



## The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

# Free together, or not at all

South Asia needs a culture of commitment to human rights, not human rights as communal props



PRATAP BHANU MEHTA

## ELECTION, RESTRICTION

Holding local body elections in J&K amid lockdown and detentions could only deepen the distrust

THERE IS SOMETHING of the surreal about Sunday's announcement by the Jammu and Kashmir State Election Commission: Block Development Council elections will be held on "party lines" on October 24. According to this plan, the BDC polls will take place — for the first time in the state — at a juncture when restrictions imposed on citizens by the Centre since August 5 remain largely in place and political leaders continue to be detained, bringing to a standstill all political activity that calls for, and depends upon, the freedom of expression, movement and association. The panchs and sarpanchs, who form the electorate for the BDC polls, are also inhibited by these curbs. In fact, they have been especially affected, for longer. As this paper has reported, almost a year after the last round of J&K panchayat polls, many of these representatives of the people at the bottom-most tier of electoral democracy from different parts of the Valley continue to seek refuge in a hotel in uptown Srinagar as they are fearful of visiting their villages. Even before the current lockdown and communication blockade, this persistence of fear has served to underline the many questions of legitimacy that afflicted the electoral exercise at the end of which many seats of panch and sapanch in the Valley lie vacant, and most of those elected were elected unopposed.

Given that there has been little progress since then in empowering and enabling panchayati raj institutions, and in view of the heavy pall of anxieties and insecurities that has descended over the people and politicians in Kashmir now, the move to push ahead with the BDC polls raises serious questions about what that exercise could possibly achieve. But these questions are being stonewalled by the top echelons of government and the bottommost. The J&K Chief Electoral Officer, Shailendra Kumar, has sought to sweep the political questions under the administrative carpet. The state election commission, he said, is ready and willing to "facilitate" a level playing field, "whenever any candidate or political party approaches us". The BDC polls cannot be preceded by bypolls to fill the vacant panch and sarpanch seats, he said, because that would require electoral roles to be prepared afresh. It is important to go ahead with the BDC polls because "at block level many development works have stopped and are not moving ahead". And Union Home Minister Amit Shah has countered the questions about continuing restrictions in Kashmir by targeting the Opposition for the decades-old militancy in the state and the long imprisonment of Sheikh Abdullah, by invoking the deaths of jawans, and of course, by blaming the "Himalayan" blunders of Jawaharlal Nehru.

In just over a month, the map of J&K is about to change. It is still not known to what extent the move has sparked opposition among the people most affected by it — that assessment can be made only after the restrictions on them are completely lifted. Undoubtedly, what is needed in J&K is a genuine political process with politicians on the ground, not in detention. The push to hold elections when the basic conditions of democracy are not met could only deepen public distrust.

## AT HOT SEA

IPCC report on oceans underlines urgency of upscaling GHG reduction targets, building resilience to climate change

BY 2100, OCEANS all over the world will absorb five to seven times more heat than they have done in the past 50 years, if we do not reduce our emissions trajectory," notes a report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released last week. This, the report warns, will lead to global sea-levels rising by at least a metre, submerging several coastal cities, including Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and Surat. Marine heatwaves are projected to be more intense, they would last longer and occur 50 times more often. Sea-level rise could also lead to an increase in the frequency of extreme weather events, which occur, for example, during high tides and intense storms.

Oceans cover more than 70 per cent of the earth's surface and provide critical ecosystem services such as soaking up heat and distributing it evenly. So, as the planet warms, it's the oceans that get most of the extra energy. But hotter oceans also mean stronger cyclones and storms. This could mean unprecedented volatility in several coastal regions. For instance, in 2014, Cyclone Nilofar was the first extremely severe cyclone to be recorded in the Arabian Sea in the post-monsoon season. Earlier cyclones impacting the country generally originated in the Bay of Bengal and made their landfall on India's eastern coast. Cyclone Nilofar did not make a landfall but it led to heavy rains in the country's west coast. And in October last year, a higher than normal surge in sea-level due to the dual impact of Cyclone Luban and high tide swamped several beaches in Goa. Some of them, in fact, went completely under water for a few hours. Warming seas have changed cyclone behaviour in other ways as well. In 2017, Cyclone Ockhi, which originated in the Bay of Bengal, travelled more than 2,000 km to wreak havoc on India's western coast — the first cyclone to do so in 30 years.

The IPCC report warns of more "frequent El Nino and La Nina events". These events in the Pacific Ocean are critically linked to the southwest monsoons in India. In fact, a El Nino caused a severe drought in the country in 2015. This means that countries will not only have to upscale efforts to check GHG emissions, they will also need to ramp up investments in infrastructure and knowledge systems that help build up peoples' resilience against extreme weather events. However, after the Paris Climate Treaty, progress on both counts has been patchy at best. The latest IPCC report should serve as a wake-up call.

## THRESHOLD IN ORBIT

Elon Musk ups the ante in the space race, and this time it is a target worth shooting for

SPACE ENTREPRENEUR ELON Musk, long criticised for setting unrealistic deadlines, and then criticised some more for trying to meet them with an inhuman work schedule, has done it again. He threatens to put a prototype of his heavy and reusable rocket Starship into orbit in six months. It's a deadline that even the engineers of the Apollo 11 mission, who won the race to space, would have balked at, and they had a government budget and a huge space industry at their command. But a reusable rocket system — rather than single-use rockets for every flight — is the Holy Grail of space exploration.

A rocket system that can ferry people back and forth between earth and orbit is the threshold for the leap to the planets and the stars. It is speculated that craft with other propulsion modes unsuitable for use near planets, like ion drives, could take over from there, propelling crews at tremendous speeds to distances now unimaginable. The existing transport system on earth works efficiently because people can easily change modes — bus to train or plane, then bus or taxi to the final destination. Space mass transport would probably be similarly variegated and interconnected.

But why is Musk in such a hurry to "extend consciousness beyond earth", in his words? Perhaps it's because he believes that consciousness is up to no good down here. Musk has repeatedly sounded warnings about artificial intelligence, currently the Holy Grail of communications technology, running wild. Even if the AIs don't get us, climate change will. It appears certain that extreme events at shorelines will be experienced by people alive today. Against this grim backdrop, the sands of Mars as depicted by Edgar Rice Burroughs may seem inviting, and reaching earth orbit would be the first leg of the journey to safety.

THERE IS, NO doubt, a stunning irony in Pakistan positioning itself as a champion of the rights of Kashmiris and human rights more generally. India's biggest asset diplomatically is that it is dealing with a state whose commitment to self-serving violence and the persecution of its minorities is so evident that it will taint any human rights cause it touches. But the superficial satisfaction that a diplomatic victory might yield for India should not blind us to one practical danger, and one deep moral truth. The practical danger is this: We can dismiss the current rhetoric as mere words. But two things stand out: India and Pakistan are now not just accusing each other of specific actions that are evil. They are impugning the core character of each other. Pakistan's charge against India is now not that India is a state that illegally occupies and oppresses Kashmir; it is that the nature of the Indian regime has changed to a majoritarian racial ideology. For India, Pakistan is not a state that uses terror; the core of the state is terror incarnate. These mutual accusations have been implicit in India-Pakistan relations. But now they are explicit positions, an attack on each other's core identity.

Combine this with another fact. The heightened rhetoric has raised expectations of action in both countries. Imran Khan incoherently oscillates between expressing helplessness and warning of nuclear apocalypse. But it is difficult to see the current political establishment in Pakistan not losing face, if it is not seen to do something. India, for its part, has clearly announced an intention to now "solve" the Kashmir problem and make sure Pakistan is taught enough lessons that it cannot get away with its characteristic perfidy. After the misinformation in India on what Balakot achieved and the constant need to drum up nationalist frenzy, there is also heightened domestic expectation in India's capacity to now take this fight to the finish. Whether this signal gets Pakistan to back down or increases the risk of conflict is an open question. There is also a leadership vacuum in the international system. The conflict has become a lot more existential on both sides. The room for clawing back is less, the prospect of a violent dénouement high. It would be complacent to deny this im-

pending danger. But here is another moral issue. It is touching to see Pakistan express a love for India's minorities. India, quite legitimately, in turn used Pakistan's treatment of Ahmadiyas, Shias, and Balochis, as props in its own ideological defence while minorities in both countries say, "Don't use us. You will delegitimise us. We will deal with our own oppressors, thank you very much." But implicit in these rhetorical invocations is a clue to what went wrong in ideological thinking in South Asia. Rather than a general commitment to human rights, or the dignity and inviolability of the individual, rights were always invoked in the context of one community or the other. The problem of human rights was framed as the problem of distribution of power in particular communities: Muslim against Hindu, Hindu against Muslim, Shia against Sunni, Kashmir against India, Balochistan against Pakistan. The list could go on. In part, this was understandable since groups were often targeted in virtue of particular identities. But this framing had two unfortunate consequences.

India is being complacent if it thinks that the decimation of law, the suspension of habeas corpus, and the near permanent state of emergency we have practised in Kashmir is not coming to imperil the liberties of all of us. In some ways it already has. Whichever way we look at it, there is no way out for South Asia unless there is a culture of commitment to human rights, not human rights as communal props. The challenges of both India and Pakistan can be solved only if we re-imagine ourselves, internally, as a zone of freedom, not warring identities.

We invoke the rights of our favourite group as and when we want; often those of our co-ethnics at the expense of others. So, rights are tied to communal sympathies. They set up a competitive dynamic over whose human rights matter. Human rights are, paradoxically, used to divide, not unite. In the South Asia context, we also have the challenge of endless minorities within minorities. If one group gets self-determination, for instance, chances are you will land up with another minority to protect within that group. In short, group-based rights don't work if there is no commitment to human rights and freedom within those groups. But if there is a general commitment to freedom and human rights, the claims of group-based rights become less necessary.

This paradox can be seen in the relation between nationalism and subnationalism. It is a truism that in the modern world a nation state is the political form under which rights can be claimed. But the process of consolidation of nation states can also become exclusionary, and often spawn counter resistance in the form of subnationalism. But if nationalism is, by virtue of its exclusions, illegitimate, so should subnationalism be (un-

less purely defensive), which often produces the same logic in miniature. It should be subject to the same suspicion. In a way, both need to be held to a human rights standard.

If South Asia wants to get out of the morass of deadly identity politics, it will have to make a commitment to human rights in general, not align them to a communal imagination. If individuals have freedom and dignity, identities will flourish and proliferate anyway. But these will be freely chosen, not scripted by exclusionary nationalisms. No matter how presumptuously a community might feel it can get away by denying other communities their rights by virtue of its power or numbers, eventually the culture of impugning rights comes and bites back.

India is right: Pakistan's persecution of its minorities has deeply distorted its nature and character. But India is being complacent if it thinks that the decimation of law, the suspension of habeas corpus, and the near permanent state of emergency we have practised in Kashmir is not coming to imperil the liberties of all of us. In some ways, it already has. Whichever way we look at it, there is no way out for South Asia unless there is a culture of commitment to human rights, not human rights as communal props. The challenges of both India and Pakistan can be solved only if we re-imagine ourselves, internally, as a zone of freedom, not warring identities.

It is easy to hear the utter derision human rights evokes. They can be conceptually complicated. But we have a good start. It looks like we understand the rights of individuals in particular groups. All we need to do is extend the same courtesy to everyone else. But in a week when we will be drowned in Gandhian piety, it is worth going back to first principles and asking: Even with these bombastic diplomatic victories, and full arsenal of force and repression at our disposal, can we imagine an enduring peace in South Asia, without reorienting its culture to individual dignity and freedom?

As Gandhi knew: We can either be free together or not at all.

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SOUMI ROY CHOWDHURY AND SANJIB POHIT

## BAD AIR, BUT HOW BAD

Smog does affect health but there is no data on the problem's magnitude

IN THE PAST three years, several studies have linked air pollution with health effects. For instance, the State of Global Air 2019, published by the Health Effects Institute (HEI), claimed exposure to outdoor and indoor air pollution contributed to over 1.2 million deaths in India in 2017. Another study conducted by researchers at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and partner institutes peg the economic cost of exposure to air pollution from crop residue burning at \$35 billion, or nearly Rs. 2.35 lakh crore annually, for the three north Indian states of Punjab, Haryana and Delhi.

While we do not question the basic premise that air pollution has adverse health impact, we are sceptical about the figures quoted and the methodology adopted in estimating the cost.

First piece of the jigsaw of such studies relates to the availability of data on measurement of air pollution levels, notably mean concentration on particulate matter (PM)10 (particles smaller than 10 microns) and PM2.5 (particles smaller than 2.5 microns, about 25 to 100 times thinner than a human hair). The availability of data has no doubt improved significantly in recent years, with an increase in number of nodes where such data is now being collected 24x7. However, while the discourse on air pollu-

tion in the Indian context centres around PM10 and PM2.5, there are other pollutants in the atmosphere which are more harmful — nanoparticles, for example. Soil erosion, dust storms, burning of unprocessed fuel and industrial and mechanical processes also cause air pollution. The lack of data on these implies that research excludes an important aspect of the health implications of pollution. This may mean that the total economic cost of exposure can, in fact, be higher than what is reported. But is it really so?

This brings to us the second piece of the puzzle: Estimating the impact of pollution on health. There can be two ways to understand it. For instance, IFPRI has used India's fourth District Level Health Survey data to correlate pollution with health impact. However, it is a general health survey and does not cover all diseases linked to air pollution. Moreover, the information is collated from households. Resource constraints preclude any attempt to collect clinical and biometric information of individuals exposed to air pollution. Health assessment based on respondents' perceptions may not provide a real picture unless a medical examination on the subjects captures the residues of such pollutants in the blood. Only then can the extent and severity of pollution impacts be ascertained.

In India, the general approach is to get the cost estimates from developed countries and then deflate the numbers using the purchasing power parity (PPP) conversion approach to arrive at economic costs of pollution. However, there could be a major flaw in this approach. For example, it overlooks how human immunity develops in polluted and non-polluted areas. To completely overlook this fact may lead to an overestimation of pollution's adverse impacts.

While the severity of the air pollution problem is a fact, its magnitude can only be judged when, apart from scientists measuring air pollution and social scientists assessing economic values, medical practitioners are also involved in collecting clinical and biometric information. It appears that the last part is missing in most studies. Of course, given the shortage of doctors in India, it would always be costly to involve the medical profession in such studies. But then, researchers should acknowledge that they may be off the mark. As of now, the true picture remains shrouded in the smog that prevails over our cities.

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## OCTOBER 1, 1979, FORTY YEARS AGO

### RSS-STATE EQUATION

BALASAHEB DEORAS SAID in Nagpur that the RSS considered politics to be only a part of the total national life and "our relationship with politics is to the same extent and of the same nature as we have with other aspects of life". He added that the "Sangh does not believe that the state is the chief or the sole instrument for achieving social good". Addressing an RSS rally on the occasion of the 54th anniversary of the founding of the organisation, The RSS sarsanghachalak explained at length the character and objectives of the organisation which, he said, believed in the secular character of the state and was dedicated to the rejuvenation

of Hindu national life.

### MEDIA CRITIQUE

RAJ NARAIN, LOK Dal leader, has alleged that mass media was being systematically exploited by capitalist forces. "I will take the department of mass media in my own hands if this situation continues," Narain told newsmen in Varanasi. Narain said that the peasants and common people of the drought-affected region of eastern UP had strongly demanded postponement of the mid-term poll till the middle of February 1980. "I will convey this message of the people to the Prime Minister and to the Chief Election Commissioner," he said.

