mar Gadhafi and others," he told Friday's edition of the news site by email.

"I love the United Kingdom and its many contributions to humanity, ranging from our beautiful language and Newtonian physics to penicillin," the 80-year-old Italian American wrote.

"And (I) am horrified that it would even consider doing such a foolish thing as leaving the European Union."

Johnson has vowed to deliver a "do or die" Brexit on October 31 even if he fails to agree a negotiation withdrawal deal with Brussels.

The UK parliament has ordered him to seek a deadline extension if he does not get a deal, something that Johnson has refused to do, creating a feverish political crisis. **AFP**

LSE Flatly Rejects Hong Kong's Takeover Offer

London: The London Stock Exchange emphatically rejected the Hong Kong bourse's \$39-billion takeover offer on Friday, opting to stick with its planned purchase of data and analytics group Refinitiv. The LSE told HKEEX in a letter that it had fundamental concerns about key aspects of the proposal which it said had no strategic merit and that HKEEX's relationship with the HK government would "complicate matters".

HKEEX's valuation of the LSE falls "substantially short" and the "ongoing situation in Hong Kong" adds to uncertainty for shareholders, the London bourse added. "Accordingly, the board unanimously rejects the conditional proposal and, given its fundamental flaws, sees no merit in further engagement," the LSE said in a statement. **Reuters**



Democratic presidential hopefuls (L-R) Pete Buttigieg, Bernie Sanders, Joe Biden, Elizabeth Warren and Kamala Harris speak during the third Democratic primary debate of the 2020 presidential campaign season in Houston on Thursday

Biden Comes Out Fighting in Democratic White House Debate

Attacks Warren, Sanders over cost of healthcare plans

Houston: Frontrunner Joe Biden came out swinging in the third Democratic debate for the White House nomination, clashing with his top two rivals over the future of healthcare in America and dismissing their plans as unrealistic pipe dreams.

Biden, under pressure to appear in command as the candidate to beat in 2020, pushed back hard against senators Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren during the debate in Houston, Texas as a showdown seen as a tough test of the 76-year-old's stamina. In a high-octane clash with his fellow septuagenarians, the former vice president warned Sanders' plan to finance universal healthcare "gets him halfway there" while Warren has yet to indicate how hers will be paid for. "I lay out how I can pay for it, how I can get it done, and why it's better," Biden said of his plan, which maintains and builds on the Affordable Care Act known as Obamacare.

Warren, a rising star in the race, and Sanders each put up a spirited defence of their proposals. "Those at the very top, the richest individuals and the biggest corporations, are going to pay more. And middle-class families are going to pay less," Warren said. Sanders, whose plans advocates

for a shift away from private health insurance, assured voters "we will finally make sure that every American has healthcare as a human right, not a privilege".

The three-way battle over healthcare kicked off a marathon debate, as 10 hopefuls scrambled for breakout moments as they vye for the right to challenge President Donald Trump. But the candidates stood out on one key factor: ousting Trump from the White House. "We must and will defeat Trump, the most dangerous president in the history of this country," Sanders said. "But we must do more. We must do more."

At a dinner with Republican legislators on Thursday evening, Trump called Sanders "Crazy Bernie, he's a crazy guy." He lamented that he'd "hit Pocantones" Warren "way too early", in reference to his mockery of the senator's controversial claim to have had Native American blood. And he reserved his longest joke for Biden, or "Sleepy Joe".

"He's fallen asleep, he's no idea what he's doing or saying," Trump said to laughter from his party, before acting out a scene in which he imitated Chinese President Xi Jinping negotiating with Biden, with the Democrat mumbling "where am I?" and Xi telling him "sign here".

Biden maintains a grip on pole position with 26.8% support, according to a poll average compiled by RealClearPolitics. Sanders is narrowly ahead of Warren at 17.3% support. **AFP**



Joe Biden

TIPS, TRIVIA & TRENDS

YOUR DAILY DIET OF FUN AND FACTS

Japanese Centenarian Population Exceeds 70,000



The number of people aged 100 or older in Japan has exceeded 70,000 for the first time after marking an increase for the 49th consecutive year in the aging society whose birth rate remains low, government data showed on Friday. According to the figures published by the ministry of health, labour and welfare, women centenarians vastly outnumber men, accounting for 88.1% of the total 71,238, Kyodo News Agency reported. The figure represents a roughly 23-fold increase from a centenarian population of 3,078 in 1989. The number of females who will have reached 100 years of age by Sunday totals 62,775, up 1,321 from last year. The number of such men is 8,463, an increase of 132. Kane Tanaka, a 116-year-old resident of Fukuoka, is the oldest Japanese. Born in January 1903, she is acknowledged as the world's oldest living person by Guinness World Records. Japan's average life expectancy was 87.32 for women and 81.25 for men in 2018. **IANS**

Google Earth Leads to Remains of Missing Man



It took 22 years, but a missing man's remains were finally found thanks to someone who zoomed in on his former Florida neighbourhood with Google satellite images and noticed a car submerged in a lake, authorities said. The skeletal remains were of William Moldt, who went missing in 1997 at the age of 40, according to the Palm Beach county sheriff's office. Sheriff's office spokeswoman Teri Barbera said on Thursday that a previous resident of the Grand Isles neighbourhood in Wellington, Florida, was checking the neighbourhood on Google Earth when he zoomed into the lake and saw what looked like a car. The former resident contacted a current homeowner, who used a drone to confirm it was a white car on the edge of the pond behind his house. The National Missing and Unidentified Persons System says Moldt went to a nightclub in November 1997 but did not appear intoxicated as he left alone before midnight. He had called his girlfriend from the club saying he would return to their Lantana home soon. The subdivision was under construction when Moldt went missing, but the pond was already there. **AP**



Indian Worker at Dubai Airport Held for Stealing Mangoes

An Indian man working at the Dubai International Airport faced a trial at the Court of First Instance for stealing two mangoes from the baggage of a traveller. The 27-year-old Indian was accused of committing the theft in 2017. The man, confessing to stealing mangoes worth 6 dirhams, said that he stole them from a cargo consignment to India. He said he was thirsty at the time and was searching for water when he opened a fruit box and found two mangoes which he consumed, the Khaleej Times reported. In April 2018, the police summoned and interrogated him about the incident. He was later arrested and charged with stealing the fruits. Records confirmed that he ate the fruits in August 2017, but didn't mention why he was only referred to the court in 2019. According to Dubai Public Prosecution, a security guard in the airport was checking the surveillance cameras when he saw the defendant open the bags of passengers of an India-bound flight. If the defendant is found guilty, he may face a jail term, pay the amount of the stolen items along with an equivalent fine. The verdict in the case is expected on September 23. **IANS**

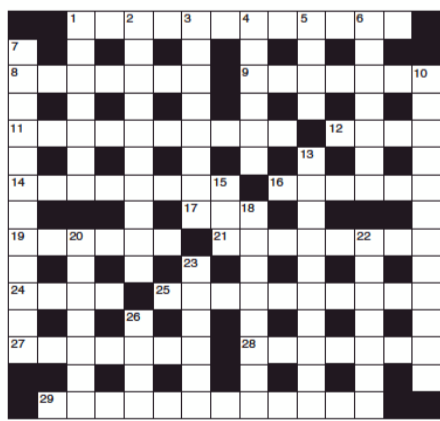
Twitter Suspends Accounts of Raul Castro, Media Outlets