### JANATA MANIFESTO

A DRAFT OF the first part of the Janata Party election manifesto circulated among national executive members contains a strong denunciation of President Sanjiva Reddy, defectors led by Charan Singh, the CPI and CPM. It is a review of the developments that led to the fall of the Janata government, the dissolution of the Lok Sabha and the announcement of the mid-term poll. The second part, a review of the Janata government's achievements, would be circulated among the national executive next week. The third part, listing the policies, if the party returned to power, would be drafted after a discussion on the suggestions by the national executive.



## An illusion of parity

India must reflect frankly upon China's extraordinary transformation as it celebrates the 70th anniversary of the founding of PRC



C RAJA MOHAN

AS CHINA CELEBRATES the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic with much military pomp and nationalist pride today, India must reflect upon the extraordinary transformation on its northern frontiers. China's internal and external trajectory has enthused, puzzled and troubled India since the early 20th century. The PRC's fascinating evolution presents four broad themes for any Indian contemplation.

The first is China's awe-inspiring economic miracle. This demands a deep Indian admiration for China's success in improving the lives of the largest number of people in the shortest period ever. While Mao's economic experimentation turned out to be disastrous, the era of reform and opening up launched by Deng Xiaoping at the end of the 1970s transformed China into the world's second largest economy. It's a matter of time that China will overtake the United States in terms of the aggregate size of the economy. China is not the first country to move from underdeveloped to developed status. It is the first country to compress that journey into just four decades.

Many in India tend to minimise the significance of this growth by pointing to the nature of the political system under the Chinese Communist Party. They invoke the excuse that India has had to pay a democracy tax that slows its development while China had an authoritarian dividend. The denial of China's economic miracle, however, is also often accompanied by an envy of China's rise. A more balanced Indian judgement would underline the possibilities for rapid and productive change that China has demonstrated to other developing countries.

In the middle of the 20th century, the dominant sentiment about Asia's economic future was of pessimism. Many were convinced that it was impossible for late entrants into the world economy, dominated by Western imperial powers, to develop rapidly or successfully. China, in spectacular manner, proved that assumption wrong. India's own reforms at the turn of the 1990s generated similar optimism that it too could rise within a short period. One difference, though, is in the comprehensive and sustained nature of China's reforms — from education to diplomacy and from military to municipal governance. India's reform strategy in comparison has been tentative, episodic and limited.

One exception to China's story of sweeping reform, though, has been in the arena of political modernisation. That takes us to the second theme. The CCP deserves much praise for stitching a diverse set of people and territories into a single nation-state. But the CCP's continuing challenges are evident in the problems it confronts today in regions with ethnic as well as religious minorities such as Xinjiang and Tibet.

China is also having difficulty in bringing Hong Kong under full sovereign control. Protests have continued for weeks against Beijing's efforts to turn Hong Kong — that has enjoyed the benefits of the principle "one country, two systems" — into just another city in China. The developments are a reminder of



CR Sasikumar

the unending and uphill task of generating national coherence in a large state. The Hong Kong protests might also make it even harder for the CCP to complete Taiwan's unification with the PRC.

Meanwhile, hopes that China's economic growth will eventually lead to the emergence of a middle class and the democratisation of its polity have been dampened. The Xi Jinping era has seen a vigorous crackdown on dissent and the emergence of a surveillance state that has deployed emerging digital technologies in asserting unprecedented control over its population.

India has rightly avoided telling China how to govern itself. For, India has many problems of its own in building national unity and consolidating territorial sovereignty. But India can certainly learn from the ancient Chinese wisdom that governing a large nation is like cooking a small fish. They are easily overdone.

Deng Xiaoping's emphasis on "one country, two systems" and letting some of China's regions grow first and then pulling others forward brought great sophistication and subtlety to administering China. But Xi's harder line could turn China into a strong but brittle state. India's strength, in contrast, lies in its soft but supple structure that can absorb the inevitable tensions of nation-building. It is easy to forget this.

Third is China's huge commitment to building national capabilities in science and technology. Exactly a century ago, the May Fourth Movement in China defined the goals of the nation's modernisation as replacing "Mr Confucius" with "Mr Democracy and Mr Science". Nationalists and communists alike recognised that breaking free from the chains of inherited religious and social custom was critical for China's modernisation. While Mr Democracy has been elusive, Mr Science has found a thriving home in China. Unlike China's economic rise, its emerging impressive credentials on science and technology have been less recognised in India.

China has begun to take the pole position in a number of emerging areas like artificial intelligence, robotics, data analytics, synthetic biology, new materials and space sciences. The size of investments in research and development, modernisation of the higher education system, opening China up for foreign faculty and talent, and making the People's Liberation Army a major stakeholder have all propelled China to the highest ranks of scientific power. But, without a successful battle

against feudalism, China's technological progress would not have been so dramatic.

To be sure, the fight against Confucianism took extreme forms under Mao, including the vandalism of China's rich cultural heritage. Under Mao's successors though, China has found a better balance between preserving the rich past and embracing the spirit of science and technology. Meanwhile, India's battle against feudal legacy is incomplete and might be losing steam. Delhi has also much ground to cover in catching up with China on science and technology.

Finally, there is the question of power in China's world view. Nationalists and communists were one in their determination to restore China's "wealth and power" (fuqiang in Chinese) that eroded so quickly in the encounter with the West during the colonial era. The CCP can rightly claim the redemption of that ambition in good measure. While many in the West admired and promoted the economic rise of China, they seem utterly surprised by Beijing's current assertion as a great power.

The expectation that China will play by the rules devised by West and accept a status designated for them has turned out to be a delusion. China is now a great power in its own right and wants to deal with the world on its own terms. But the CCP, too, has been surprised by the pushback from the West and the rapid escalation of conflict with the United States. The nature of the increasingly unpredictable relationship between China and the West will shape international relations in the decades ahead.

Like the West, India, too, underestimated China's entirely legitimate aspirations to be a great power and the speed with which it has got there. This has been compounded by a persistent Indian temptation to romanticise the relationship with China and hope that declarations of solidarity will overcome contradictory interests. To make matters worse, the illusion of parity with China has prevented Delhi from coming to terms with the rapidly widening power gap with Beijing and its impact on India's world. Overcoming the consequences of that gap, which is likely to persist for long, will be India's greatest national challenge in the coming decades.

Many in India tend to minimise the significance of this growth by pointing to the nature of the political system under the Chinese Communist Party. They invoke the excuse that India has had to pay a democracy tax that slows its development while China had an authoritarian dividend. The denial of China's economic miracle, however, is also often accompanied by an envy of China's rise. A more balanced Indian judgment would underline the possibilities for rapid and productive change that China has demonstrated to other developing countries.

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## WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"It is a tragedy that he (Boris Johnson) can get away with his fabrications and exaggerations whatever the cost to the country." — THE GUARDIAN

## Her way of seeing

To target Romila Thapar is to target a new way of asking questions and writing history



VIJAY SINGH

BEFORE HEADING BACK to Paris, I decided to visit Romila Thapar who had been in the news for the insidious interrogation of her status as professor emerita at JNU. She referred then, with a certain distraughtness so rare to spot in her, to an ancient formula that sets out the pattern of debate — Purvapaksh-Pratipaksh Siddhanta. According to it, one first spells out the opponent's position as truthfully as one can, and then refutes it point by point before setting out one's own position. This principle was put forward in an ancient Indian text as a methodical way of reaching an intellectual resolution and ensuring further progress. The immediate context for referring to this principle was our conversation about the spate of ill-informed and foul comments she has been receiving, and how far their writers could be from the debating siddhanta of ancient India. I was outraged to hear about such language, insulting as they were to one of our most eminent intellectuals in the world.

When I reached Paris, I reached out to Charles Malamoud, an honorary professor of history at L'Ecole of Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales and a very respected historian of ancient India. It was Malamoud who first translated DD Kosambi's work into French. "I was outraged to hear about Romila being asked for her CV," he fumed. "It's an act of hostility against independent science, against Romila and all that she represents..."

The conversation with Malamoud led me to speak to Gérard Fussman, the renowned Sanskrit scholar and professor emeritus at the Collège de France, the most prestigious research school here which boasts of 21 Nobel Prizes (Romila Thapar has been a guest lecturer at the Collège). Visibly upset with the JNU administration, Fussman remarked: "Questioning her status is an act of pettiness and jealousy."

Fussman, who has worked closely with Indian scholars on historical and archaeological projects, wondered if people seeking Thapar's credentials realised what her contribution to Indian history, and to India, has been. "She is an excellent historian — and much more. She is a towering intellectual in India and abroad. And her greatest contribution is to have Indianised Indian history."

Fussman, who has devoted a lifetime to a study of the Indian civilisation, reminisced insightfully about an archaeological project undertaken in Chandner (Madhya Pradesh). "At the end of the day, when we would sit down to discuss our research with the Indian colleagues," he recollected, "I found there were questions that the Indians were raising, but which had escaped me. Similarly, there were things that had intrigued me, but the Indians hadn't even thought of them... But in the case of Dr Thapar, this was not the case because she was at home with both the perspectives — Indian and foreign. This is an

extremely rare inter-cultural quality in an intellectual, and it is such qualities that have permitted Romila and her colleagues to take a university like JNU from scratch and build it into a great institution."

In fact, I myself was witness to the nascent years of this university. I wonder whether it was the intellectual stature of our teachers (Thapar, Bipan Chandra, S Gopal, Sabyasachi Bhattacharya) or their manner of inspiring a handful of young minds that turned JNU into a vast, turbulent sea of intellectual passion. Libraries overflowed with students. There was no place to sit in them, they looked like railway platforms. It wasn't uncommon to see students taking a nap between book racks in the library, while they waited for their next book. People skipped meals as dhabas ran virtually round the clock to cater to their insomniac clientèle. There were passionate discussions everywhere — on buses, at dhabas, in rooms and dining halls.

When I look back at those times with envy or nostalgia, three "teachings" from that era seem to have left an imprint on the mind. The first is a spirit of inquiry — a deathless devotion to the truth and an inner necessity to dig down to the root of the problem. Second, that period of learning infused in us a certain intellectual confidence to stand up to the world. Finally, perhaps the most important, we learnt a new way of perceiving history, a new way of reading our colonial and human experience, a new way of asking questions and writing history. This is "history from below", written from the perspective of those who live or suffer it.

The truth is that, regardless of the governments in power, universities need academic freedom to flourish, they need fresh air. Intellectual and creative milieux anywhere in the world will always pose awkward questions to the state. They will say and do things that will please or displease the powers that be. But freedom of expression, and of learning, constitutes a sacred space that needs to be guarded as, in the long term, it teaches us — as individuals and as a society — to swim through the enigmas of life and history.

To cite an example that illustrates the sad predicament facing intellectual professions, I once made a film called "India by Song" on the post-1947 Indian history. I thought Doordarshan would be a good platform for its airing, so I proposed it to them. A senior official, who viewed it, liked it and wanted to air it on Republic Day. The film was sent to the in-house review committee which, incidentally, re-censors films which already have a censor certification! One of the committee members called me and said: "It's such a beautiful film. But why did you have to include Romila Thapar's interview where she speaks of the Emergency being like a dictatorship? Sorry, we can't air it." At that time, the Congress was in power. One year later, the government changed and I spoke to Doordarshan for an airing. This time around, it was someone else who said: "It's such a nice film but why did you have to speak of the Babri Masjid demolition and the riots?"

Singh is a writer and filmmaker living in Paris



SUNANDA VASHISHT

## Man in the arena

'Howdy, Modi' showcased that India, US have shed Cold War baggage

I WAS AMONG the 50,000 people who watched Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Howdy, Modi event in Houston on September 22. Along with him on the stage were US congressmen and senators, Republicans and Democrats. The Mayor of Houston was on the stage. And then the President of the United States joined him. Other than when they congregate in the US Congress, I have not seen that many American lawmakers of both parties on one stage, and that too with 50,000 people cheering them in a football stadium. None of this was familiar ground for Modi, except perhaps 50,000 deliriously cheering crowd. Yet he stood there, owning every moment of that event. He played the host and the guest both, with remarkable finesse.

As I watched Modi, the immortal words of Theodore Roosevelt played in my head. "It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; Modi that morning was the man in the arena — one who leads from the front and never shies from a good fight. The stakes at Howdy, Modi were so high that if even one little thing went wrong the entire

event would be derailed. No US president has ever appeared on the stage with a foreign leader in a rally in a football stadium. Houston City had never previously handled logistics and security for such a high profile event. Khalistani and Pakistani protesters had threatened to sabotage the show. Torrential rains had flooded the city of Houston just a day before the event and 50,000 people had to be ushered inside the stadium with proper security protocol. Yet that morning in the NRG Stadium, everything neatly fell in place and history was made.

To my left sat an elderly lady who had flown all the way from Atlanta. Her feet were swollen after standing in the security line for few hours. "I can barely fit my feet in my shoes," she pointed towards her shoes. Originally from Ludhiana, she told me she would not have missed the event for anything. "What do you like about Modi," I asked. "I haven't seen a politician like this in my life. He does what he says," she said, and before I could ask her another question, she was cheering and screaming like a teenager at a pop concert. To my right sat a young IT professional originally from Telangana, who was continuously charging his two phones with his power bank and furiously whatsapp-ing photos and videos. "I am waiting to see what he will say about Pakistan and Article

370," he told me. "I doubt he will say anything much," I said, and he looked at me with disbelief. When Modi asked the audience to give Indian lawmakers who had helped pass the legislation to abrogate Article 370 a standing ovation, he stood up and cheered wildly, but not without giving me a look that said "Modi never disappoints".

There was a bunch of giggling teenagers with popcorn tubs in front of me. Most of them were born and raised in the US. Why are they here today, I asked. "To watch India's prime minister and cheer for him," they said. "Can you recall the name of any previous prime minister of India," I asked. They looked at each other and shrugged their shoulders. "Not really," they said almost in unison. "My parents talk about Modi all the time at home," one of them told me. "India and United States are friends, it makes sense for them to tell the world that," another teenager told me.

Standing in the NRG stadium it was hard to believe that just two decades ago, then US president, Bill Clinton, had imposed economic sanctions after India announced completion of a series of underground nuclear tests. That morning, as Indian and American flags were being waved together, it was clear that the cold war baggage had finally been thrown off. What was ignited by P V

Narasimha Rao, carried forward by Atal Bihari Vajpayee, solidified by Manmohan Singh had now been given new wings by Modi.

India and the US are not allies. The two countries will, perhaps, never be allies given how the US defines its allies and non-allies. However, the largest and oldest democracies have found a unique way to work with each other, collaborate with each other and promote shared interests. As US President Donald Trump addressed the charged audience in the NRG stadium, he saw Indian flags and American flags being waved together and chants of Modi, Modi along with USA, USA. I was wondering if the US president would be comfortable seeing so many flags of any other country besides India in his audience. That Trump appeared in an event called Howdy, Modi was a testament to the comfort level both countries have achieved with each other. There will be bumps going forward because all developing relationships face those, but bumps will never slow down the progress the two countries continue to make. The credit goes to the Man in the Arena because he "dared greatly".

Vashisht is a columnist and author based in Houston

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### HINDI AND OTHERS

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Much ado about language' (IE, September 30). Article 351 of the Constitution bestowed the responsibility on the Centre to encourage the growth of Hindi and develop it as a medium of expression in the country. The Article calls for enriching the language by assimilating elements from other languages mentioned in the eighth schedule and drawing vocabulary from these languages. The idea perhaps was to make Hindi an inclusive language, encompassing the linguistic diversity of the country. But over the years standardisation of Hindi has Sanskritised it further making it unintelligible even to the native speakers.