Cubans got the news that Havana hoped for, because just minutes before the show aired Twitter systematically suspended the accounts of essentially every single popular media outlet on the island as well as numerous prominent journalists and the Cuban Communist Party. The Cuban foreign ministry's Twitter account, which remained active, denounced the shutdowns as "an obvious concerted operation" and an attempt to "limit the pronouncements of the revolutionaries in favour of the truth". According to a report in the BBC, while Cuba's pro-government journalists' union denounced the suspensions of the Twitter accounts as "massive censorship", the social media giant cited violations of its policies. **IANS**

Crossword

7512



- ACROSS**
1 Winner, one with a choice fruit (8, 4)
8 Crop hair, cutting current top (7)
9 I double over in gym, earning praise (7)
11 President decries Democrat leaving top brass (10)
12 Genuine regret following conclusion of fight (4)
14 Firm statement of intent by need-dediment? (4-4)
16 Improve English for enlisting in Royal Marines (6)
17 Initially pay a sovereign for each (3)
19 Downgrade duke and earl on the spot (5)
21 A university 100 receives minute increases (8)
24 Dope makes a contribution to reinforcements (4)
25 Superior place to learn grammar? (4, 6)
27 Old warship's gone off with everyone on board (7)
28 Old girls worried about independent fuel sources (3, 4)
29 Carrier's job causing euphoria? (12)
- DOWN**
1 Simulated victory ritual Irish

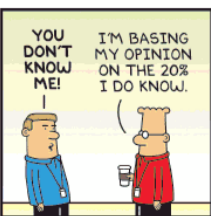
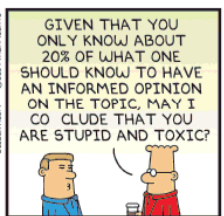
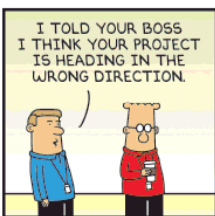
- overturned (7)
2 Scrooge's bargain at Billingsgate? (10)
3 Surpass unfashionable clothing worn by team (8)
4 Tainted corrupt umpire (6)
5 Pretend to be mountain-climbing Yankee (4)
6 Endure a small amount of work during release (7)
7 Traditional union with roasted mutton, diamonds and ring? (5, 7)
10 Nervous mothers inquire about fluid for picnic item (7, 5)
13 Cooked liver and lime laced with cold pasta (10)
15 What's drunk in late afternoon (3)
18 Busy time to hurry douche, might one say? (4, 4)
20 Warmer and damper (7)
22 Moving cautiously around ring using lasso (7)
23 Abduct and set up in bed (6)
26 Head European limited by embargo (4)

- SOLUTION TO No. 7511**
ACROSS: 1 Abscond. 5 Titian. 9 Fleming. 10 Alibum. 11 Imp. 12 Stockholder. 13 Tenor. 14 Auditory. 16 Pepper pot. 17 Ethos. 19 Word-perfect. 22 Ton. 23 Amnesia. 24 Bismarck. 26 Friend. 27 Welshy. **DOWN:** 1 Affricat. 2 Sleeping partner. 3 Obol. 4 Doggo. 5 Tracksuit. 6 Taboo. 7 Armed to the teeth. 8 In-tray. 12 Spree. 14 Ampersand. 15 Aerdy. 16 Pawpaw. 18 Synergy. 20 Paste. 21 Elbow. 25 Ski.

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Dilbert

by S Adams





It takes a fine balance to be a globe-trotting diplomat who rose to the rank of foreign secretary and a celebrated musician, but for Walter J Lindner, the new German envoy to India, juggling both has been a cherished journey. **Dipanjn Roy Chaudhury** reports

Lindner has enjoyed every moment of his dual-track career over the past four decades. Right now, his immediate task is to cement the Indo-German strategic partnership with the upcoming visit of German Chancellor Angela Merkel. Simultaneously, though, he's also thinking about enthralling Indian audiences and connecting with them through his music. Lindner, 62, has already met many Indian musicians since he arrived in India as ambassador in mid-2019. He attended a concert of Shujaat Khan and a qawwali performance at the dargah. His interest in both music and India was sparked back in 1971, when he listened to the Concert for Bangladesh, organised in New York by former Beatles lead guitarist George Harrison and sitar player Ravi Shankar. Lindner embarked on his musical journey at the Richard Strauss Conservatory in Munich, where he learnt to play the piano and the flute and how to conduct an orchestra. As a jazz artist, Lindner has to his credit albums including 'Machuca' (1994), 'Gramercy Park South' (1999), 'B'wana he no home' (2001) and 'Chacao Sessions' (2014). Back at his official residence in Central Delhi, Lindner has set up a personal music studio that's equipped for impromptu sessions with other musicians. Music is something that Lindner has always focused on throughout his diplomatic career. During his diplomatic posting in Kenya between 2006 and 2009, Lindner used to

organise an East African pop and rock festival in the garden at his home. In New York between 1998 and 2001, he collaborated with a Broadway R&B artist. Lindner believes music helps him connect with the people better and is key to a diplomat's success, apart from developing his own understanding and awareness of the country of his posting. "I am approaching India and Indians with an open heart, having spent time here in 1977 and impressed with the spirituality and philosophy. I make weekend travels to smaller cities and towns at my own cost to learn more about this magnificent country. I was always impressed by India, by its enigma," Lindner told ET in an exclusive, freewheeling interview.

Lindner was "fascinated" by the spirituality of India when he first came here in 1977. At that time, India may have been a "bit more naïve" than it is today – it was thought of as a place where everyone was meditating and doing yoga and was a "place of enlightenment for us," he recalls. "To get a more in-depth understanding of India, I thought I have to come here as an ambassador," Lindner noted as he delved into his journey in the worlds of music and diplomacy. After his music studies in Munich, Graz and Boston, Lindner returned to

Germany in 1980 to study law. He practised for two years before switching to the diplomatic service in 1988, which took him to countries across Africa and Latin America. He rose to become Germany's foreign secretary from February 2017 to March 2019. "But this idea of India was always in my head because I had been here for six months but I knew I had to come back because six months is not enough to decipher the mystics of this country. I guess you need a whole life," he said. So, how does he view the India of 42 years ago and the country it is now? "I visit flower markets and spice markets and I also visited IT hub in Bengaluru. It is fascinating," said Lindner, who moves around in the capital in an Ambassador car and is quite delighted about it because it is another novel way of connecting with the people. "I am just saying it's a wonderful car. And I'm happy that I can make the Indians happy when I see people standing on the streets, waving at us, clicking, you know, from all walks of life. So, it is out of my hands now, it's not my car anymore. It is an Indian car," he said.

Until a few months ago, former Mexican envoy Melba Priá used to travel around in an autorickshaw, which became her style quotient in New Delhi. According to Lindner, this helps to assess the strategic importance of the country. "And so, for this, I guess you have to talk, of course, to intellectuals and journalists and corporates, but also to the people on the street... in all my postings, I always went out there and tried to get a feel of the people," the envoy recalled.

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Are Basements Taking Over the Indie Music Scene?