Sudip Kumar Dey, Kolkata

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Much ado about language' (IE, September 30). The writer has rightly highlighted the crux of the issue related to the controversy over Hindi. It is merely a mode of communication between the people of north India. The beauty of this country lies in its diversity and plurality. An annual furore over the Hindi Divas is often a red herring used by the government to distract people's attention from many other serious issues.

Chinmay Jain, Delhi

### RAY OF HOPE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'A win for diplomacy' (IE, September 30). It's true that normalcy has to be restored in the Kashmir Valley as early as the circumstances permit. A ray of hope lies in the recently announced local body polls. India being the world's largest democracy doesn't need lessons in human

### LETTER OF THE WEEK AWARD

To encourage quality reader intervention, The Indian Express offers the Letter of the Week award. The letter adjudged the best for the week is published every Saturday. Letters may be e-mailed to [editpage@expressindia.com](mailto:editpage@expressindia.com) or sent to The Indian Express, B-1/B, Sector 10, Noida-UP 201301. Letter writers should mention their postal address and phone number.

THE WINNER RECEIVES SELECT EXPRESS PUBLICATIONS

rights from Imran Khan. He should focus more on setting things right in his country where the condition of minorities is deplorable.

Vinay Saroha, Delhi

### ONUS ON RBI

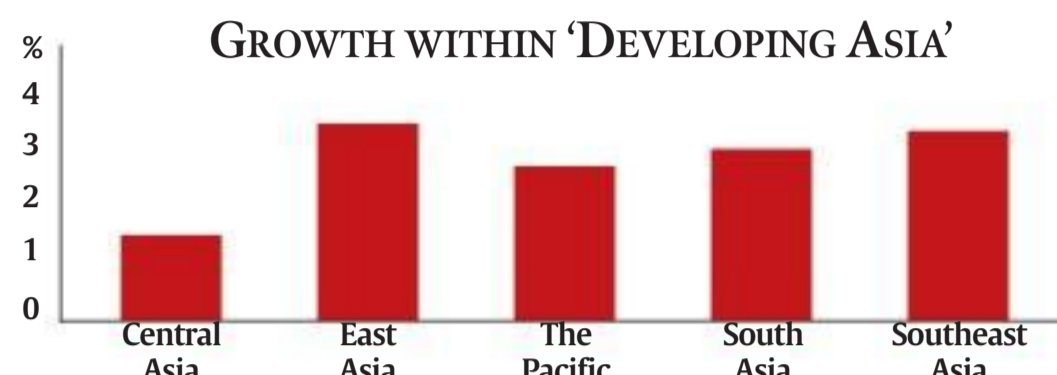
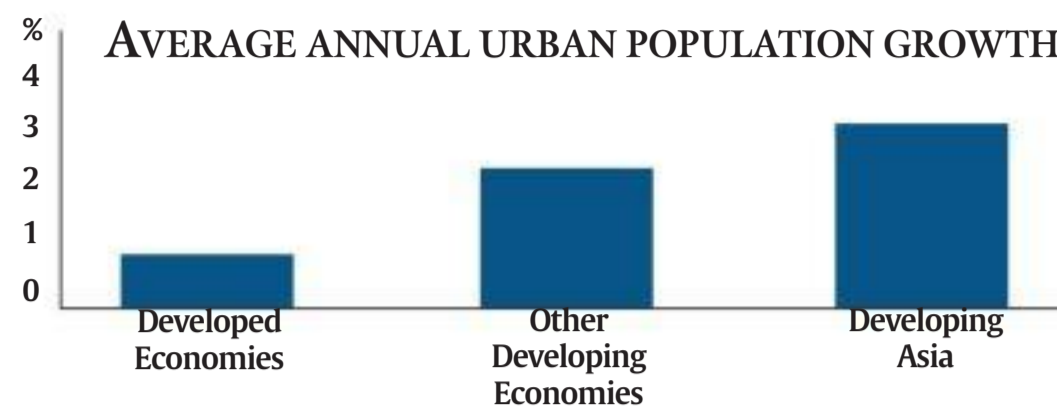
THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Who pays' (IE, September 27). The rising NPAs in the public sector banking units is a threat to the sector. This was the main reason for merger of public sector banks. The RBI should examine the long-term feasibility of the business model of public sector banks and monitor their activities more frequently.

Aayush Sapra, Ujjain

If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to explained@indianexpress.com

### TELLING NUMBERS

## China and India lead global urbanisation shift



THE ECONOMIC outlook update released by the Asian Development Bank last week highlighted that, according to World Urbanization Prospects data, "the number of urban inhabitants in developing Asia has increased almost five-fold since 1970". "Developing Asia" refers to a group of 45 countries that are members of the ADB. As such, between 1970 to 2017, the urban population in this group of countries grew from 375 million to 1.84 billion. The region led the global increase in urban population in this period and accounted for 53% of it.

Two-thirds of the nearly 1.5 billion additional city dwellers in Developing Asia belong to China and India.

Developing Asia urbanised faster than the rest of the world not only in terms of absolute growth, but also in terms of growth rate. The urban population in this region increased at an average 3.4% per annum from 1970 to 2017. This was much faster than the 2.6% in the rest of the developing world — mainly Africa and Latin America — and 1.0% in the developed world.

Within the Developing Asia region, East Asia, at 3.7%, had the highest annual growth rate. It was followed by Southeast Asia at 3.6%, and South Asia at 3.3%. The Pacific saw an annual growth rate of 2.9% in the urban population, and Central Asia witnessed a 1.6% annual growth.

### SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER

# How to read corporate tax cut

A cut in the corporate tax rate announced earlier this month makes India a more attractive destination for future investments, but the move may not provide a massive boost to growth in the current financial year

**UDIT MISRA**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 30

SPEAKING AT the Bloomberg global business forum last week, Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a strong pitch before global investors to come to India. Back home, the government has initiated a slew of reforms to arrest the slowdown in economic growth. The cut in corporate tax rate has been the biggest change; inclusive of cesses and surcharges, the rate has come down from roughly 35% to 25%, and without the cesses and surcharges, to 22% from around 30%. The government has also nudged public and private banks to look at providing new loans to businesses, and has been working with RBI to bring down the cost of such loans by improving monetary policy transmission and reducing interest rates. From a policy perspective, the situation looks primed to benefit the "wealth creators", as the PM referred to business entrepreneurs in his Independence Day speech.

#### Why has the government cut tax rates?

A corporate tax cut works a lot like an income tax cut for individuals. In essence, a lower corporate tax rate means businesses have more money left with them; in other words, it increases their profits. As charts 1 and 2 show, India's corporate tax rates were quite high in comparison to neighbouring countries. A lower tax rate not only improves corporate profitability but also makes India a more competitive market for investments.

#### How does this affect economic activity?

The cut has three broad impacts. One, in the immediate term, it leaves corporates with more money, which they can use to either reinvest in existing firms or invest in new ventures if they think doing so would be profitable. But it is also possible that they may simply use this money to pay off old debts or pay higher dividends to their shareholders. Whether or not companies invest will depend on the prevailing economic conditions.

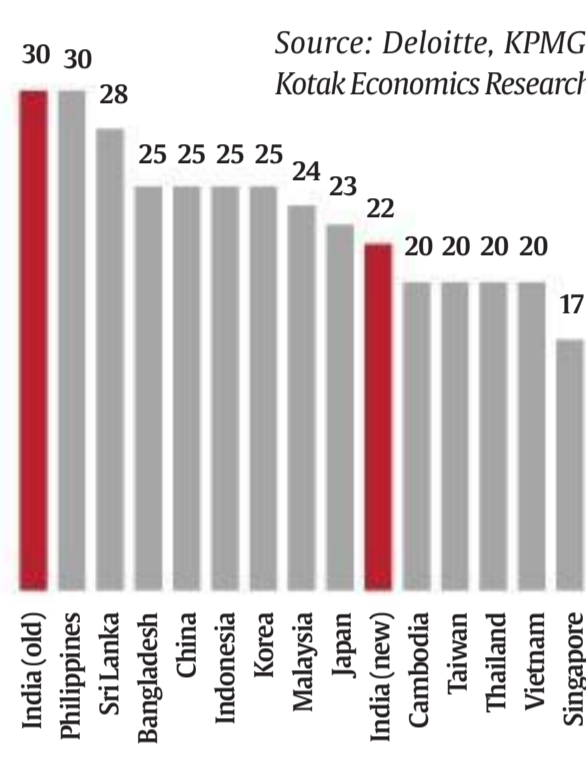
Investments crucially depend on the consumption levels in an economy. If there is high consumer demand for, say, cars, firms in that sector would happily invest — but if there is no demand for, say, chocolates, firms in that sector would not invest. However, if the consumption level is depressed because incomes are low across the board, and companies have high unsold inventories (cars and chocolates, etc.), the impact on fresh investments would be muted.

#### CHART 1: EFFECTIVE TAX RATES HAVE COME DOWN SHARPLY

Category	Old effective tax rate	New effective tax rate
<b>TURNOVER LESS THAN Rs 4,000 cr</b>		
Taxable income less than Rs 1 cr	26	22.9
Taxable income more than Rs 1 cr	27.8	24.5
<b>TURNOVER MORE THAN Rs 4,000 cr</b>		
Taxable income less than Rs 1 cr	31.2	22.9
Taxable income more than Rs 1 cr but less than 10 cr	33.4	24.5
Taxable income more than Rs 10 cr	34.9	25.6

Source: Union Budget, PIB, Kotak Institutional Equities

#### CHART 2: NEW TAX RATE MORE IN LINE WITH NEIGHBOURHOOD



#### CHART 3: BANKING, FINANCIAL FIRMS GAIN THE MOST

Industry	Share in tax saving (in %)
Banking, Finance & Insurance	42.5
Iron & Steel	6.1
FMCG	6
Mining	5.7
Auto & Ancillary	5
Capital goods	4.3
Crude oil	3.8
Chemicals	3.1
Power	2.8
Infra	2.6

Source: AceEquity, CARE Ratings

increased joblessness in the country. This essentially means people's buying power is severely constrained and that is why they are buying less, resulting in companies having high unsold inventories.

Two, as an analysis of 2,377 companies by Care Ratings shows (chart 3), 42% of the tax-saving as a result of the corporate tax cut will go to firms in the banking, financial and insurance sectors. But these firms can at best lend to others — they cannot directly invest and start manufacturing units. So while the tax savings will help them become stronger financially, there may not be an immediate boost to economic activity. Other sectors in the table like Auto & Ancillary, Power, and Iron & Steel are already struggling with overcapacity, and are thus unlikely to invest.

Three, while the headline rates show a sharp fall in tax rates, it has been pointed out that since, thanks to exemptions, the effective corporate tax rate paid by companies was already 29.5%, the new tax rate of 25% is not as dramatically lower as initially thought — thus limiting the positive impact of the cut.

However, in the longer run, the tax cut will indeed, boost economic activity.

#### What happens to the fiscal deficit?

While announcing the cuts, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had said that the corporate tax cut will cost the government Rs 1.45 lakh crore in revenues foregone. That is 0.7% of GDP. If added to the budgeted fiscal deficit (which maps the government's borrowing from the market) of 3.5% of GDP, the impact would have been substantial with the fiscal deficit going to 4.2%.

But here, too, the negative impact is not as much as what was initially assessed, even though the FM has ruled out cutting expenditure to contain the fiscal deficit.

This is again because of a variety of reasons. One, as mentioned earlier, the tax foregone may not be as high. Two, a considerable portion of the tax foregone will come back to the government via the dividends that public sector firms may announce as they too pay lower taxes. Three, whatever is the tax foregone, it will be shared almost equally between the Centre and states. Moreover, the RBI has already given Rs 58,000 crore of extra dividend that was not budgeted earlier. Lastly, the spike in stock markets and the overall business sentiment would likely mean that the government will earn more from disinvestment.

The result is that the fiscal deficit is expected to go up to only 3.7% of GDP.

### THIS WORD MEANS

#### STARSHIP

Elon Musk has unveiled the prototype spaceship that he believes will take humans to Mars

ROCKET COMPANY SpaceX has unveiled a prototype design of the 'Starship' — the spacecraft that it is building at its facility outside Brownsville, Texas, which the company's founder Elon Musk says will take humans to Mars within the next few years.

The Starship, made of stainless steel, looks like a giant, shiny grain silo, stands 164 ft tall, and is 30 ft in diameter. It will be paired with a behemoth booster stage called Super Heavy; the full rocket will be 387 ft tall and will be able to lug more than 100 tonnes of payload weight into orbit.

Musk provided the update to the rocket on September 28, the anniversary of SpaceX's first successful launch 11 years ago. That rocket, Falcon 1, was 68 ft high, five-and-a-half feet in diameter, and could lift payloads up to 180 kg. Since then, SpaceX has developed a steady business of putting satellites in orbit and carrying cargo to the International Space Station.

An orbital test flight of a refined Starship prototype and the Super Heavy booster could be carried out in less than six months and, according to Musk, "we could potentially see people flying next year". Building a reusable rocket is critical to making space flight viable. Musk switched from his original choice of carbon fibre to stainless steel because it is cheaper, easier to work with, becomes stronger in the ultracoldness of space, and has a melting temperature that can more easily withstand the heat of re-entry into Earth's atmosphere.

The Starship will belly flop in the upper atmosphere at a 60-degree angle, Musk said. Then, as it slows and nears the ground, it will rotate to vertical and land. Musk has repeatedly revised the design over the last three years, fixing the size of the spacecraft, changing the heat shield, and adjusting the shape of the fins, etc.

THE NEW YORK TIMES

### FACT CHECK, GROUND REALITY

# How did minor planet 'Jasraj' get its name?

**AMITABH SINHA**

PUNE, SEPTEMBER 30

A MINOR planet between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter has been named after the legendary vocalist Pandit Jasraj.

#### What is a 'minor planet'?

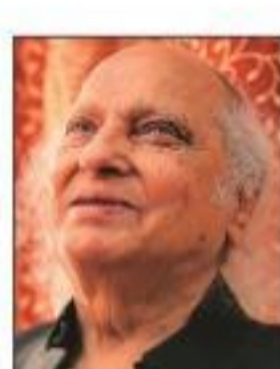
Minor planets are celestial objects orbiting the Sun that are not large enough for their gravity to pull them into a spherical shape. This distinguishes a minor planet — or a "small Solar System body", which is now the preferred term — from planets or "dwarf planets", which are almost spherical. Small Solar System bodies include asteroids,

comets, and several other celestial objects that go around the Sun.

#### How are they named?

Names of celestial bodies are finally approved by a committee at the International Astronomical Union (IAU), a global organisation of professional astronomers, which also decides on definitions of fundamental astronomical and physical constants.

In the case of small Solar System bodies, the discoverer has the privilege to suggest the name. The discoverer holds this privilege for 10 years since the discovery. But there is a process to be fol-



A shining star, a celestial body

lowed, and not all names are acceptable.

Once it is determined that a celestial body is indeed new, a provisional name is given. This name has the year of discovery, two letters of the alphabet and, perhaps, two numbers. The minor planet that has been named after Pandit Jasraj was initially called '2006VP32'.

Once more information is available about the body, particularly its orbit, and after it has been sighted on at least four occasions, it is entitled to have a permanent number. In this case, the number allotted was 300128. Only after this

the discoverer invited to suggest a name.

**What are the requirements of the name?** There are rules for nomenclature, and restrictions on the names that can be suggested. The proposed name must have 16 characters or less, it must be "non-offensive", and not too similar to an existing name.

Names of political or military leaders can be suggested only 100 years after their death. The same applies for a political or military event. Names of pets, and names of a commercial nature are "discouraged". There can be restrictions depending on where the body is located — for example, new objects discovered beyond Neptune are supposed to be given names of creation deities.