An initiative provides intimate space to new bands to break in new sounds. **Shashwat Kumar** reports

Music has been a part of culture almost since humans first learned to speak. It is only natural for an organism to explore the vastness of its own capabilities and, of course, we're still not done. From beating primitive handmade drums to playing stringed instruments and now arriving at the electronic era, music has been incorporated in most aspects of our lives. With the passage of time, the rate of change in industry sound trends has been growing. Surely, one can't definitively say when a particular style caught on, but generally speaking, classical orchestral pieces were probably pop music for a century from the 1800s onwards. After World War I, came jazz, which was played everywhere for another few decades and then began the rock era. Starting from the 60s and going into the early 90s, it then evolved into grunge, which lasted for an even shorter period. The amount of time that each genre prevailed as pop music has decreased as technology evolved.

The first mass-produced electric guitars were the Fender Esquire and Fender Broadcaster (later the Fender Telecaster), made in 1948, five years after Les Paul made his prototype. The signature 'distortion' sound that embodies rock 'n' roll was created by experiment in the mid-50s. Aficionados took a few years to blend the instrument into music and suddenly that's all that was played at popular clubs. People just couldn't get enough of the blaring guitars! When synthesizers rolled around, a wave of psychedelic rock was born, through which bands like Pink Floyd and The Doors discovered their sound. Yet again, the culture engulfed the new sound and went on changing as it always did.

But what about now? In a world where software can superimpose waves and make sounds on the go, there are infinite possibilities of creating music styles that are unheard of. Artists like Childish Gambino, Kanye West and Tyler the Creator have broken out of the box that the idea of genres put them in, gone ahead and made music that has, in fact, pushed the art forward. Such established names have a much easier time experimenting with newer sounds as they bring a barrage of marketing and promotions that help them create trends. What about artists who are not up there yet, but have a completely fresh vibe?

The country is currently brimming with music that people want to listen to but just can't seem to catch. Record labels and Bollywood seem to be doing just fine with a stagnated palette. The number of venues where artists can showcase their work and be recognised come out majorly short-handed when compared with the multitude of artists willing to perform. With the added pressure of having to stick to a vibe, artists are forced to play the same old beat and the audience to keep on marching to the beat.

Basement Takeover (Instagram: Basementakeover) is an initiative by Astaq Ahmed (Instagram: iframetheworld) that provides a space for new and upcoming artists to perform and interact with a dedicated and involved audience.

"While I did get multiple shows, I felt like venues were not that open to showcasing a new sound, something that they weren't exposed to already," said Ahmed. "This wasn't the first time I was hearing about this but experiencing this personally really put things

into perspective for me. I realised the plight of artists and what they face while dealing with live events."

It's a concept that's been catching on in cities where artists can't get enough gigs. At the heart of it lie bands that haven't quite broken 'their people' but the feel of the venue provides such an immense connect between the two that they feel at home. And that's to be taken quite literally.



Childish Gambino, Kanye West and Tyler the Creator have broken out of the box that the idea of genres put them in

Ahmed has converted his basement into a full-blown performance venue alongside a lounge - everything you'll find in a club but at home. Back when he wrote his first EP, An Anecdote, he used his basement to practice and eventually perform for an audience.

"To go against the grain, I started by performing in my own basement for a small crowd and it was absolutely phenomenal. The whole purpose of an intimate setting is the interaction between the performer and the audience. The response from people ensured that I didn't stop at one event," he said.

This is where Basement Takeover started and it's been growing since. Saturday nights filled with people who are taken back yet beautifully drawn in by the shift in the nature of a 'weekend outing' is what sets apart this event from any other.

indica gastronomica

IN SEARCH OF REAL PUNJABI FOOD

How different is the Punjabi food one gets in Delhi restaurants from the traditional Punjabi food practice? Anirban Bora tries to find out...

2013: Having lived with diet restrictions, a hungry Nidhu Samadhar (name changed), the retired headclerk of Baghbaz, Kolkata, visited Delhi on some work

Now I am ready for my 'real' Punjabi food trial in Delhi

What do you mean by 'real' Punjabi food?

What else but tandoori and malai tikkas, the buttery Dal Makhani, butter chicken and the delightfully orange paneer gravy

Provoked by Nidhubabu, I embarked on a super-rich, cream-based, tomato-onion laden -nut paste-loaded butter-drenched gravy based, food trail which made me and Nidhubabu sick for a week

The stereotype Punjabi food joints in Delhi usually have a few dishes in common

After this bout of overeating, I met Reetika Gill, the owner of Curry Singh Kitchen and a brilliant chef, who set a few things right

"Real and traditional Punjabi cuisine" is simple, robust with flavours, and well-balanced with six tastes, resulting in naturally delicious food and never known to use exotic spices such as nutmeg, mace and saffron. Most restaurants have been promoting versions of this traditional food without understanding the true food philosophy

Rajma, chole chawal and moth kachori reached Delhi around this time and are today a prominent part of the food culture of Delhi

To be broken and served with chopped onions and tomatoes

This results in scores of vegetarian and meat dishes which hardly differ in flavour and taste. In the choice of vegetables, diners are compelled to choose between raw paneer, mushroom and corn dishes. There is no thrust on including the seasonal bouquet of vegetables which is a major part of Punjabi food

A false perception of Punjabi cuisine is promoted - which is far from the simple Punjabi food culture developed in restaurants over 30-40 years

Traditionally, Punjabi food does not include cream or even nuts. Paneer too, is a much later addition

Further, this food does not conform to "good-feel eating" standards, which should ideally leave one's appetite rested, and make diners look forward to their next meal

today when a Punjabi family goes to eat at a Punjabi restaurant they don't relate to the dishes as their own because they never cook those dishes at home

We must understand that Punjab (Punj= five and ab=water) was huge in size before 1947 and Partition brought in a significant number of refugees and their food cultures from West Punjab

Bhatti (tandoor) came to Delhi with the Punjabis from Peshwar region

Popular travel and food writer Puneetinder Kaur Sidhu

In traditional Punjabi cooking, only clay tandoor was used to make breads. Kebabs of late are prepared on clay tandoors replacing the open fire pits

Guru Nanak stressed on communal tandoors where every person from the community would come to bake their breads and cook their food in the same open pit. These tandoors gained immense popularity especially among women of the houses for whom it was an escape from their mother-in-law and day-to-day affairs

In today's Punjabi restaurants, tandoor and the kebabs are the most integral part of the menu

Mustard is the easiest crop to grow and Punjabi food can never be complete in winter without the traditional Sarson ka Saag and Makki ke Roti, a bread made with Portuguese imported corn

2,500-year-old Jain book Acharanga Sutra speaks of Sarson ka Saag

Milk and lassi are abundant and there are very few lactose intolerance cases in this region

And of course there are dals

DAAL MAKHNI

Dal Makhni is whole black lentil and a small amount of kidney beans cooked in ginger-garlic paste and simmered on low heat with a large quantity of tomato, cream and butter

MAANH KI DAAL

(Maanh - the traditional name) is slowly cooked with a little quantity of onion and ginger, and more of garlic, over low heat. When it attains the well-cooked and desired viscosity, it can be tempered with lots of desi ghee and cumin, or if one's taste permits, it can be additionally tempered with herbs like onion, ginger, garlic and green chillies. Alternatively, some may even skip the tempering and just add a dollop of homemade butter

Tadka of spices and herbs is used only while preparing pulses, kadhis and saags which not only employ the use of ghee or oil in cooking, but are cooked in their own water or additional water or buttermilk. Tadka is a way of intensifying the flavour and taste of food. It has an additional benefit of increasing the shelf life of the dish by a few hours

Much like the ghee in the sweet Pinni which increases its shelf life

Then there are paranthas, papri chats, dahi bhallas, kulchas, achars and hundreds of dishes

changing with time has made the cuisine of our country diverse and brilliant but one must not forget one's roots

Especially when that 5,000-year-old root involves food cooked with regular spices like brown cardamom, tej patta, coriander, ajwain, cumin, black pepper, clove, cinnamon, green cardamom, fenel, methi and more

Pharma Exports Expected to Rise 14.5% to \$22B

Our Bureau

Hyderabad: Indian pharmaceutical exports are likely to touch \$22 billion this fiscal largely on improving exports to and stabilising prices in the US market, which accounts for a third of India's pharma exports, a 14.5% jump from last fiscal, forecasts Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India (Pharmex-cil), a part of the ministry of commerce and industry.

The overall economic slowdown across the globe was compelling many economies to opt for generic drugs to substantially bring down their healthcare costs is also helping the Indian pharma exports, said Pharmexcil director general Ravi Uday Bhaskar.

India's pharma exports reported an 11% growth in the first quarter of the fiscal ending June 2019 at \$5 billion, Uday Bhaskar said.

Prasad to Chair Roundtable with Industry Captains

Our Bureau

New Delhi: To push India as an hub for exports, minister for electronics and IT Ravi Shankar Prasad will chair a roundtable with industry captains on Monday. Top executives from firms such as Apple, Samsung and Dell along with component makers like Wistron are expected to attend the meeting.

"We will listen to the players on how they now plan to push their manufacturing to a larger scale in India, and bring in supply chain and value addition. We will lis-

Power Contracts Can't be Junked But Renegotiation Needed: AP

Embarrassed by July 12 letters to green power producers: Advocate general S Sriram

Sarita.Singh@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Andhra Pradesh government has told in the high court it has realised that renewable power contracts with developers cannot be terminated and was embarrassed by its move towards this, but said power purchase agreements need to be renegotiated.

State advocate general S Sriram told the court that consultation and negotiation contemplated in a July 1 government order have not materialised and that the tariff revision will now be pursued by the state's electricity commission, subject to high court's decision, people present during the hearing on Thursday told ET.

The order had directed a high-level committee to renegotiate PPAs and submit report to the state in 45 days. Later, on July 12, Southern Andhra Power Distribution Company had sent letters to 139 power plants asking wind and solar energy plant to revise their tariff to Rs 2.43 per unit and Rs 2.44 per unit, respectively, with

retrospective effect.

The Andhra Pradesh High Court had on July 25 stayed the state government's July 1 order after a number of renewable energy companies filed suits against the move to renegotiate all power supply contracts.

Based on Thursday's admission by the advocate general, power companies have now asked the high court to quash the July 1 order as well as the letters sent to renewable energy developers. The companies also demanded the court to direct adherence to all

terms of the power purchase agreements, including payment to the companies.

The matter has been fixed for September 18 for rejoinder submissions by companies.

Ambassadors of countries including Japan, Canada and France, some financial institutions and re-

Chain of Events

► **July 1:** State directs panel to renegotiate pacts & submit report in 45 days

► **July 12:** Southern Andhra Power Distribution Company asks wind plants to revise tariff to ₹2.43 and solar plants to ₹2.44

July 25: HC stays July 1 order



Ambassadors of many countries, financial institutions and renewable energy developers have written to PM, power minister and CM expressing concerns on reopening of the legal contracts

newable energy developers had taken up the matter with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union power minister R K Singh and chief minister Jagannathan Reddy, writing to them raising concerns over the state's move to reopen legal contracts.

Andhra Pradesh energy department spokesperson Chandra Sekhar Reddy had told ET on August 30 that electricity distribution companies in the state will go bust if

the energy department continues to pay for wind and solar power at current tariffs.

The state is willing to negotiate the tariffs it quoted in the letters to renewable energy companies, he had said. The unpaid power generator dues of the discoms stand at about Rs 20,000 crore. In 2017-18, discoms resorted to borrowings to pay the dues and hence now they cannot raise more money through this route.

‘Spectrum Auction by Yr-End or Early Next Yr’

Our Bureau



Next round of spectrum auction is likely to be the largest, with 8,293.95 MHz of airwaves on offer

Mumbai: The government plans to hold the next round of spectrum auctions by the end of this year or early next year, telecom minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said on Friday.

"By year end or beginning of next year, we propose to go for the auction of spectrum and we have ensured India's auction of spectrum in a clear and transparent manner," Prasad said at an industry event on Friday. The telecom department had in June outlined plans to hold the spectrum sale by December 2019. ET in its August 27 edition reported that the sale was likely to be delayed to early 2020.

The next round of spectrum auc-

tion — the first since 2016 — is likely to be the largest, with 8,293.95 MHz of airwaves on offer at an estimated base price of ₹5.86 lakh crore. The auctions will see the debut of 5G spectrum, which is expected to propel the telecom industry to the next phase of growth, besides the sale of 4G spectrum.

The sector regulator has suggested a base price of ₹492 per MHz for 5G airwaves and proposed the sale of a minimum 20 MHz blocks, which would mean a telco spending close to ₹10,000 crore for 20 MHz and ₹50,000

crore for 100 MHz. Telecom companies have described the rates as very high, warning that purchasing spectrum at such prices would worsen the severe financial pressure they are already facing.

Prasad said the telecom department had noted the problems of the industry. "The department will look into the problems of the telecom sector. All the initiatives taken in spectrum sharing and trading and communication policy is already in place," said the minister.

However, he added that while the government would give its support, telecom service providers (TSP) must get their act together.

The total debt of the telecom sector is estimated to be nearly Rs 8 lakh crore.

Not Obligated to Accept Centre's Nominal GDP Numbers: Finance Commission

Our Bureau

New Delhi: The Finance Commission could rely on its "own independent judgement" on growth projections as it finalises the formula for devolution of funds to states from the Centre for the five years starting April 1, 2020.

"I am not obliged, the Commission is not obliged to accept the numbers on the nominal GDP as submitted to the Commission either in the Central government memoranda of understanding (MoUs) or as contained in the medium-term fiscal policy statement presented to Parliament," commission chairman NK Singh told reporters after the constitutional body's discussions with its advisory council on Friday.

India's nominal GDP growth, a

measure of the economy without adjusting for inflation, was just 8%, the least in the current series of national accounts going back to FY12, indicating a deep slowdown. The government had estimated a nominal GDP growth of 11% in the budget and this decline is likely to have implications for the overall fiscal.

The country's real GDP growth fell to an over six-year low of 5% in the first quarter of this financial year.

The former bureaucrat said the Commission is duty-bound under the Constitution to arrive at its "own independent judgement."

"How we intend to exercise that is entirely up to us. But the fact remains that between the time - say six months ago and now - the numbers on the nominal GDP look more problematic," he said, adding



‘Need to Create Excitement’

►► From Page 1

Television sales have been flat this year, while sales of white goods have slowed down from August.

Spencer's Retail CEO Devendra Chawla said he and the chain's top management team are now spending more time in stores to connect directly with consumers and hear them out.