# China @ 70: Why National Day military parade in Beijing today matters

**SOWMIYA ASHOK**

BEIJING, SEPTEMBER 30

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, marks the 70th anniversary of the People's Republic of China, which Beijing will mark with the "biggest ever" celebrations and a "joyful atmosphere".

The celebrations will be an affirmation of national pride. President Xi Jinping has repeatedly articulated a vision of national rejuvenation and China's economic transformation into a developed country.

Beijing has been transformed into a sea of red. Red flags have been lined atop buildings, and red lanterns and banners with the logo of the 70th anniversary have been fastened across streets and draped over foot overbridges. The celebrations, which will go on through the entire day and night, will include a military and civilian parade. Close to 300,000 people took part in rehearsals for the parade, which included performances and a fireworks display.

#### Military might on display

The parade, on Chang'an Avenue cutting through the heart of Beijing, will display some of China's most advanced weapons systems for the first time, with a focus re-

portedly on weapons developed since Xi came to power in 2012. The parade — the 18th of its kind and the "biggest ever", according to the organisers — will continue for 80 minutes, and will involve 15,000 personnel of the People's Liberation Army, the People's Armed Forces, as well as China's militia and reserve service.

Fifteen units will march down the Avenue, and 32 units displaying 580 weapons and equipment will show China's "prowess" in land, sea combat, air and missile defence, informational operations, unmanned tasks, logistic support and strategic strikes, according to the Office of the Parade Leading Group.

Also, 160 fighter jets, bombers, early warning and control aircraft, and attack helicopters in 12 units will display the country's air power, a senior official from the Central Military Commission's Joint Staff Department, said at a press conference last week.

Chang'an Avenue will be locked down, and only a handpicked audience will witness the parade. Intensive rehearsals have led to early closures of subway stations in central Beijing over the past three week-ends. The city's residents have spotted tanks rolling down the roads, and there has been speculation that the machines have been



At Tiananmen Square, Beijing, on Monday. Reuters

parked at the heavily boarded Beijing Workers' Stadium.

Some video clips on social media have shown several types of aircraft, apparently rehearsing. The *South China Morning Post* reported that KJ-2000 airborne early warning and control aircraft and J-10 and J-11B fighters have taken part in rehearsals over the countryside surrounding the capital.

The SCMP report also quoted an unnamed military insider as saying that China's first stealth fighter jet, the J-20, had been "rehearsing over the western suburbs

of the capital since April".

The Defense Ministry spokesperson has underlined that China has "no intentions to flex its muscles" through the parade. "Some people are fond of playing up the Chinese military's development. In their mind, there exists a weird logic: If the Chinese military displays its weapons, then it's a 'show of force', and if it doesn't, then it 'lacks transparency'," he told reporters.

But an editorial in the state-run *China Daily* said: "The parade will show people that China is no longer the 'sick man of Asia'. It has the ability to stand up for itself should the need arise. It will show the world that the Chinese nation has the means to safeguard its rejuvenation."

#### President Xi's show

The 70th National Day celebrations carry an important message on the way in which Xi is perceived within China and outside. Over the last several months, state-run *People's Daily* has published the President's quotes above articles on its front pages, and there have been reports that journalists in state media will be expected to take part in pilot tests to assess their loyalty to Xi.

Former SCMP editor Wang Xiangwei wrote in an opinion piece recently: "It goes

without saying that the People's Republic has much to celebrate on its 70th anniversary... The occasion will also be Xi's show as the celebration aims at further elevating his political authority and stature. He is already described as the most powerful Chinese leader since Mao Zedong, founder of the People's Republic."

Chen Dingding, associate dean and professor at the Institute for Silk Road Studies in 21st Century told *The Indian Express*: "After four decades of rapid development, China is now the second largest economy but it is still a developing country with large population and myriad problems. Meanwhile, China is a responsible actor in the international community, playing a significant role in global governance. In the near future, the main issues for the government is to explore a sustainable way of maintaining economic growth and promoting people's welfare."

#### Celebrations and concerns

The grandest ever National Day celebrations come at a time of multiple challenges for China. The turbo-charged growth of the past decades has slowed in recent years, and the prolonged trade war with the United States has hurt the economy. In August, China saw industrial output grow at its slowest pace

since 2002, and soon afterward, Premier Li Keqiang said it wouldn't be easy for the country to sustain growth rates above 6%.

"We are in the face of the conflict between economy growth and sustainable development, pressure from trade disputes with the US, and other societal issues such as aging population, urbanisation, etc," Prof Chen said when asked to highlight the challenges before the country.

A massive shortage of pork, the nation's staple meat, has dampened spirits for a few months now, and officials have been worried it would ruin the "happy and peaceful atmosphere" required during National Day. A sweeping epidemic of African swine fever has left 40% of China's pigs dead or culled, and pork prices have risen over 50% compared to last year. Vice Premier Hu Chunhua warned last month that rising prices would "seriously affect the lives of urban and rural residents, especially low-income people, and affect the joyful atmosphere..."

Beyond the borders of the mainland, the violent anti-government protests in Hong Kong present a formidable challenge. A possible intensification of the police crackdown has probably been held in check due to China's concerns over its international image ahead of the National Day celebrations.

TOP OF THE WORLD



The wreckage of a car bomb in Mogadishu on Monday. AP

SOMALIA US base, Italian convoy attacked

Mogadishu: Somali insurgents mounted their most ambitious attack yet on Monday on a US special forces base used to train Somali commandos and launch drone strikes...

YEMEN Houthis release hundreds of detainees, UN welcomes move

Dubai: Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthi group on Monday released hundreds of Yemeni prisoners in a unilateral move welcomed by the United Nations envoy...

LANKA Court decides to hear petition on Gotabhaya

Colombo: A Sri Lankan appeals court on Monday decided to hear a petition this week on the citizenship of SLPP's presidential candidate Gotabhaya Rajapaksa...

AUSTRALIA Prosecutors need govt nod to charge journalists: A-G

Sydney: Australian prosecutors need government permission before they can file charges against local journalists, Attorney General Christian Porter said on Monday...

Hafiz Saeed claims threat to life, Pak court shifts case to Lahore

Arrested JuD chief facing multiple terror financing charges

M ZULQERNAIN LAHORE, SEPTEMBER 30

A PAKISTANI court on Monday accepted the plea of Mumbai attack mastermind and Jamaat-ul-Dawa chief Hafiz Saeed to transfer a terrorism financing case against him...



Hafiz Saeed was arrested on July 17. Reuters

On July 17, Saeed, a UN-designated global terrorist, was arrested in connection with terrorism financing cases while on his way from Lahore to Gujranwala. Prior to his arrest, the top 13 leaders of the JuD...

government law officer raised no objection on it. Saeed's advocate A K Dogar said his client is kept at Kot Lakhpat jail in Lahore, but he is taken to Gujranwala, some 80 km from Lahore, on every appearance before the anti-terrorism court there.

Both frontrunners claim victory in Afghanistan election

Preliminary results expected Oct 19

ABDUL QADIR SEDIQI & ROD NICKEL KABUL, SEPTEMBER 30

THE FRONTRUNNERS for Afghanistan's presidency, incumbent Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah, have both declared victory.

Afghanistan's Independent Election Commission is gathering votes from Saturday's election. If no candidate wins more than half, a runoff vote would be held between the top two.

"Our votes are the highest in the election, and the election will not go to the second round," Abdullah said at a press conference in Kabul on Monday.

Ghani's running mate Amrullah Saleh said on Sunday that Ghani had won a clear first-ballot victory.

"The information that we have received show that 60 to 70 per cent of people voted (for) us," Saleh was quoted by news outlet VOA as saying.

The chief executive of the electoral commission, Habiburrahman Nang, told a press conference that no candidate had the right to declare himself the winner before the results are tallied.

Preliminary results are not expected before October 19 and final results not until November 7.

Abdullah said on Monday that he would accept only votes that were filed with biometric voter verification.

EXPLAINED Rival claims lead to fear of crisis

WITH THE camps of both Ashraf Ghani and his main electoral rival Abdullah Abdullah declaring themselves winners weeks ahead of the expected release of official results, fears rose of another political crisis in Afghanistan.

Abdullah and Ghani were also the top two candidates in the 2014 elections. The former, however, had refused to accept the results of those elections, leading to a months-long political crisis.

Foreign countries that have troops in Afghanistan are wary of yet another destabilising election dispute. REUTERS

Maleeha Lodhi removed as Pakistan's UN envoy

SAJJAD HUSSAIN ISLAMABAD, SEPTEMBER 30

IN A major reshuffle of diplomats, Pakistan on Monday removed Maleeha Lodhi and appointed Munir Akram as the country's permanent representative to the United Nations.

The development came a day after Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan returned from the US, where he raised the Kashmir issue in his maiden address to the UN General Assembly last week. "Ambassador Munir Akram has been appointed as the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations in New York, in place of Dr Maleeha Lodhi," the Foreign Office said in a statement.



Pakistan's Foreign Office gave no reason for Lodhi's removal

However, it gave no reason for her removal. Akram had served as the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the UN from 2002

to 2008. He was dismissed by then president Asif Ali Zardari due to disagreements over how to present the case of the assassination of Benazir Bhutto to the United Nations.

Akram had also courted controversy after he was accused of domestic violence by his partner, Marijana Mihic, in December 2002 while serving as Pakistan's ambassador to the UN. The case was reportedly settled out of court and he was not charged with the crime due to his diplomatic immunity. PTI

AHEAD OF 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF COMMUNIST RULE IN CHINA



Chinese President Xi Jinping and other officials bow during a ceremony to mark Martyr's Day at Tiananmen Square in Beijing on Monday. AP

Xi vows to uphold 'one country, two systems' in Hong Kong

Police expect 'violent attack' in HK on sensitive anniversary

AGENCIES BEIJING, SEPTEMBER 30

CHINESE PRESIDENT Xi Jinping vowed Monday to uphold the "one country, two systems" principle in Hong Kong, after months of pro-democracy protests in the semi-autonomous city.

Speaking at a reception in Beijing the night before celebrations to mark the country's 70th anniversary, Xi said the country would "continue to fully and faithfully implement the principles of 'one country, two systems'" and a "high degree of autonomy." Hong Kong has been plagued by unrest over what protesters say are eroding freedoms in the financial hub.

"We are confident that with the full backing of the motherland and the concerted efforts of our fellow Chinese in Hong Kong and Macau who love the motherland... (Hong Kong) will prosper and progress alongside the mainland."

— XI JINPING CHINA'S PRESIDENT

and Macau who love the motherland... (Hong Kong) will prosper and progress alongside the mainland," Xi said.

China is preparing for a highly-choreographed anniversary celebration on October 1, including a huge military parade and anniversary gala.

Police expect more violence on Hong Kong's streets on Tuesday after a chaotic weekend in which they fired teargas at protesters who set fires and threw petrol bombs. There will be a "very serious violent attack" on Tuesday, a superintendent of the police's public relations branch, Tse Chun-chung, told a news conference on Monday.

Impeachment probe to intensify, Trump remains defiant

DAVID MORGAN WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 30

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump on Monday intensified his attacks on a lawmaker leading the House of Representatives' impeachment inquiry, suggesting that congressman Adam Schiff should be arrested for "treason".

Witnesses are due to testify in the House this week in hearings related to Trump's request that a foreign power investigate Joe Biden, one of the leading Democratic candidates seeking to challenge him in 2020.

A US intelligence official filed a whistleblower complaint citing a July 25 telephone call in which Trump asked Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to investigate Biden and his son Hunter, who sat on the board of a Ukrainian gas company.

The whistleblower has not been publicly identified.

In a series of Twitter posts on Monday morning, Trump appeared to reference comments made by House Intelligence Committee Chairman Schiff during a committee hearing last week.

In those comments, Schiff says the call to Zelenskyy "reads like a classic organised crime shakedown" and parodies the President's remarks.

"Rep. Adam Schiff illegally made up a FAKE & terrible statement, pretended it to be mine as the most important part of my call to the Ukrainian President, and read it aloud to Congress and the American people. It bore NO relationship to what I said on the call. Arrest for Treason?" Trump wrote in a post on Twitter.

Monday's post followed a string of tweets from Trump on Sunday evening in which he said



Trump went on the offensive, attacking the whistleblower and Democrats in a series of posts on Twitter. AP

BIG WEEK AHEAD

WEDNESDAY: House committees for intelligence, foreign affairs and oversight are due to get a deposition from former US envoy to Ukraine, Marie Yovanovitch, who Trump labelled 'bad news' during his call with Zelenskyy.

THURSDAY: The committees are set to get a deposition from Kurt Volker, who resigned last week as Trump's special representative for Ukraine.

FRIDAY: The House Intelligence Committee will hold a closed-door hearing with Michael Atkinson, Inspector General of the Intelligence Community, who concluded that the whistleblower complaint appeared credible.

UK's Johnson denies groping allegations

REUTERS MANCHESTER, SEPTEMBER 30

BRITISH PRIME Minister Boris Johnson denied on Monday that he had inappropriately touched a female journalist 20 years ago, and said the public were more interested in hearing about his plans for public services.

As Johnson prepares to lead the United Kingdom out of the European Union on Oct. 31, his past relations with several women have come under scrutiny. The allegations overshadowed the Conservative Party's annual conference which opened on Sunday.

Charlotte Edwardes, a columnist, wrote in *The Sunday Times* that Johnson had groped her at a lunch in 1999 when he was editor of *The Spectator* magazine.

"Under the table, I feel Johnson's hand on my thigh. He gives it a squeeze," Edwardes wrote. "His hand is high up my leg and he has enough inner flesh beneath his fingers to make me sit suddenly upright."

Edwardes said that after the meal, she confided in another woman who had sat on the other side of Johnson. The other woman said Johnson had also



groped her, Edwardes said. Asked in a television interview if he had inappropriately touched her thigh as she reported, Johnson said: "No".

When subsequently asked if she had made up the account, he replied: "I'm just saying what I said, and I think what the public want to hear is what we are doing for them and the country and for investment in ways of uniting the country." Asked if the allegations were overshadowing the conference, he said: "Not at all. I think what the public want to hear is what we're doing to bring the country together and get on with improving their lives."

After a denial by a Downing Street spokesman, Edwardes said on Twitter: "If the Prime Minister doesn't recollect the incident then clearly I have a better memory than he does."

COMBINING POLITICAL CHAOS WITH DIAMOND TRADE IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Gems, warlords, mercenaries: Russia's new playbook in Africa

DIONNE SEARCEY BANGUI, SEPTEMBER 30

THE DEALER pulled back a shiny pink curtain and sprinkled the contents of two white envelopes across his desk: sparkling diamonds, more than 100 of them.

Some gems are sold legally, he said. But many are trafficked by rebels who fight over the mines, adding fuel to a six-year uprising that has killed thousands and displaced more than 1 million people in the Central African Republic.

Now, hoping to wrest control over the diamond trade and piece the country back together, the government has turned to a new partner — Russia — in what some lawmakers fear is a dangerous bargain that trades one

threat for another.

Russian mercenaries have fanned out across the nation to train local soldiers. A former Russian spy has been installed by the Central African President, Faustin-Archange Touadéra, as his top security adviser. Russians shunned warlords to peace talks with the government, helping lead to a deal with more than a dozen armed groups to stop fighting.

And the central figure behind the Russian involvement, according to local and Western officials, is Yevgeny V Prigozhin, a confidant of President Vladimir Putin who was indicted in the United States last year, accused of helping to finance "information warfare" and disrupt the 2016 US election.