Departmental store chain Lifestyle's MD has a bigger plan. Vasanth Kumar has decided he will visit his top 40 stores at least once till Diwali to connect with consumers and create buzz.

Chawla said there is a need to make more efforts to push sales right now than ever before. He said based on such interac-

FLAT SALES

Sales of white goods have slowed down from August

tions, Spencer's has created WhatsApp groups for each store to reach out to the top 500 customers to push promotions and even take orders for home delivery.

Panasonic India CEO Manish Sharma said that while he tries to keep away from personal gestures on social media like skydiving, but if it improves sentiment then he is ready. "Consumer attention span is extremely low right now, so we have to look at ways to create excitement," he said.

‘States Need to do Away With Huge Regulations for Sugar, Alco-Bev’

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant on Friday called upon states to ease regulations for sugar, alcohol beverages and tourism sectors to help improve the country's Doing Business ranking. Kant highlighted that tourism, alcohol-beverages and sugar industries have the potential to generate jobs and fuel India's growth story.

Government at best can be a facilitator, a catalyst, he noted, adding that wealth creation has to be done by the private sector and therefore, there is a need to do away with all these rules and regulations which have been amassed over the years.

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY
MECHANICAL BRANCH, OPEN TENDER
NIT No.: JBP/M/Tender/43/2019
Date : 09.09.2019

E-Tenders are invited on behalf of the President of India acting through Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer (Co-ordination), Divisional Railway Manager (M), West Central Railway, Jabalpur for the following work:-
(1) NIT No. & Date: JBP/M/Tender/43/2019, Dated 09.09.19, Name of Work with Location: Outsourcing of body, bogie, under frame welding work and other electric are cum gas welding activities in freight stock at ROH depot NKJ. Approx. Value of the Work: ₹ 1,15,88,099.80 Tender Doc. cost: ₹ 5,000 Earnest Money to be deposited: ₹ 2,08,000/- Completion Period: 12 Months Last Date & Time for Submission of Tender: upto 15.00 hrs. on 09.10.2019. Opening Date of Tender: 09.10.2019 at 15.30 Hrs. Complete information of the above E-tenders is available on website <https://ireps.gov.in> and also placed on the notice board of the Divisional Railway Manager (Mech) office of West Central Railway, Jabalpur. Tenders other than in the form of e-bids shall not be accepted against above tender.

Divisional Railway Manager (Mech.)
West Central Railway, Jabalpur

During Rail Journey, Dial 138 for general complaints & Dial 182 for security complaints

Encryption Deadlock

►► From Page 1

In his meeting with Prasad, Clegg offered to track WhatsApp communication activities of persons deemed "dubious or suspicious" by government agencies, officials familiar with the discussions told ET on the condition of anonymity. However, Facebook doesn't want to do this retrospectively. It will only do this for persons identified by the government from now on. Neither does the company want to break end-to-end encryption, which is at the core of the traceability issue.

Clegg said his discussions with Shah were centered around the question of "how even

as we protect end-to-end encryption we want to continue to work with them in sharing different forms of signals in response to legal requests that can be helpful". With Doval, discussions were along similar lines, he said.

Proposed intermediary guidelines make traceability mandatory for social media companies such as Facebook when content is deemed officially to have created law and order problems. The Supreme Court asked the government on Friday to provide information on the progress with guidelines.

"It will be a great shame if India sets a precedent (on data localisation) that will be copied by other countries," Clegg told ET.

उत्पाद एवं मय निषेध विभाग, झारखंड, राँची।

पत्रांक-2271 दिनांक-13.09.19

पूर्व निर्गत निविदा संबंधी सूचना

एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि विभागीय पत्रांक 2074 दिनांक 09.08.2019 एवं 2223 दिनांक 30.08.2019 द्वारा संशोधित निविदा प्रकाशित आमंत्रण सूचना दिनांक 06.09.2019 को आयुक्त उत्पाद की अध्यक्षता में सम्पन्न Pre Bid Meeting की बैठक में प्राप्त सुझावों एवं दृष्टिगत त्रुटियों के संशोधन हेतु उक्त निविदा को अपरिहार्य कारणों से स्थगित किया जाता है। Pre Bid Meeting में प्राप्त सुझाव एवं दृष्टिगत त्रुटियों के आलोक में शुद्धि पत्र निर्गत करने के उपरांत उक्त निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं निविदा खोलने की तिथि यथाशीघ्र पुनर्निर्धारित की जायेगी।

पूर्व का निविदा प्रकाशन का PR No. 214244 एवं 216063 है।

श्रिते अब तक का समझे, वो कहानी हूँ मैं, मुझे बर्बाद मत करो पानी हूँ मैं।

PR 216883 (Excise) 19-20 (D)

TENUGHAT VIDYUT NIGAM LIMITED
तेनुघाट विद्युत निगम लिमिटेड
(A GOVT. OF JHARKHAND UNDERTAKING)
HINOO, DORANDA, RANCHI-834002, JHARKHAND
(TEL : 0651- 2252160 , 2252161, 2252164), CIN U40101JH1987SGC013153

Letter No. - 925/19-20 Dated:- 12 - 09 - 2019

SHORT TENDER NOTICE

Online tender in two parts (Part-I Technical & Commercial Bid, Part-II Price Bid to be submitted in TVNL Website Only) are invited on behalf of TENUGHAT VIDYUT NIGAM LIMITED, Ranchi from reputed, experienced and financially sound bidders for under mentioned work at TVNL, Ranchi:-

Sl. No.	NIT No.	SRM RFx No.	Description	Last date of bid submission	Due Date for opening of Part - I
1.	40/HR/W/TVNL/RAN/19-20	10000-03896	Engagement of Security Personnel (Ex- army), for round the clock duties at TVNL Hqrd Office and Guest house for one year period.	30.09.19 Up to 14:00 Hrs	30.09.19 at 16:00 Hrs

Bid documents are to be submitted online through SAP-SRM, TVNL website: webdispatcher.tvnl.in/srmprd up to last date and time of bid submission. The tender documents can be downloaded from our website: www.tvnl.in

श्रिते अब तक का समझे, वो कहानी हूँ मैं, मुझे बर्बाद मत करो पानी हूँ मैं।

Sd/-
(Rajesh Ranjan)
ESE (C&M-J)

PR 216842 (Tenughat Vidyut Nigam Ltd.)19-20#D

एम एम आर डी ए MUMBAI METROPOLITAN REGION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
(A Govt. of Maharashtra Undertaking)
Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai -51.
Tel: 26590001/04, Fax: 91-022-26591264 Website: <https://mmrda.maharashtra.gov.in>

e-RFP Notice

Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) hereby invites Request for Proposal (RFP) from eligible Bidders through MMRDA e-tendering Portal for “Request for Proposal for Revamp, Redesign, Hosting and Maintenance of MMRDA Website for 5 years”. The RFP Details are as under:-