The Central African government has welcomed the



At a diamond mine in Boda, Central African Republic. NYT

Russians, betting that stability will enable it to sell more diamonds legally and use the money to rebuild the nation. "The rebellion in our country has cost us a lot," said Albert

Yaloke Mokpeme, the spokesman for Touadéra. "No one came to our aid except the Russian Federation." But Russia's help comes at a cost. Its representatives have

struck deals with the government to mine diamonds where the trade is legal — one of many signs that Russia's push into the country is closely tied to profits.

Russian operatives have even teamed with murderous rebels to obtain diamonds in areas where the trade is outlawed, cashing in on the very lawlessness they have been brought in to end, according to members of the Central African government, Western officials and some of the warlords themselves.

More broadly, the fact that Russian mercenaries are training the nation's troops has unnerved some lawmakers. Human rights violations in the country are so common that the United Nations imposed an arms embargo against Central African soldiers. But the Russian trainers have

been accused of abuses as well, including rounding up innocent bystanders in mass sweeps.

"I keep thinking of what kind of army we are going to have if they are trained by Russians," said Hamadou Aboubakar Kabirou, a member of Parliament.

Prigozhin's role in the country has set off international alarms. Three Russian journalists were killed last year under suspicious circumstances while looking into his ties to diamond and gold mining. The Central African government has said it is investigating the deaths, Russian officials have denied involvement, and Prigozhin's spokesman declined to answer questions about the companies' mining or security operations in the country.

As in the American election, the battle for control over the

country is also being fought in the media and on social media. As Russian mercenaries connected to Prigozhin were streaming into the nation, Facebook sites were popping up with pro-Russian themes, showing photographs of local residents in T-shirts bearing a giant red heart and the slogan "Russia 2018".

Analysts and some diplomats say the Central African Republic has offered Russia a blueprint that it can export to other oil- and mineral-rich nations in exchange for mining rights.

As the United States has pulled away from engaging Africa, withdrawing troops and offering no broad policy agenda, Russia has pushed hard into the continent, expanding its presence in unstable nations with abundant natural resources. NYT

## THE GOVERNMENT AND THE LAW

## Along came a spider

The Supreme Court puts more obstacles before Boris Johnson's Brexit plan



People protest outside UK's Supreme Court against Prime Minister Boris Johnson's decision to prorogue parliament, in London, on September 17. Reuters

IT IS rare for the Supreme Court to give a unanimous judgment on a contentious appeal. But that is what happened on September 24th when it ruled that Boris Johnson's prorogation of Parliament for five weeks until October 14th had been unlawful. The 11 justices upheld and even strengthened a Scottish lower-court judgment against the suspension, while overturning an English high-court finding that the issue was political and accordingly not suitable for judicial determination. In doing this, the court delivered a powerful blow to the prime minister's authority.

The blow was the more effective for the manner of its delivery. In a calm but mellifluous voice, the court's president, Lady Hale, sporting a glittering spider brooch, read out a damning judgment against Mr Johnson. If there were no limit to the government's ability to prorogue, that would be incompatible with parliamentary sovereignty. She cited a 1611 court ruling that "the King hath no prerogative, but that which the law of the land allows him." She dismissed the government's argument that a long suspension was needed to prepare a Queen's Speech and new

legislative agenda. She noted that it would limit parliamentary scrutiny. This mattered, she said, because of the exceptional circumstance that Brexit is due to happen on October 31st.

Although the Supreme Court did not say so explicitly, its ruling implied that Mr Johnson had misled the queen when advising her in August to prorogue Parliament. Not surprisingly, the opposition Labour leader, Jeremy Corbyn, interrupted his party conference in Brighton to call on the prime minister to resign. T-shirts with spider motifs quickly popped up on eBay, where they sold in their thousands. Coming after six successive defeats in the House of Commons, the passage of an act designed to prevent a no-deal Brexit, the resignation of two ministers and the removal of the Tory whip from 21 rebellious MPs, even the ebullient Mr Johnson might have been expected to feel some embarrassment or, just possibly, shame.

Instead he doubled down. He said he profoundly disagreed with the court's judgment. He offered no apology for his actions, even though they had been found unlawful. Although neither the government's defence

nor the court's judgment suggested that prorogation was directly connected to Brexit, he declared ominously that a lot of people were seeking to frustrate it. And he continued to insist that Britain must leave the EU on October 31st, deal or no deal.

As has happened before, some of his noisier supporters attacked the judges as part of an anti-Brexit establishment bent on thwarting the will of the people. Jacob Rees-Mogg, the leader of the Commons, reportedly spoke of a constitutional coup. A few Brexiters suggested that justices should be subject to political vetting before appointment. Yet Geoffrey Cox, the attorney-general, declared that, although disagreeing with the judges was acceptable, impugning their motives was not. Indeed, the court ruling points to a constitution that is working, not to one that is broken.

What next? The court declared that, be-

cause the prorogation was unlawful, it had not happened at all. John Bercow, the Speaker, duly recalled MPs to Westminster on September 25th. They asked about the attorney-general's advice on prorogation, Mr Johnson's relationship with an American entrepreneur and no-deal preparations. They subjected the prime minister to two hours of questioning, in which the Tory benches roared their approval for his bombast. But he shocked many by claiming that the way to honour the memory of Jo Cox, a pro-Remain Labour MP murdered in 2016 by a far-right fanatic, was to get Brexit done. Nicky Morgan, a cabinet minister, was among those who criticised his language.

Mr Johnson repeated his demand for an early election. But under the 2011 Fixed-term Parliaments Act, two-thirds of MPs must vote for dissolution, so it needs Labour as well as

Tory backing. Although Mr Corbyn said he too favoured an early election, he insisted that it was vital first to stop a no-deal Brexit happening on October 31st. That means ensuring that the so-called Benn act, which requires the government to seek an extension of that deadline if it has not agreed a Brexit deal by October 19th, works as planned before any dissolution.

A final question is what effect all this may have on Mr Johnson's negotiations for a new Brexit deal. He claimed again that these were making progress. Yet the EU still wants a legally binding, written alternative to the backstop (a mechanism to avert a hard border in Ireland), which Mr Johnson wants to excise from the withdrawal agreement. Brussels has dismissed four ideas recently put on the table by the British team. A 30-day deadline for a new plan hinted at by Angela Merkel, the German chancellor, in late August has been and gone. Suggestions by Mr Johnson's team that he also wants to ditch earlier promises to avoid any border checks in Ireland by sticking closely to EU regulations are making it even harder to reach agreement.

Mr Johnson's lost authority after the Supreme Court judgment will serve further to emphasise his weak position in Brussels. His loss of parliamentary control was anyway making his negotiating partners nervous about offering concessions. The EU side fears that, just as Westminster rejected the deal struck last year with Theresa May three times, so it could do the same to any deal done with Mr Johnson. The Supreme Court ruling will make it harder for the prime minister to find some clever way round the Benn act. So the EU is assuming that, if no deal is reached at the European Council on October 17th-18th, Mr Johnson will be forced to ask for more time.

Worry though it is of the whole issue, Brussels is likely to say yes to a further extension of at least a few months. The expectation is that Mr Johnson will then secure an election. He wants to run by standing up for the people, who voted to leave the EU, against an establishment blocking the way. His humiliation by the court this week may do that populist strategy no harm.

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**Although the Supreme Court did not say so explicitly, its ruling implied that Johnson had misled the queen when advising her in August to prorogue Parliament**

## CHAGUAN

## Hearts and minds

China's demand for undivided loyalty is causing tragedy in Hong Kong

OVER THE past four months as many as 2m Hong Kongers—or more than a quarter of the city's residents—have marched to demand the scrapping of a bill that would have exposed criminal suspects to the mainland's courts. Those protests were a stunning vote of no confidence in China's Communist-controlled legal system. They worked: the extradition bill is being withdrawn.

It is hard to imagine a clearer rallying cry for the many mainlanders who distrust their own justice system. Their cousins in Hong Kong, guaranteed access to independent courts and uncensored news under the rubric of "one country, two systems", could not bear to live as mainlanders must every day. But dissent in Hong Kong has not proved contagious.

Not all 1.4bn mainlanders think alike, but there are no reports of any of them marching in sympathy. That may be in part because, thanks to the unsleeping censors who guard the Great Firewall of China, many know nothing of the extradition debate. But it is also because an unknowable but significant number accept the narrative of China's media that treacherous radicals in Hong Kong, perhaps funded by the CIA, are trying to split the motherland. The widespread acceptance of this narrative is a testament to the government's success in shaping the way its citizens see the world.

Yet China's propaganda machine, so effective at home, is making a fool of itself in

Hong Kong. When officials try to peddle the idea that a silent majority in Hong Kong loves China, their efforts strike many people in the territory as laughable. Communist-controlled outfits in Hong Kong have often simply copied successful stunts by protesters. In mid-September pro-democracy marchers hiked up a local peak, Lion Rock, creating a chain of lights with smartphones, torches and laser pointers as dusk fell. The next day a smaller group of red-clad patriots puffed up the same hill to wave a giant national flag, in images heavily promoted by the mainland's media. When youngsters in Hong Kong packed shopping centres to sing a new protest anthem, small bands of the party faithful were mobilised to belt out China's national anthem in the territory's malls.

On the eve of a spectacular parade in Beijing on October 1st, when tanks and nuclear missiles will trundle past President Xi Jinping to mark 70 years of the People's Republic, it is worth pondering the domestic success of China's propaganda apparatus, and its external cluelessness. That machine is best understood as a giant, state-directed monopoly. Within China, it has grown strong. But in free markets fizzing with ideas and arguments from around the world, China's patriotic sloganeering falls flat.

In Hong Kong the city's former colonial master, Britain, left behind an awkward hybrid. The territory has the political culture and education system of a liberal democracy. But

its leaders are mostly appointed, with only a minority of political offices opened to direct election. Since Mr Xi became the Communist Party's boss, China has betrayed its impatience with even that limited accountability, and the central government's agents have worked to marginalise competing voices.

In 2012, the year Mr Xi took over, the Hong Kong government tried to impose "national education" on schools, but retreated in the face of mass protests. Politicians seeking greater autonomy or even independence (a minority view) have been barred from office or from running for office. A national-anthem law demanded by Beijing, if passed, would make criminals of Hong Kongers who boo the tune at football games.

The results may be heard in Hong Kong's shopping centres almost every night. Strolling this week through Kowloon, Chaguan

chanced upon a few dozen youngsters who had been summoned by Telegram, an encrypted social-media app, to sing the protest anthem in the atrium of a shopping complex. Nic, a 25-year-old protester, described his mixed identity. He does not imagine that Hong Kong can be independent, noting that 50 years after the handover from Britain the promise of one country, two systems will expire. "In 2047 we will return to China fully, we understand that," he says. "But we are trying to protect what we have until the last day." When he travels, his passport says "Hong Kong, China". But when asked who he



Anti-extradition bill protesters walk through Sham Shui Po in Hong Kong. Reuters

is, he replies: a Hong Konger. "China is not what we are proud of," he explains. "The Chinese government sucks."

Politics in Hong Kong is turning dangerously tribal. Rather than a debate about policies, it is becoming an argument about who is good and who is bad, who is bent on saving Hong Kong or on destroying it. In that culture war politicians who sympathise with the party conflate flag-waving patriotism with legitimacy. That has led them to endorse "patriotic" thugs and alleged gang members, including when they assaulted protesters in the far-northern district of Yuen Long in July. That

single incident changed the nature of the demonstrations, says Cheng Chung-Tai, chairman of Civic Passion, a party that wants more autonomy for Hong Kong. After Yuen Long, showing resistance and defiance to authority became a badge of belonging to the group that sees itself as defending the territory. "Last Sunday Tseung Kwan O got tear-gas for the first time. They celebrated," notes Mr Cheng, referring to an operation by police to quell protests in an eastern district.

**No room for a loyal opposition**  
Little in Mr Xi's record suggests that he

will respond generously and imaginatively to Hong Kong's identity crisis. In other peripheral territories, such as Tibet and Xinjiang, he has authorised brute force backed by high-tech surveillance and a pounding drumbeat of propaganda to crush hybrid identities. Hong Kong, a still-vibrant if troubled world city, will be harder to bring to heel. Alas, 70 years after its founding, China is hostile even to constrained forms of pluralism. That is why, wherever people have choices, it inspires fear or awe, but not love.

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# 19 ECONOMY

SENSEX: 38,667.33 ▼ 155.24 NIFTY: 11,474.45 ▼ 37.95 NIKKEI: 21,755.84 ▼ 123.06 HANG SENG: 26,092.27 ▲ 137.46 FTSE: 7,418.30 ▼ 7.91 DAX: 12,390.94 ▲ 10.00

GOLD ₹38,530	RUPEE ₹70.87	OIL \$62.35	SILVER ₹45,705
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International market data till 1900 GMT

## RESERVE BANK OF INDIA REPORT

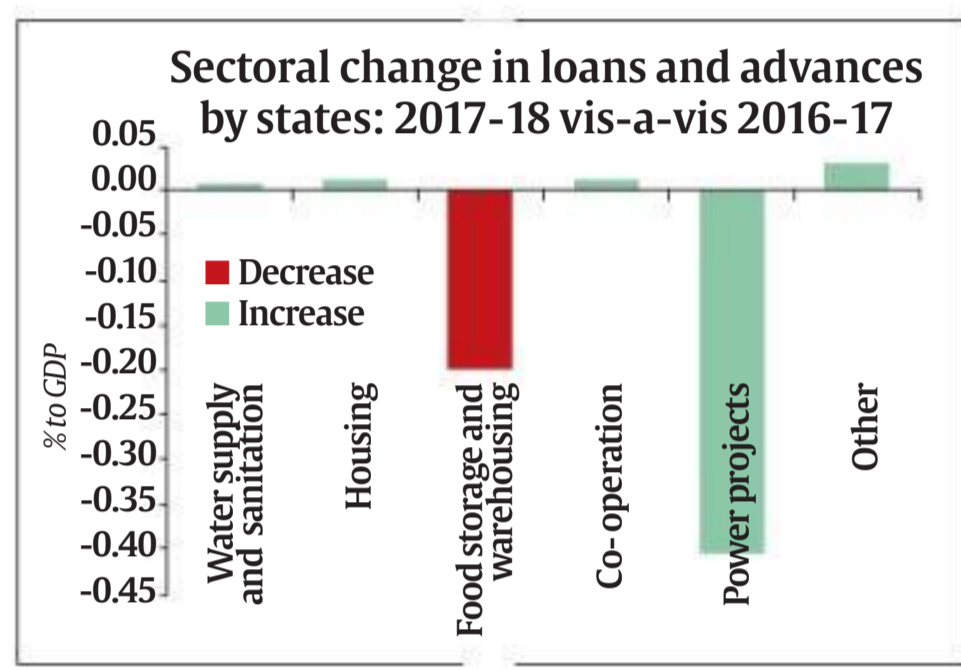
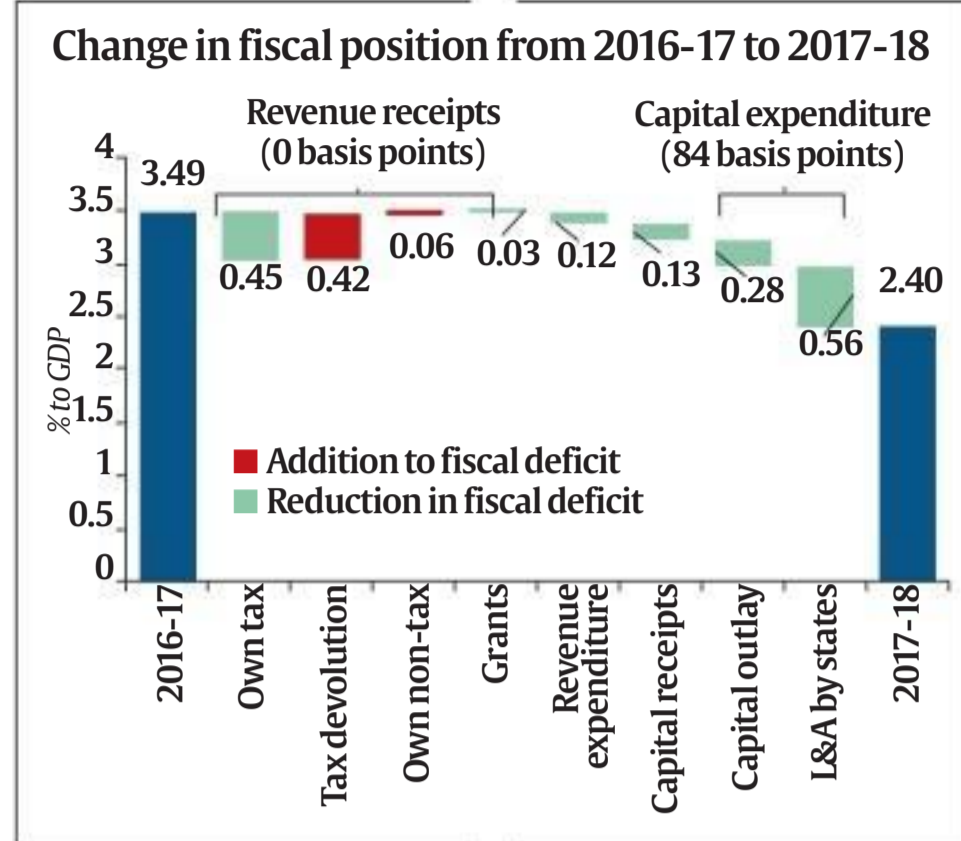
# States improve fiscal position, but with sharp cuts in capex

**ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 30

A RESERVE Bank of India study Monday revealed that states' gross fiscal deficit was within the threshold of Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management laws in the last two years, but it was possible due to sharp reduction in capital expenditure by states. The RBI's report on States Finances: A Study of Budgets of 2019-20 said that the outstanding debt of states have risen over the last five years to 25 per cent of Gross Domestic Product, posing medium-term challenges to its sustainability.

"States' gross fiscal deficit (GFD) has remained within the FRBM threshold of 3 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) during 2017-18 and 2018-19. This has, however, been achieved by sharp retrenchment in expenditures, in particular, capital expenditure. For 2019-20, states have budgeted for a consolidated GFD of 2.6 per cent of GDP with a marginal revenue surplus (as against revenue deficits in the previous three years)," as per the report released Monday.

The report said sharp reduction in capital expenditure by states has potentially adverse implications for the pace and quality of economic development, given the large welfare effects of a much wider interface with the lives of people at the federal level. "Currently, states employ about



five times more people and spend around one and a half times more than the Centre. Moreover, public expenditure by states influences the quality of physical and social capital infrastructure of the economy," it noted.

The report said states need to combine efforts towards mobilising higher revenues with strategies to maximise efficiency gains rather than mere increase in tax rates. Unless revenues pick, states will be forced to cut capital expenditure, further stoking the economic slowdown. Reduction in capital expenditure can feed an ever-tightening vicious spiral of austerity deepening the economic downturn which, in turn, cramps fiscal revenues and forces further expenditure reductions and so on.

"States' revenue prospects are confronted with low tax buoyancies, shrinking revenue autonomy under the GST framework and unpredictability associated with transfers of IGST and grants. Unrealistic revenue forecasts in budget estimates thereby leave no option for states than expenditure compression in even the most productive and employment-generating heads," it said. It noted that states need to gradually harness the GST database to expand the tax base. They also need to review their tariff policies relating to power and irrigation, keeping in mind the breakeven user charges.

The report also warned about risk of off-budget liabilities in the form of guarantees mutating into a contingent risk to debt sustainability even as structural bottlenecks in power distribution continue to foster. States may have to take over higher losses of power distribution companies if they do not show a turnaround in their performance.

## FE BEST BANKS AWARDS

# Best in the business honoured



From Top: FE Best Banks award winners; Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presents Banker of the Year award to Bajaj Finserv Managing Director Sanjiv Bajaj. Also in the frame is Express Group Chairman Viveck Goenka; Indust Ind Bank Managing Director & CEO Romesh Sobti receives Lifetime Achievement award from the Finance Minister in Mumbai on Monday. *Nirmal Harindran*



**AGS** presents **INDIA'S BEST BANKS AWARDS**

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**LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**  
Romesh Sobti, MD & CEO, IndusInd Bank

**BANKER OF THE YEAR**  
Sanjiv Bajaj, MD, Bajaj Finserv

CATEGORY	WINNER
Nationalised Bank	Indian Bank
Private Bank	HDFC Bank
Foreign Bank	HSBC India
Small Finance Bank	Equitas Small Finance Bank
NBFC	Bajaj Finance
NBFC	CreditAccess Grameen
Home Loan Product	State Bank of India
Savings Product	Kotak Mahindra Bank
Digital Bank	Axis Bank
Fintech	Razorpay
Fintech	CreditVidya
Fintech	Loan Frame
Fintech	Acko General Insurance
Fintech	National Payments Corporation of India

## STATE WATCH KERALA

# Nissan, state govt iron out differences over setting up of global research hub

**PRANAV MUKUL & ANIL SASI**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM/  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 30

NISSAN MOTOR Corporation and the Kerala government are learnt to have reached common ground after a visible spillover of differences over the auto maker's plans to set up its first global research hub in the state capital.

In July, the Yokohama-based automaker had blamed the Left Front government in the state of going back on its assurances extended earlier, including setting up of a single-window clearance for the project and in facilitating the development of physical infrastructure in and around the hub. A senior Kerala government official indicated that the points in contention have been resolved and that the only sticking point pertains to the issue of direct connectivity between Tokyo and Thiruvananthapuram.

"The only concern Nissan had was with the social ecosystem — they wanted a direct flight from Tokyo. India only has a direct flight to Tokyo from Delhi. These kind of issues take some time to get resolved. They have around 700 people working here, they have one full tower in the IT park (Thiruvananthapuram Technopark)," M Sivasankar, Secretary to Kerala Chief Minister and Secretary of the state's Electronics & IT Department told The Indian Express. A Kerala government official, on condition of anonymity, said that a request had already been sent to the Ministry of Civil Aviation for a non-stop Tokyo-Trivandrum flight, but so far there was no progress from Delhi.

The Japanese carmaker, responding to queries on the issue, too indicated that it is taking forward the partnership, despite the initial hiccups. "Nissan is committed to its MoU with the Govt. of Kerala

"The only concern Nissan had was with the social ecosystem — they wanted a direct flight from Tokyo. India only has a direct flight to Tokyo from Delhi. These kind of issues take some time to get resolved"

**M SIVASANKAR**  
SECRETARY TO THE KERALA CM

for establishing a ... digital transformation hub in the state. As any routine process review we work with our partners and the Govt. alike. We are confident that our strong partnership of the Govt. will help us lead the way forward," Bruno Grippay, director-Connected Cars and Product Planning-AMI(Africa Middles East and India) Region of Nissan told The Indian Express in a recent interview.

It has been learnt that in June this year, Nissan's chief digital officer sent a terse four-page letter to the Kerala chief secretary Tom Jose and other officials stating that Nissan has had "to approach various departments in the government towards fulfillment of conditions for our success in Trivandrum, which has been time and effort consuming, and other than running from department to department". The automaker had sought the government's intervention in settling these issues. Subsequently, in July, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said at a press interaction that the government has appointed a key bureaucrat as its person to assist Nissan Motor fast track the research hub project.

Nissan's entry into Kerala has spurred the development of peripheral service sector facilities, including hotels, hospitals, garbage treatment plants and apartment complexes in the area around the research hub.

## External debt rises by 2.6%

Mumbai: India's external debt was placed at \$557.4 billion, recording an increase of \$14.1 billion, or 2.6 per cent, as of June 2019 as against its level at end-March 2019, the RBI has said. Valuation losses due to the depreciation of the US dollar vis-à-

vis Indian rupee and other major currencies were placed at \$1.7 billion. Excluding the valuation effect, the increase in external debt would have been \$12.4 billion instead of \$14.1 billion at end-June 2019 over end-March 2019. **ENS**

# Current account deficit narrows to 2% on higher invisible receipts, lower oil prices

**ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU**  
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 30

AIDED BY higher invisible receipts and lower crude oil prices, India's current account deficit (CAD) at \$14.3 billion, or 2.0 per cent of GDP, in the June quarter of 2019-20 narrowed from \$15.8 billion (2.3 per cent of GDP) in the same period of 2018-19, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has said.

However, CAD rose sharply from \$4.6 billion (0.7 per cent of GDP) registered in the preceding quarter amid the spike in gold imports. "The healthy growth in the surplus of services and secondary income, as well as lower crude oil prices helped to restrain the size of the current account deficit in the June quarter, despite a sharp increase in gold imports.

Oil imports rose by a mild 0.4 per cent to \$34.9 billion in Q1 of FY2020 from \$34.7 billion in Q1 FY2019, dampened by the decline of 6.9 per cent in oil prices between these two quarters," said Aditi Nayar, Principal Economist, ICRA. However, gold imports rose by a sharp 35.6 per cent to \$11.4 billion in the June quarter from \$8.4 billion in Q1 FY2019, with the fall in gold prices in the US dollar terms during the period boosting de-

## EXPLAINED Despite gold import spurt, CAD improved

NOTWITHSTANDING A sharp rise in gold imports, India's current account deficit improved on a year-on-year basis. Higher overseas remittances, FDI, portfolio investments, stable oil imports and ECBs boosted the prospects on the external front. What can push up CAD in the remaining months of the year is a spike in oil prices and capital outflows. CAD is expected to ease appreciably to 1.8 per cent of the GDP in the full year of 2019-20 from 2.1 per cent of GDP in FY2019, unless oil prices record a sustained increase or domestic investment and consumption demand display revival.

mand. The CAD contracted on a year-on-year (y-o-y) basis, primarily on account of higher invisible receipts at \$31.9 billion as compared with \$29.9 billion a year ago, the RBI said. Invisible receipts is that part of the balance of trade that refers to services and other products that do not result in the transfer of physical objects. The examples include consulting services, shipping services, tourism and patent license revenues.

Net services receipts increased by 7.3 per cent on a y-o-y basis, mainly on the back of a rise in net

## Fiscal deficit at 78.7% of BE till Aug-end

New Delhi: India's fiscal deficit touched Rs 5.54 lakh crore at the end of August, which was 78.7 per cent of the Budget Estimate for 2019-20, official data showed. In absolute terms, the fiscal deficit or the gap between expenditure and revenue was Rs 5,53,840 crore as on August 31, according to the data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA). **PTI**

earnings from travel, financial services and telecommunications, computer and information services. "Private transfer receipts, mainly representing remittances by Indians employed overseas, rose to \$19.9 billion, increasing by 6.2 per cent from their level a year ago," the RBI said.

According to the RBI, net foreign direct investment (FDI) was \$13.9 billion in the first quarter of 2019-20 as compared with \$9.6 billion in Q1 of 2018-19. Foreign portfolio investment (FPI) recorded net inflow of \$4.8 billion

in Q1 of 2019-20 as against an outflow of \$8.1 billion in Q1 of 2018-19 on account of net purchases in both debt and equity markets. On the other hand, net inflow on account of external commercial borrowings (ECBs) to India was \$6.3 billion in Q1 of 2019-20 as against an outflow of \$1.5 billion a year ago.

The RBI said there was an accretion of \$14.0 billion to the foreign exchange reserves (on BoP basis) in June quarter as against a depletion of \$11.3 billion in Q1 of 2018-19.

## AMONG 13 ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIES

# Indian banks most vulnerable ... their capital will be wiped out under stress scenario: Moody's

**ENSECONOMIC BUREAU**  
MUMBAI/NEW DELHI,  
SEPTEMBER 30

AMONG THE 13 Asia-Pacific economies, India's banking system is the most vulnerable to a deterioration in corporate debt repayment capacity along with Indonesia, followed by Singapore, Malaysia and China, Moody's Investors Service said on Monday, causing the Nifty bank index to close 2.59 per cent lower.

Slower economic growth and rising trade and geopolitical tensions could weaken debt service-

abilities of corporates in the region, the rating agency wrote. "Indian banks are the most vulnerable because they have lower capital ratios, and their capital will be wiped out under our stress scenario," it added.

On Monday, Yes Bank stock fell 15 per cent, State Bank of India 3.7 per cent, ICICI Bank 3.5 per cent, Axis Bank 2.3 per cent, and HDFC Bank 1.4 per cent.

According to a recent Crisil report, PSBs — which make up for roughly 80 per cent of the bad loans in the banking system — will see their gross NPAs shrinking by as much as 400 bps to 10.6 per

cent by March 2020 from 14.6 per cent in March 2018. Separately, the government recently told Parliament that gross NPAs of state-run banks dropped to Rs 8,06,412 crore as of March 2019 from the peak of Rs 8,95,601 crore a year earlier, highlighting the improvement in PSBs' asset quality. While the ratio of corporate debt to GDP is relatively lower in India and Indonesia, the distribution of debt is skewed toward highly leveraged corporate borrowers with low interest coverage ratios, and this has resulted in high loan default rates that have plagued Indian banks since 2011,

according to Moody's.

## BORROWING IN THE CURRENT FISCAL

# Govt sticks to FY20 Budget target; plans for overseas sovereign bonds not firmed up

**ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 30

ANNOUNCING ITS debt raising programme for October-March period, the government Monday said its borrowing in the current fiscal will be within the budgeted Rs 7.1 lakh crore. The Centre indicated that it will stick to the fiscal deficit glide path despite Rs 1.45 lakh crore worth of corporate tax cuts. The Finance Ministry, however, has not firmed up plans so far to raise funds in overseas markets through issuance of sovereign bonds in foreign currency.

With over 62 per cent of the budgeted borrowing being already completed in six months to September 30, Economic Affairs Secretary Atanu Chakraborty said the remaining half of the current fiscal will see the remainder of Rs 2.68 lakh crore being borrowed in rupee denomination.

Despite the recent tax cuts hitting government finances, he said the government is sticking to the glide path of keeping fiscal deficit at 3.3 per cent of the GDP in the current fiscal. During the first half of this fiscal, the government has raised Rs 4.42 lakh crore, 62.25 per cent of the total borrowing. "Rs 2.68 lakh crore borrowing indicates that the fiscal glide path as indicated in the budget is being maintained," he said.

On overseas sovereign bonds, he said, the bonds to be raised in external currency are decided on the basis of current price, market appetite and related issue and the structuring of the bond itself. "We need very careful calibrations and deliberations before it enters in the market. The work on that is presently going on to work out the structures and various pros and cons and it is a process

With over 62% of the budgeted borrowing already completed in six months, DEA Secretary Atanu Chakraborty said the remaining half of the fiscal will see remainder of Rs 2.68 lakh crore being borrowed in rupee denomination

which is long. For this year, all the borrowing of the government will presently be in rupee-denominated bonds," the secretary said.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has announced in the Budget about government's plans to raise funds abroad in overseas currency through issuance of sovereign bonds.

As regards the second half borrowing, he said, 37.75 per cent of the total gross borrowing will be spread over 17 weekly auctions of Rs 16,000 crore each.