Sr. No.	Parameters	Details																
1.	Tender/Bid No.	MMRDA / IT /40 - A																
2.	Division	IT Cell																
3.	Name of Tender/ Bid	“Request for Proposal for Revamp, Redesign, Hosting and Maintenance of MMRDA Website for 5 years.”																
4.	Contact details	Shri. S. C. Deshpande, Chief Town &Country Planning, In-charge IT Cell, Tel:022-26594079/7444; Fax No: 022-2659 4178 Email: itcadmin@mailmmrda.maharashtra.gov.in																
5.	Important dates	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>From date/time</th> <th>To date/time</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Bid document download</td> <td>30.09.2019 from 10.00 hrs (IST) 13.11.2019 till 16.00 hrs (IST)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Last date of receipt of queries/ clarification</td> <td>- 14.10.2019 17:00 hrs (IST)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pre Bid Meeting</td> <td>15.10.2019 at 15:00 hrs (IST) Venue: 4th Floor, New MMRDA Building, BKC, Mumbai – 51.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Last Date of Online submission</td> <td>- 13.11.2019 till 16:00 hrs (IST)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Date of Closing</td> <td>13.11.2019 16:01 hrs (IST) 13.11.2019 till 18:00 hrs (IST)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bid Transfer date</td> <td>13.11.2019 18:01 hrs (IST) 14.11.2019 18:00 hrs (IST)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Date of Opening</td> <td>15.11.2019 11:00 hrs (IST) 12:00 hrs (IST)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	From date/time	To date/time	Bid document download	30.09.2019 from 10.00 hrs (IST) 13.11.2019 till 16.00 hrs (IST)	Last date of receipt of queries/ clarification	- 14.10.2019 17:00 hrs (IST)	Pre Bid Meeting	15.10.2019 at 15:00 hrs (IST) Venue: 4 th Floor, New MMRDA Building, BKC, Mumbai – 51.	Last Date of Online submission	- 13.11.2019 till 16:00 hrs (IST)	Date of Closing	13.11.2019 16:01 hrs (IST) 13.11.2019 till 18:00 hrs (IST)	Bid Transfer date	13.11.2019 18:01 hrs (IST) 14.11.2019 18:00 hrs (IST)	Date of Opening	15.11.2019 11:00 hrs (IST) 12:00 hrs (IST)
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The e-RFP shall be available for free download on registration at <https://etendermmrda.maharashtra.gov.in> as per the above-mentioned dates. The submission of the e-RFP response is through MMRDA e-tendering Portal only. For participating in this e-RFP and avoiding last minute technical challenges if any, all the bidders shall follow the guidelines mentioned in the e-RFP document on e-tendering Portal. The bidders shall go through the e-tender SOP and FAQs hosted at MMRDA e-tendering Portal for detailed understanding of e-tendering submission process. For any e-tendering support, bidders shall mail MMRDA e-tendering Helpdesk at etendersupport@mailmmrda.maharashtra.gov.in or call Helpdesk on 022-2659 7445.

Date: 13.09.2019 Place : Mumbai Sd/- Metropolitan Commissioner MMRDA



Flood-Affected States Reduce Paddy Area Deficit to 2%

Our Bureau

New Delhi: Late paddy planting in flood-affected areas of Bihar, Odisha, Assam and Karnataka has reduced the deficit in paddy area to just 2% as compared to last year. With planting of early varieties and transplanting of seedlings from nurseries still on, the deficit is likely to be over by next week, officials said.

"Water has receded from most of the area making it even more conducive for paddy planting," said a senior official at the agriculture department. "We expect to cover up the deficit by next week as there are reports of planting from some parts of Bihar, Assam and Odisha."

The overall acreage is almost touching last year's level – down by less than 0.5%.

Another department official said output of paddy is likely to be down by 10-15% in this kharif season — or, monsoon farming season from June to October — due to floods in main paddy growing areas of Odisha, Assam and Bihar, and less rains in parts of West Bengal and Jharkhand. Floods have damaged the crop in some areas. As per the fourth advance estimate, rice output in the last kharif season was estimated at 102.13 million tonnes.

"However, due to late rains and floods in paddy growing areas, there is likely to be rise in rabi (winter season during October-November) output of paddy, and overall paddy production may touch last year's record levels," the official said. "In 2018-19, rabi output of paddy has been estimated at 14 million tonnes with an overall record production of over 116 million tonnes."

Agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar had last week said the government expects bumper production of food grains this year. "We expect good production of food grains. I have been maintaining since beginning of the

season that monsoon will be good and there is no concern on production," he had told ET.

Apart from paddy, the area under cultivation is down only for pulses and sugar cane.

In other crops such as oilseeds, cotton and coarse cereals, the area under cultivation is either higher or at last year's levels.

"Pulses area is down by around 2% while sugarcane is down by 5% in Karnataka and Maharashtra," said another official. "The output of sugarcane will be affected due to floods in these areas, but production of pulses is unlikely to be down due to higher yielding varieties."

Cumulative rainfall this season was 3% above normal despite a relatively dry spell over the last few days. Due to heavy rain in August, major reservoirs are brimming with water, at about 111% of last year's levels, allaying fears of a shortage for irrigation and drinking.

"Due to late surge in rains, the moisture-content in soil looks healthy. While there doesn't seem to be any drop in kharif output, rabi production, too, looks promising with filled reservoirs," said PK Joshi, fellow at National Academy of Agricultural Sciences.



Neymar is available to play for Paris St Germain after being left out of their squad as negotiations took place over a potential return to Barcelona, coach Thomas Tuchel said on Friday. The Brazilian is likely to make his first appearance of the season for the Ligue 1 leaders at home against Racing Strasbourg on Saturday. Barca spent the bulk of the close season negotiating with PSG to bring Neymar back to the Camp Nou, two years after he left for a world record 222 million euros (\$245 million) but the Catalans failed to strike a deal with the Ligue 1 champions. Tuchel told a news conference that all players were available except Thilo Kehrer, Julian Draxler, Edinson Cavani and Kylian Mbappe.

For me, Test cricket was very important and I always wanted to play Test cricket and didn't want to be a cricketer who has played (only) T20s and ODIs. I gave a lot of importance to Test cricket...I always wanted to make a mark in Test cricket. I had the belief that I have done well in first-class cricket, then I could replicate that in Test matches. The journey has just started, just played 12 Tests... when I made my Test debut in South Africa after playing two years of international cricket, it was a dream come true (moment). Being there playing in the white jersey was a great feeling and then slowly contributing to team success gave me satisfaction

JASPRIT BUMRAH

Russell Cleared After Head Blow

West Indies all-rounder Andre Russell has been cleared of serious injury after being hit in the helmet and carted off the ground during a Caribbean Premier League match on Thursday, organisers said. The Jamaica Tallawahs player was struck near the right ear when attempting to pull a short ball by St Lucia Zouks paceman Hardus Viljoen and ended up leaving the field on a stretcher in a neck brace. CPL organisers said the 31-year-old had been cleared by scans at hospital.



Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane said Friday that big-money summer signing Eden Hazard has been passed fit and will make his long-awaited La Liga debut against Levante on Saturday. "We all want to see Eden," said Zidane. "There's a lot of pressure on him, a lot of expectation. But he is ready and that is the most important thing." Hazard was expected to make his debut in Vigo in the opening round in mid-August after joining Madrid for an initial 100 million euros from Chelsea in June. But the Belgian pulled up with a thigh strain at the club's training base in Valdebebas and had to sit out the first three weeks of the season during which Real struggled, collecting one win and two draws. Zidane, however, called for patience as Hazard finds his feet again. "We have to go gently," he said. "He (Hazard) was injured for three weeks, he has been back for a week." Hazard's return is timely for Madrid who also start their Champions League campaign against Paris Saint-Germain next week, especially as Luka Modric was ruled out this week with a groin strain.

The Past, Present and Future of Joe Root

England's captain has the weight of the world on his shoulders as he tries to recapture the player he was

Felix White

They probably shouldn't be, but ultimately all England Test captains are eventually judged on their Ashes records. The retrospective conversation, and God knows cricket is infatuated with picking over the past, tends to airbrush extraneous world events and pin its weighted history on these series' alone. In the curious and present day case of Joe Root though, his Ashes lineage doesn't tend to feel so much a captaincy record to be judged by at all, but more a sequence of events that act as a coming of age film we have simply witnessed. For most of us, the tragic-comic passage through our twenties happens in a series of private little dinks, the slow dissembling of what we imagined our lives would entail and the concurrent re-building of a starker, more accurate expectation. For those aged beyond that decade, with any loaded memory of the difficulties that it presented, it's worth sparing

LONG-TERM GOAL

With an eye on next year's T20 World Cup, India look to continue experimentation in the three-match series against South Africa starting Sunday



Chetan Narula

In the coming 13 months, the Men in Blue will be busy playing quite a few T20s. Starting against South Africa this Sunday in Dharamsala, then Bangladesh and West Indies at home, New Zealand away early in 2020, Sri Lanka away mid-year, followed by the Asia Cup (in T20 format) plus preparatory series against England (at home) and Australia (away) — that's anywhere between 22-27 matches in the build-up to the T20 World Cup next year. Of course, the experimentation was already set in motion with the tour of West Indies, and this upcoming three-match series against the Proteas is seemingly an extension of the same.

NO BUMRAH OR BHUVI: Jasprit Bumrah was rested for the T20s in West Indies, and the selectors have gone a step further by resting Bhuvneshwar Kumar from this series. If fully fit, Bumrah-Bhuvni are two sure-shot names on the team-sheet across white-ball formats, and so, the team management is arguably looking for a third-choice pacer in T20 cricket.

On paper Khaleel Ahmed takes the lead, on account of his experience in Australia last year. But his strike-rate on the international level (21.82 in 11 matches) hasn't matched his IPL strike-rate (11.95 in 10 matches) with less variation in economy (8.78 compared to 8.59, respectively). Although Virat Kohli likes a left-hand pacer on account of bowling angle, it is all about returns.

This is where Deepak Chahar and Navdeep Saini enter into the fray. Handling the new ball ahead of Ahmed in West Indies, the duo made a serious impression in individual capacities. With both Bumrah and Kumar missing, it is a serious opportunity for one (even two) of these three youngsters to nail down a spot for the

coming months and stake a claim for next year.

HARDIK PANDYA IS BACK: It is interesting how the selectors (and team management) intend to use the mercurial all-rounder. He was rested from the West Indies' tour, was picked for the T20s against South Africa and has been left out of the Test series to follow. It is more about horses-for-courses at this stage, than giving him rest, seemingly.

The underlying point about his inclusion herein is about the change in team dynamics. He could straight away walk into the side as Kumar's replacement, as a seam bowling option and lower-order batsman. It further strengthens India's six-bowler theory in T20 cricket — three pacers and three spinners, inclusive of all-rounders Washington Sundar and Krunal Pandya. The question remaining is if the five-batsman theory, strong enough on paper, works out on the field.

THE BATTING STRIKE-RATE: India have a problem of plenty at the top. They need to pick three out of Shikhar Dhawan, KL Rahul, Rohit Sharma and Kohli. It is ponderous, in that the latter two pick themselves while Dhawan's record in limited-overs' cricket cannot be denied. Yet, this trio — Dhawan, Rohit and Kohli — isn't a quick-scoring one by T20 standards.

While their T20/IPL strike-rates oscillate between late 120s-130s, crux of the matter is in how they start — taking their sweet time, getting set and then taking charge of the situation. It is a problem carrying over from the ODI format — if it works, it works splen-

didi. On the off chance, it doesn't work, like in that semi-final against New Zealand, India get knocked out.

So, where do they find power-hitters? Rahul has the highest strike-rate of these four top-order batsmen, not to mention, he is a quick-starter although he lacks consistency.

Rishabh Pant is a power-hitter, so is Hardik Pandya, but they bat deeper in this T20 order. Should India go with a top-order rejig, bringing

in Shreyas Iyer at number four, even at number three, with Kohli opening the batting with Rohit? Brazen as this idea might sound, it is perhaps too early for even the otherwise trigger-happy Indian skipper.

FRESH START FOR SOUTH AFRICA: That the Proteas needed a fresh start after another World Cup debacle is beyond questioning. Even so, it was surprising when the powers that be chose Quinton de Kock for the job.

There is merit in this thought, yes. He is an exciting batsman, and in his dual role as wicket keeper, he is an obvious selection for the near future. The one criticism against de Kock is his temperament. During the World Cup, he termed Mumbai Indians' latest IPL victory as the biggest emotional high point in his cricketing career. It was a comment that garnered widespread surprise and even condemnation.

So, how does a cricketer, who doesn't rate representing his country on the international stage higher than playing franchise T20 cricket, lead his national team out of an abyss? Like everything to do with South African cricket, this is a quandary without many possible answers.

SOUTH AFRICA TOUR OF INDIA

T20 SCHEDULE

1st T20!
15 Sept @ Dharamsala
2nd T20!
18 Sept @ Mohali
3rd T20!
22 Sept @ Bengaluru
LIVE on Star Sports
7pm onwards

Suspense Over Hima's Participation in World Athletics Championships

The Assamese missing from AFI's initial entry submitted to IAAF, but can be added till September 16

World junior champion Hima Das' participation in the World Championships relay events became a matter of intense speculation on Friday after she was left out of the initial entries even though her name can still be added by September 16.

The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) had on September 9 named seven women, including Hima, for the 4x400m relay and 4x400m mixed relay races. But it is learnt that Hima's name was missing in the initial entry of Indian women athletes for the two relay races submitted by AFI to the IAAF for the September 27 to October 6 showpiece event in Doha.

Jisna Mathew, MR Poovamma, Revathi Veeramani, Subha Venkatesan, V K Vismaya and Ramraj Vithya have been entered for the women's 4x400m relay, while Hima's name is missing.

The 19-year-old Assamese runner was also not entered for the mixed 4x400m relay race. Jisna, Poovamma and Vismaya were named along with Jacob Amoj, Muhammed Anas and Noah Tom Nirmal.

The AFI has time till September 16 midnight to include Hima in the two relay teams in place of another runner but not after that. The IAAF

allows only six names to be entered for the relay races but the AFI had named seven women. The non-inclusion of Hima in the initial list has put a question mark on her participation as she has been suffering from a lower back pain after the Asian Games last year.

She pulled out of the individual 400m heats during the Asian Championships in Doha in April midway through the race.

At that time, deputy chief coach Radhakrishnan Nair had said that the injury was a lower back spasm (at L4 and L5, two lowest vertebrae in the lumbar spine).

Even during her ongoing training stint in Europe, as part of preparations for the World Championships, she has run just one 400m race as she is learnt to be in pain while running longer distances.

Between July 2 and 20, Hima won four gold medals in 200m and one yellow medal in 400m at sub-par races in Europe.