However, it will be Rs 14,000 crore in the last two auctions. The government will issue floating rate bonds to the extent of 10 per cent of gross issuances during the year.

Borrowing through treasury-bills is being planned in such a way as to result in net outflows of Rs 20,000 crore during the third quarter of the fiscal. Switching of government securities will continue while buyback of securities will also be performed in the second half, the secretary added. The central bank also provides funds to the government under Ways and Means Advances (WMA) mechanism to help it tide over short-term mismatch in receipts and payments.

## Mumbai Police registers FIR against senior officials of HDIL, PMC Bank

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 30

THE MUMBAI Police Monday registered an FIR on charges of cheating, forgery and criminal conspiracy against executive chairman of Housing Development and Infrastructure Limited (HDIL) Rakesh Wadhawan, vice chairman and managing director of the company Sarang Wadhawan, former managing director of Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank Joy Thomas, and the bank's chairman Waryam Singh, in addition to unidentified officials of PMC Bank and HDIL.

The offence was registered on the basis of the complaint given by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), following the collapse of the bank. The RBI had stepped in and put restrictions on withdrawals after the crisis at the bank came to light last week owing mainly to massive non-performing assets (NPA) that were underreported.

An officer said that an offence under sections 409, 420, 465, 466, 471 and 120B of the Indian Penal Code that deal with cheating, for-

## PIL in high court challenging RBI directive limiting withdrawals

Mumbai: Nine account holders of PMC Bank and an NGO have filed a PIL before the Bombay High Court challenging the RBI's directive capping the withdrawal limit for depositors at Rs 10,000 for six months. The petitioners are likely to mention the PIL on Tuesday before the bench of Chief Justice Pradeep Nandrajog and Justice Bharati Dangre.

The NGO, Consumer gery and conspiracy was registered by the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Mumbai Police. He added that the RBI was taken after a complaint was given by RBI. As per the complaint, Thomas, Singh and other officials along with HDIL director Wadhawan — from 2008 to August 2019 — took loans from PMC Bank's Bhandup branch which later turned an NPA. "In spite of the loans turning into NPAs, they were not declared

Action Network (CAN), and the account holders, in their PIL stated that the RBI has initiated an "arbitrary and irrational" direction without disclosing any reasons to all depositors without any prior intimation.

It said that the six-month restriction imposed by the RBI on depositors is detrimental to account holders at large who have invested their money in PMC bank. **ENS**

as such and this information was deliberately kept hidden from the RBI," the officer said.

He added that fake bank documents were also created that showed that a lower amount had been given out on loan to HDIL. The documents were then presented to RBI, thereby massively underreporting values of NPAs.

Another senior officer said they are in the process of identifying others persons involved.

## CENTRE COMMITS ₹560 CR TO STATE GOVERNMENTS

# Changes in Apprenticeship Rules notified; compensation increased

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 30

THE CENTRE on Monday announced a commitment of Rs 560 crore to state governments to promote demand-driven, industry-linked skill development at the ground level.

The government has also notified changes in Apprenticeship Rules (1992) with an aim to increase skilled manpower in the country, and raise monetary compensation of apprentices.

Union Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Minister Mahendra Nath Pandey made the announcement at the Annual National Conference of State Ministers on Monday.

"Skill development is a demand-driven subject and thus it is important that we give more power to the states to ensure quality and market relevant outcome.

### HIRING LIMIT OF APPRENTICES RAISED

■ As per the Apprenticeship (Amendment) Rules, 2019, the hiring limit of apprentices has been raised to 15 per cent of total strength of an establishment, and the minimum stipends have been increased to between ₹5,000 & ₹9,000 per month

■ The stipend for graduate apprentices or degree apprentices has been increased to Rs 9,000 per month. For those who are school pass outs — between Class 5th and 9th — the stipend has been increased to Rs 5,000 per month

It is important that we map and strike a balance between the traditional and new age skills, right at the district level and also target a shift from unorganised to the organised market through our Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) program," Pandey said.

The minister further said that states should ensure integration of skills right at the school level so that the youth can decide which

skills to hone.

He also observed that the government, both at the central and state levels, should work towards a common standardised assessment system.

Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship RK Singh said that states should consistently undertake environmental scan for market relevant skills.

As per the notified Apprenticeship (Amendment) Rules, 2019, the hiring limit of apprentices has been raised to 15 per cent of total strength of an establishment, and the minimum stipends have been doubled to between Rs 5,000 and Rs 9,000 per month.

The stipend for graduate apprentices or degree apprentices has been increased to Rs 9,000 per month. For school pass outs, between Class 5th and 9th, the stipend has been increased to Rs 5,000 per month.

The Centre has also lowered the size limit of an establishment with a mandatory obligation to engage apprentices on an optional basis from 40 to 30, and reduced the size-limit of an establishment wanting to engage apprentices from 6 to 4. Pandey said the number of apprenticeships are expected to rise to 2.6 lakh as compared to 60,000 this year till now.

## Suppressing criticism a sure fire recipe for policy mistakes: Rajan

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 30

PEOPLE IN authority have to tolerate criticism and suppressing criticism is a sure fire recipe for policy mistakes, former Reserve Bank of India Governor Raghuram Rajan said Monday. In an essay on LinkedIn, Rajan said governments that suppress public criticism do themselves a gross disservice.

"People in authority have to tolerate criticism. Undoubtedly, some of the criticism, including in the press, is ill-informed, motivated, and descends into ad-hominem personal attacks. I have certainly had my share of those in my past jobs. However, suppressing criticism is a sure fire recipe for policy mistakes. If every critic gets a phone call from a government functionary asking them to back off, or gets targeted by the ruling party's troll army, many will tone down their criticism. The government will then live in a pleasant make-believe environment, until the harsh truth can no longer be denied," Rajan wrote in his essay.

He added that constant criticism allows periodic course corrections to policy, and public criticism indeed gives government bureaucrats the room to speak truth to their political masters. "Conversely, fulsome public praise crowds out the possibility that the government can be self-critical—even a whisper of dissent stands out. Governments that suppress public criticism do themselves a gross disservice."

He said understanding history is good but using history to thump our own chest reflects great insecurity. "Understanding our history is, obviously, a good thing, but using history to thump our own chest reflects great insecurity and

### In an essay on LinkedIn, the former RBI Governor said governments that suppress criticism do themselves a disservice

can even be counterproductive. It does nothing for enhancing our current capabilities. It was our poverty in the past and continuing shortcomings in our still-developing academic, corporate, and government research systems that keep us from the frontier."

In his introductory note for the essay, Rajan — currently teaching at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business — referred to the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, as well as recalled jurist Nani Palkhivala, whose birth centenary is approaching. "At times like the present ones, we must remember that what makes India strong is its diversity, debate, and tolerance. What makes it weak is narrow mindedness, obscurantism, and divisiveness," he wrote.

Rajan also mentioned the suspicion for foreign ideas and foreigners as one of the concerns. "In the 'not invented here' syndrome lies stagnation. We cannot be so insecure that we believe allowing foreign competition will demolish our culture, our ideas, and our firms. Indeed, it is by erecting protective walls that we have always fallen behind, making us susceptible to total colonisation. There is no need for us to be slaves to anything foreign, but it is best that we examine everything, domestic or foreign, dispassionately, and see what is worth keeping. It is only then that we will have a dynamic society, adapting to the needs of the times," he said.

## After setback at WTO, India likely to 'rework' more export schemes

BANIKINKAR PATTANAYAK NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 30

WITH INDIA losing a key trade dispute with the United States at the World Trade Organization (WTO) on export subsidies, it will likely expedite a process to replace or restructure various WTO-incompatible export schemes in the coming months, a source said.

A WTO dispute settlement panel is learnt to have ruled in favour of the US that had claimed that New Delhi offered illegal export subsidies and "thousands of Indian companies are receiving benefits totaling over \$7 billion annually from these programmes". These export subsidies were in violation of the WTO's subsidies and countervailing measures (SCM) pact, the US had alleged.

India is awaiting the panel's final report and its precise findings, which is expected soon, said another source, indicating that a detailed impact assessment would be done once the report was received. Analysts say what comes as a blessing in disguise for India is the US move to block judges to the appellate tribunal, which will

be crippled with just one judge left after December 11.

In that case, the fate of any appeal by India against a verdict in favour of the US remains uncertain. Unless a decision is made by the tribunal on the appeal, the findings of the WTO's dispute panel cannot be binding on India, they have added.

In a business-as-usual scenario, though, once the dispute panel's final report is made public, India would be required to appeal the ruling before an appellate body within 30 days. If the appellate body upholds the panel's ruling, India will have to stop the export promotion schemes within a mutually-agreed-upon time frame, which is often a year. Here, too, India will have time to comply if it starts the restructuring of controversial programmes early. Last March, the US had challenged many Indian export subsidy programmes, including MEIS, Export Oriented Units Scheme; sector-specific schemes, including Electronics Hardware Technology Parks Scheme; special economic zones; Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme; and duty free imports for re-exports. **FE**

## Domestic natural gas price slashed by over 12%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 30

THE CENTRE Monday cut domestic natural gas price for the first time in two-and-a-half years but rates for gas produced from difficult fields like Reliance Industries' under-development fields in KG-D6 block are still at almost the same level as the one fixed during the Congress-led UPA regime.

The price of most of the natural gas produced by state-owned ONGC and Oil India Ltd, which account for bulk of India's existing gas output, was cut to \$3.23 per million British thermal unit for the six-month period beginning October 1, from \$3.69 as of now, according to the oil ministry's Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC). This is the first reduction in rate since April 1, 2017. Simultaneously, the government cut the price of gas produced from difficult fields to \$8.43 from \$9.32, the PPAC notification said.

Prices of natural gas are set every six months — on April 1 and October 1 each year. The rates also decide the revenue of gas production companies.

## At AGM, Anil Ambani says Reliance Capital to exit lending business

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 30

RELIANCE CAPITAL Chairman Anil Ambani on Monday said the company will exit the lending business as it faced "collateral damage" due to a slowing economy and a lending crisis in the financial sector. Addressing the company's annual general meeting (AGM), Ambani said that he expects the resolution plans for Reliance Home Finance and Reliance Commercial Finance to be completed by December.

"This will bring lower the Reliance Capital debt by about Rs 25,000 crore," he said. The company's shares fell 12.32 per cent to Rs 24.55 on the BSE Monday. Ambani said the company has suffered over the last six months as collateral damage due to crisis in the financial services industry, irrational action of rating agencies and auditors, as well as slowdown in economy. The Reliance Group has repaid over Rs 35,000 crore in the last four months and will repay another Rs 15,000 crore by next March.

In June, auditors raised several red flags around the company's

"It is unfortunate that during all this noise, the true value of our businesses has not been recognised"

ANIL AMBANI CHAIRMAN, RELIANCE CAPITAL

fourth-quarter results, including a lack of clarity in related party transactions and accounting methodology. Apart from lending, Reliance Capital has interests in asset management and general insurance businesses. The company has been divesting assets this year. It reduced its stake in Reliance Nippon Life Asset Management to just over 4 per cent from about a quarter. "It is unfortunate that during all this noise, the true value of our businesses has not been recognised," Ambani said.

At the Reliance Communication AGM, resolution professional Ashish Nanavaty said it has received claims worth Rs 84,268 crore from their creditors and the quality of the resolution plan will depend on what the investors make of the claim.

### BRIEFLY US Commerce Secy to meet Goyal this week

New Delhi: US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross and Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal are likely to meet on October 3 here to discuss trade and investment related issues, an official said. The meeting assumes significance as India and the United States are negotiating a bilateral trade deal to boost two-way commerce. The trade deal talks were recently held in Washington between Goyal and US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer.

### IRCTC IPO subscribed 81% on Day 1

New Delhi: The initial public offering of Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) was subscribed about 81 per cent on the opening day of bidding on Monday. IRCTC's public offer to raise about Rs 645 crore received bids for 1.63 crore shares as against the total issue size of two crore shares, according to exchanges' data. The non-institutional investors category was subscribed 21 per cent and that of retail individual investors 2.23 times.

### Rajesh Menon is new director general of SIAM

New Delhi: The Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) on Monday said it has appointed Rajesh Menon as its new Director General. Menon, succeeds Vishnu Mathur who is superannuating. He was earlier the Deputy Director General at the Confederation of Indian Industry, which he had joined in 1994. "I am sure that Rajesh will be able to provide the leadership to SIAM that will help the industry achieve its objective of growth with responsibility," SIAM president Rajan Wadhwa said.

### India's real GDP growth likely to be 5.2%: EIU

New Delhi: India's real gross domestic product (GDP) growth for the current financial year is likely to be 5.2 per cent as muted business confidence, subdued demand conditions and concerns in the financial sector are hurting investments, according to a report by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).

### Strike by central trade unions on January 8

New Delhi: Central trade unions on Monday gave a call for a nationwide general strike on January 8 against government's alleged failure to respond to demands of workers. As many as 10 central unions announced the strike in national open mass convention of workers, as per a joint statement issued by them. **PTI**



## MARUTI LAUNCHES MINI-SUV S-PRESSO

Kenichi Ayukawa, MD and CEO, Maruti Suzuki India (MSI), along with Shashank Srivastava, executive director—Sales and Marketing, MSI, at the launch of the mini SUV S-PRESSO, priced between Rs 3.69 lakh and Rs 4.91 lakh (ex-showroom), in New Delhi, Monday. **PTI**

**SBI**  
Networking & Communication Dept., State Bank Global IT Centre,  
Main Building, Sector 11, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai - 400 614.

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

State Bank of India has issued RFP for Procurement, Installation, Commissioning, Maintenance and Warranty of Immersive Video Conferencing facility in State Bank of India. Please refer 'Procurement News' at Bank's website, <https://bank.sbi>

Sd/-  
Deputy General Manager  
(Networking & Communication Dept.)  
Date: 01/10/2019

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL MARKETING**  
Pant Krishi Bhawan, JAIPUR (Rajasthan)  
Ph. No. 0141-2227115 E-Mail-dir.dam@rajasthan.gov.in  
No. 30494-98 Dated: 20.9.19

**Corrigendum**

Amendment/Modification/Deletion/Addition are made in term & conditions, specification and time schedule of E-Bid for under NIB ref. no 27399 dated 28.08.2019. Details of e-Proc tender ID and UBN no is below here :-

SN	Tender ID	UBN NO
(1)	2019_DAMJP_161039_1	DAM1920GLRC00539
(2)	2019_DAMJP_161039_2	DAM1920GLRC00540
(3)	2019_DAMJP_161039_3	DAM1920GLRC00541
(4)	2019_DAMJP_161039_4	DAM1920GLRC00542
(5)	2019_DAMJP_161039_5	DAM1920GLRC00543

**Time Schedule: The amended time schedule of E-Bid will remain as mention below:**

S. No.	Detail	Previous Date & Time	Amended Date & Time
1	Date & Time of downloading of Bid/ Documents	29.08.19 to 24.09.19 (upto 6:00 P.M.)	Upto 09.10.19 (upto 6:00 P.M.)
2	Date & Time of online submission of Bid	29.08.19 to 24.09.19 (upto 6:00 P.M.)	Upto 09.10.19 (upto 6:00 P.M.)
3	Last Date of Submission of DD/ Banker Cheque in the office of DAM	25.09.19 (upto 12:00 P.M.)	Upto 10.10.19 (upto 12:00 P.M.)
4	Date & Time of Technical Bid opening	25.09.19 (2:00 P.M.)	10.10.19 (2:00 P.M.)