In August, she won a gold in 300m. She could not qualify for the World Championships in her pet event of 400m, with her season's best remaining at 52.09sec as compared to personal best of 50.79.

AFI president Adille Sumariwalla said he is not aware of any decision on Hima's participation.

If she runs and pulls out midway, the (relay) team will suffer. She will have to be fit to run the race

ADILLE SUMARIWALLA, Athletics Federation of India president

in the World Championships.

"I have no information of Hima's latest condition as she is in Europe. There is a doctor with the team in Europe and if she is not fully fit she will not take part (in the World Championships).

"If she runs and pulls out midway, the (relay) team will suffer. She will have to be fit to run the race. Also, she is just 20 and it is better to preserve her for the Olympics. She is young and talented and she will peak by the time of 2024 Olympics, so we should not put undue pressure on her," he said.

PTI



Liverpool Leave Rivals Breathless

Man City may have won the last two EPL titles in scintillating fashion, but Liverpool look better than ever this term



Liverpool's sizzling start to the Premier League season has left their title rivals breathless and the red-hot leaders are expected to maintain their perfect record against Newcastle on Saturday.

Jürgen Klopp's side have seized the early initiative in the Premier League with four successive wins to open up a two-point lead over second placed Manchester City.

The European champions' relentless tempo has overwhelmed Norwich, Southampton, Arsenal and Burnley, sending a message that they are determined to make amends for narrowly failing to pip City to the trophy last season.

Arsenal's Dani Ceballos is new to English football after joining on loan from Real Madrid and the Spain midfielder admitted to being gob-smacked at the intensity Liverpool displayed in their 3-1 victory against the Gunners in August.

"I had never seen anything like it. I've not seen up until now a team that plays better, that presses better. That game had quite an impact on me," Ceballos told the Daily Mail.

"They suck the air out of you. You spend so much time defending and when you want to catch your breath and get on the ball for a bit, they've taken it from you again."

"I think Jürgen Klopp now has the team he first had in mind when he started four years ago." That glowing testimony underlines the size of the task facing City as they try to stop Liverpool winning their first English crown since 1990.

City may have won the last two Premier League titles in scintillating fashion, but Liverpool look better than ever this term and Newcastle are unlikely to halt their progress at Anfield this weekend.

With City playing Norwich in Saturday's late game, the champions could be five points behind Liverpool by the time they kick off at Carrow Road.

Pep Guardiola's team are unbeaten and have already thrashed West Ham and Brighton, but their lone slip — a draw against Tottenham — allowed Liverpool to seize pole position and they can't afford another against second bottom Norwich.

Across Manchester, Ole Gunnar Solskjær's United can only dream of gate-crashing the title race after a disappointing start showed how far they have fallen off the pace.

UNITED'S INJURY CRISIS

Ole Gunnar Solskjær is facing an injury crisis as Manchester United are likely to be without as many as seven players this weekend. Paul Pogba, Jesse Lingard, Luke Shaw, Aaron Wan-Bissaka and Anthony Martial are all doubts for Leicester City's visit to Old Trafford on Saturday.

Those five first-team players, who would all be likely to start if fit, are joined by long-term absentee Diogo Dalot (hip)

WATCH OUT! TODAY

PREMIER LEAGUE (Star Sports)
Liverpool v Newcastle United 5pm; Man United v Leicester 7:30pm; Tottenham v Crystal Palace 7:30pm; Wolverhampton v Chelsea 7:30pm; Norwich City v Man City 10pm
LA LIGA (Facebook)
Real Madrid v Levante 4:30pm; Sociedad v Atletico 10pm; Barcelona v Valencia 12:30am
SERIE A (Sony Ten 2)
Florentina v Juventus 6:30pm; Napoli v Sampdoria 9:30pm
LIGUE 1
PSG v Strasbourg 9pm
BUNDESLIGA (Star Sports)
Dortmund v Bayer Leverkusen 7pm; Leipzig v Bayern Munich 10pm
WATCH OUT! TOMORROW
PREMIER LEAGUE (Star Sports)
Watford v Arsenal 9pm

Atletico in Good Position to Fight for the Title: Forlan

Atletico Madrid have made some good signings in the summer transfer window and the renewed team are in a "good position" to fight for the title this season, says the club's former striker Diego Forlan.

Atleti made one of the most exciting and important signings of the summer transfer window in 19-year-old Joao Felix for a club record of \$137 million from Benfica. Since his arrival at the Wanda Metropolitan, Felix has been impressive and has helped Diego Simeone's side enjoy a perfect start to the new campaign.

Felix, who was signed to replace the departed Antoine Griezmann, is regarded as the best player to come out of Portugal since Cristiano Ronaldo. He has scored one and assisted another in his first three league outings for Los Rojiblancos.

"I know that Real Madrid and Barcelona have great players but so do Atletico de Madrid. They signed really good players, Joao Felix, and Diego Costa is an experienced player, great talent," Forlan said.

"They've renewed the team with some great young players. They did a great pre-season and now we need to see how they do in the league. But they look really good. What they showed in the pre-season was interesting, great games against great teams," he added.

Although Forlan is still not ready to put Atletico ahead of Barcelona and Real Madrid, he believes the gap between the teams is getting narrower.

"The derby against Real Madrid, I know it was a friendly but it was also a derby and nobody likes to lose by that kind of score (7-3). They're going to be fighting [for the title], they always fight. The gap is getting a little closer now. And those players that made history for Real Madrid and Barcelona, they're getting older as well. That could be an advantage for Atletico de Madrid," Forlan said.

"We have to see, but I think Atletico de Madrid are in a good position to fight for the title again," he added.

Both Barcelona and Real Madrid have just one win from three games, while Atletico Madrid are unbeaten so far having won all three matches and sit atop the La Liga points table.

Simeone's side take on Real Sociedad tonight. — ET Sport

and Eric Bailly (knee) on the sidelines. "The treatment room's been busy and still is so we don't really know who's going to be available," Solskjær said at his pre-match press conference on Friday.

Wan-Bissaka and Lingard are struggling with a back injury and an illness respectively and may recover in time to play, though the United manager offered no promises.

Pogba is still feeling the effects of an ankle injury sustained in the 1-1 draw with Southampton before the international break and no hope of featuring. "Pogba won't be fit unless he's had a miraculous recovery over night," Solskjær said. "He's not been ready to do 100 per cent training."

Martial missed the trip to Southampton with a thigh problem and remains unavailable. "We hope more can be ready for West Ham next week and Paul and Anthony are in that category," Solskjær added.

Shaw, meanwhile, picked up a thigh injury prior to the international break and is likely to be sidelined for at least another week.

Agencies

The Independent

person he is might lie. Thursday's innings at the Oval; a 57 that could have been so much more despite being given three lives by haphazard Australian catching, was a sort of microcosm for the whole thing. He walked out markedly spritely, fresh with lightness in his trigger movements at the crease. He smiled a lot. He cut freely and drove straight down the ground in bright sunlight. As the innings evolved, Root almost developed a limp between balls, talking to himself, resembling the intensity with which Nasser Hussain would hold the role of leader, visibly beating himself up. It was a witnessing of a kind of layered Root, the one we first met and the one we know now, the leader desperate not to let anyone down whilst always trying to re-access the ease he once had.

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