Amendment/Modification/Deletion/Addition are available on website ["sppp.rajasthan.gov.in"](http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in) or ["https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in"](http://https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in) or website ["www.mandi.agriculture.rajasthan.gov.in"](http://www.mandi.agriculture.rajasthan.gov.in) The amendment/modification shall be integral part of bid document.

Sd/-  
Director  
Department of Agricultural Marketing  
Rajasthan, Jaipur  
DIPRC/8193/2019

**STATE INDUSTRIES PROMOTION CORPORATION OF TAMILNADU LIMITED (SIPCO) (Government of Tamilnadu undertaking)**

**TENDER NOTICE**

Tender No: Projects/Geo/2/2019 Dated: 27.09.2019

Sealed tenders are invited from reputed Consultant agencies under "Two Cover System" for GIS MAPPING & PREPARATION OF GEO DATABASE FOR SIPCO INDUSTRIAL COMPLEXES IN TAMILNADU

(QCBS METHOD)

1	Tender Inviting Authority	The Managing Director, SIPCO, 19-A, Rukmani Lakshminipathy Road, Egmore, Chennai-600 008.
2	Name of the Work	TENDER FOR REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR GIS MAPPING & PREPARATION OF GEO DATABASE FOR SIPCO INDUSTRIAL COMPLEXES IN TAMIL NADU (QCBS METHOD)
3	Purchase of Tender Document	Tender document can be purchased on all working days from 01.10.2019 to 04.11.2019 between 11.00 a.m and 03.00 p.m from the address mentioned in SI.No (1) above on payment of Rs.1000/- by way of Demand Draft or Banker's Cheque drawn on any Nationalized / Scheduled Commercial Bank in favour of "SIPCO LTD" payable at Chennai. Alternatively, the tender documents could be downloaded from <a href="http://www.sipco.tn.in">www.sipco.tn.in</a>
4	Earnest Money Deposit	Rs.11,00,000/- in the form of a Demand Draft or Bank Guarantee drawn on any Indian Nationalized / Scheduled Commercial Bank in favour of "SIPCO LTD" payable at Chennai.
5	Pre Bid Meeting	23.10.2019 at 3:30 PM at the address mentioned in SI.No. (1) above.
6	Due Date, Time & Place of submission of the tender	04.11.2019 upto 3:00 PM at the address mentioned in SI.No (1) above.
7	Date, Time and Place of opening of the tender	04.11.2019 at 3:30 PM at the address mentioned in SI.No (1) above.

DIPRC /3412 /TENDER/2019 **Managing Director**

## 'BP CEO Dudley draws up plans to step down'

RON BOUSSO LONDON, SEPTEMBER 30

BP CHIEF Executive Officer Bob Dudley is drawing up plans to step down next year, ending a tumultuous decade at the helm of the oil and gas company that swung from near collapse in 2010 to rapid growth today, sources close to the company said on Monday.

BP's first American CEO has indicated several times in closed discussions in recent years that he would like to retire at the age of 65, taking him into 2020.

His retirement plans were discussed at BP's board meeting in the United States last week, but no final date has been decided, according to the sources. **REUTERS**

## Chinese companies rethink US IPOs after delisting threat by Trump

SAMUEL SHEN & JOSH HORWITZ SHANGHAI, SEPTEMBER 30

BESTBOND, A Chinese apartment rental company, had been planning on a Nasdaq flotation in one to two years but as US-China trade tensions ratcheted higher, the Hong Kong stock exchange emerged as a possible candidate. Now, it's firmly on the table.

"We're having second thoughts," CFO Wang Jia said, adding that Hong Kong, despite being beset with political unrest, had become more attractive after news emerged on Friday that US President Donald Trump's administration was looking at delisting Chinese companies from US boards.

Bestbond, based in Nanjing, eastern China, still prefers Nasdaq as it is a higher profile, more liq-

### Decoupling will harm both sides: China

Beijing: China warned on Monday of instability in international markets from any "decoupling" of China and the US, after sources said the Trump administration was considering delisting Chinese firms from US exchanges. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said he had noted the reports on delisting and the response from the US Treasury. **REUTERS**

uid market that would likely offer better valuations, but the company cannot afford to have its eggs in just one basket, Wang said.

While a US Treasury official has said Trump's administration was not considering blocking Chinese companies from US listings "at this time", the possibility it may do so has resulted in much handwringing by mainland firms that had been looking at a US IPO. "Too many calls. Every client is worried," said Terence Lin, CEO of World Financial Holding Group, a boutique investment bank which helps Chinese companies with Nasdaq listings. Two sources said the US move was part of a broader idea to limit US investment in Chinese firms, while one source has said that it is motivated by security concerns. Lin believes, however, that Trump's threat would be extremely difficult to implement legally and is merely a negotiation tactic in the rapidly escalating trade war between the two biggest economies. **REUTERS**





CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS GLOBAL TENDER No. COS/CRJ/PUB/e-Tender/19/0162 Dated: 27.09.2019. The following e-Tenders can be accessed under the link www.ireps.gov.in.

PARADIP PORT TRUST e-TENDER CALL NOTICE Name of the work: "Cleaning of Debris from Roads, Berms, Backup space and disposal of Dredging materials from the stretch from TT-8 Junction to MPB via CQ & EQ for the year 2019-20"

E-TENDER PRESS NOTICE The EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, CD-VI, I&FC Department, Govt. of Odisha, Bharat Nagar Office Complex, Delhi-110052, invites on behalf of the President of India, online item rate tender from the approved and eligible contractors registered with I&F Department and contractor who are registered with other Deptt. and get their registration verified from I&F Deptt.

TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED Notice Inviting Bids 1. Supply of 11kV Switchgears for TNPL Unit-II MEP 2. Supply and Installation of Freight cum Passenger Lift Elevator System for Recovery Boiler in TNPL Unit-II MEP

Canara Bank BSCA Section, FM&S Wing, Head Office #112, JC Road, Bengaluru - 560002, Phone: 080-22533859; 22538561 Email: hobscsa@canarabank.com CANARA BANK invites Request for Proposal

E-TENDERING PRESS NOTICE Executive Engineer, Civil Division No. IV, Irrigation & Flood Control Department Govt. of NCT of Delhi, L.M. Bund Office Complex, Shastrri Nagar, Delhi-31 invites on behalf of President of India online Percentage rate tender from approved and eligible contractors registered with Irrigation & Flood Control Department upto 3.00PM dated on 10.10.2019 for the works: H.O.A.: MLALAD FUND UNDER DEPTT. OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT

DELHI URBAN SHELTER IMPROVEMENT BOARD GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, C-7 RANA PRATAP BAGH, DELHI-110007 NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER Executive Engineer, C-7, DUSIB, R.P. Bagh Delhi-110007 invites on behalf of Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board, percentage rate bid (On Line) on two bid system for the following work.

DELHI URBAN SHELTER IMPROVEMENT BOARD GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, C-7 RANA PRATAP BAGH, DELHI-110007 NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER Executive Engineer, C-7, DUSIB, R.P. Bagh Delhi-110007 invites on behalf of Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board, percentage rate bid (On Line) on two bid system for the following work.

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DELHI URBAN SHELTER IMPROVEMENT BOARD GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, C-7 RANA PRATAP BAGH, DELHI-110007 NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER Executive Engineer, C-7, DUSIB, R.P. Bagh Delhi-110007 invites on behalf of Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board, percentage rate bid (On Line) on two bid system for the following work.

CORRIGENDUM - 4 Following rectification is made in E-Tender Notice No. 11 of 2019-20 of Executive Engineer Ukai Division No. 1, Ukai Pin Code No. 394680, Phone No. 02624-233221, Dist. Tapi.

BHAKRA BEAS MANAGEMENT BOARD (POWER WING) Corrigendum-2 NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER Dtd.: 26.09.2019 NIT No. 460/PHD/Bh-I/469 Dated: 15.07.2019 Name of office: Chief Engineer / System Operation, Planning & Design (Power Plant) Dte., BBMB (PW), Flat No. 75 SLDC Complex, BBMB, Industrial Area, Phase-I, Chandigarh, Tel-Fax. 0172-2637035

DELHI URBAN SHELTER IMPROVEMENT BOARD GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, C-5 01, Klokari Ring Road, Opp. Maharani Bagh, New Delhi-110014 (Ph. No. 011-26342896, e-mail ID : eec5.dusib@gmail.com) Press Notice For Inviting e-Tenders The Executive Engineer C-5, DUSIB, invites on behalf of DUSIB online Percentage rate bid on two bid system for following work:

MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, KHUNTI e-Procurement Notice Tender Reference No. WRD/MID/KHUNTI/F2-29/2019-20 Date :-30/09/2019

MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, KHUNTI e-Procurement Notice Tender Reference No. WRD/MID/KHUNTI/F2-31/2019-20 Date :-30/09/2019

MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, KHUNTI e-Procurement Notice Tender Reference No. WRD/MID/KHUNTI/F2-31/2019-20 Date :-30/09/2019

MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, KHUNTI e-Procurement Notice Tender Reference No. WRD/MID/KHUNTI/F2-31/2019-20 Date :-30/09/2019

NORTHERN RAILWAY NOTICE INVITING TENDER Name of work and its location : 30-Elect-39-T-2019-20-E3 Comprehensive AMC of Schindler make lifts installed at Tikai Brid Railway Officers Colony. Approx cost of the works in : Rs.6.24 lacs Address of the office : Sr. Divl Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi. Earnest Money : Rs.12500.00 Date & time of submission of tender : 22.10.2019, 15.00 Hrs. Opening of tender : 22.10.2019, 15.15 Hrs. Website & notice board : www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi. 3151/19

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE The Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer (Const), Northern Railway, Moradabad for & on behalf of President of India invites E-Tenders under single packet system for the under noted work - 1. Name of work with its location: Electrification of shed, offices, Railway quarters & service building including illumination in Yards and Roads with laying of LT cables in c/w Electrical works for electrification of AMB ANDAURA-DAULATPUR railway line over Ambala Division. Completion period of the work: 06 Months. Approximate Cost of work: ₹13,61,972.12/- Earnest Money amount (to be deposited Online): ₹ 27,300/- Date & Time for submission of E-tender and opening of tender : Tenders may be uploaded upto 11.30 hrs on date 22.10.2019 on IREPS web site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in. The bidders can participate in the e-tender, the tender will be opened at 11.30 hrs on 22.10.2019. Detailed Tender Notice & Tender Document: The detailed e-tender notice is available on Northern Railway web site i.e. www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in and tender document is available on www.ireps.gov.in. Above tender document will be available for submission of offer on IREPS web site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 07.10.2019 to 22.10.2019. The bidders who desire to participate against e-tenders, are advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which, they would require to, obtain class III digital certificate (if already not obtained) issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board of the above office. No. 17-Elect/CIGPS/UMB/59 Dated: 26.09.2019 3147/19

OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF RURAL WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION, JAL "O" PARIMAL BHAWAN, UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR-751001, ODISHA Tel - 0674-2395734, FAX: 0674-2394946 E-mail: cerwssodisha@gmail.com INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING NO 8414 /Dt 27.09.2019 OWSM-WQ-01-239/2019 The Engineer-In-Chief, RWSS&S Odisha, Bhubaneswar on behalf of Governor of Odisha in Panchayatiraj) & Drinking water Department invites tenders in double cover system in ONLINE MODE only from registered Manufacturer/ Authorised distributor / Authorised Dealer only for Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of different Laboratory Instrument throughout the state.

GOVERNMENT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH IRRIGATION CUM PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT TENDER NOTICE Telephone No. : 01905-221030 E-mail: eeiphmd@gmail.com Fax No. : 01905-223013 Website: https://hptenders.gov.in Online bids on item rate basis are invited by the Executive Engineer I&PH Division Mandi, Himachal Pradesh on the behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh, in electronic tendering system in two covers for the under mentioned work from contractors/firms of an appropriate class enlisted with HP I&PH Department.

GOVERNMENT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH IRRIGATION CUM PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT TENDER NOTICE Telephone No. : 01905-221030 E-mail: eeiphmd@gmail.com Fax No. : 01905-223013 Website: https://hptenders.gov.in Online bids on item rate basis are invited by the Executive Engineer I&PH Division Mandi, Himachal Pradesh on the behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh, in electronic tendering system in two covers for the under mentioned work from contractors/firms of an appropriate class enlisted with HP I&PH Department.

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## FIRST CCTV CAMERAS NOW 2 LAKH STREETLIGHTS



### SALIENT FEATURES OF MUKHYAMANTRI STREET LIGHT SCHEME

- DISCOMs will install all streetlights as part of this scheme
- With the permission of owners, streetlights will be installed on the wall of homes or shops, to provide lighting for dark spots
- The electricity for the streetlight will be taken from the concerned home or shop. The electricity bill will be paid to the DISCOM directly by the government. This will be done along the same lines as the CCTV Camera policy, and no financial burden shall be put on the home or shop owner
- These are modern streetlights with light sensors. These will automatically switch on when it becomes dark, and switch off in the morning

“ There are many dark spots in different part of Delhi, where women are unsafe. We will identify every such dark spot, and install more than 2 lakh streetlights, so that women feel safe in this city.”

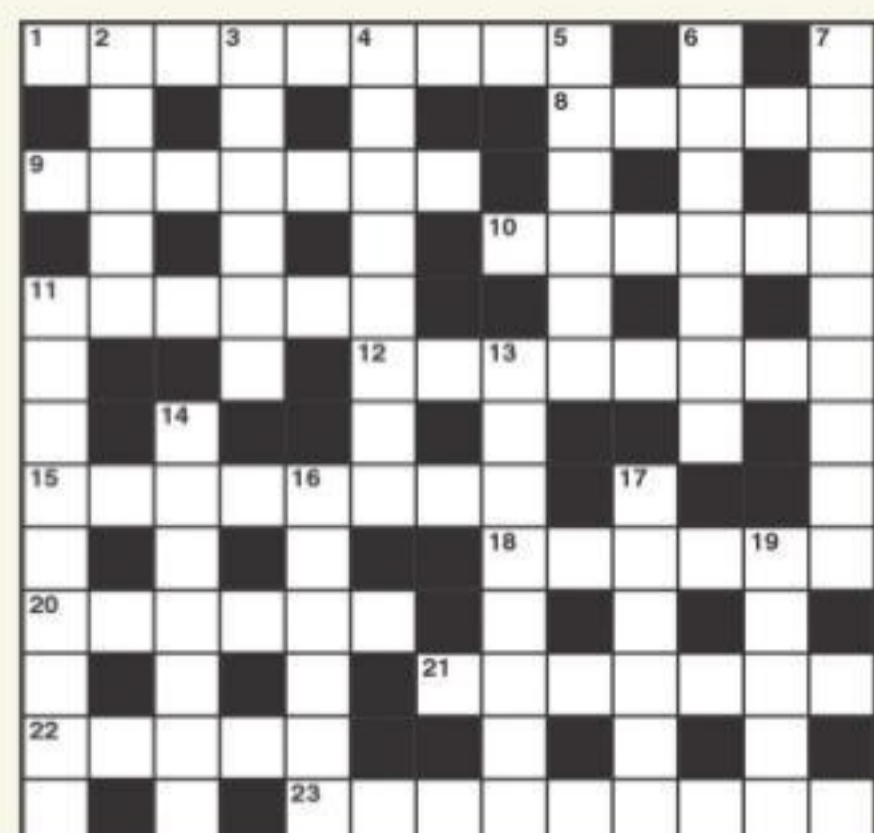
- Arvind Kejriwal  
Chief Minister, Delhi



To get a streetlight installed in your area, please contact your area MLA



CROSSWORD 3924



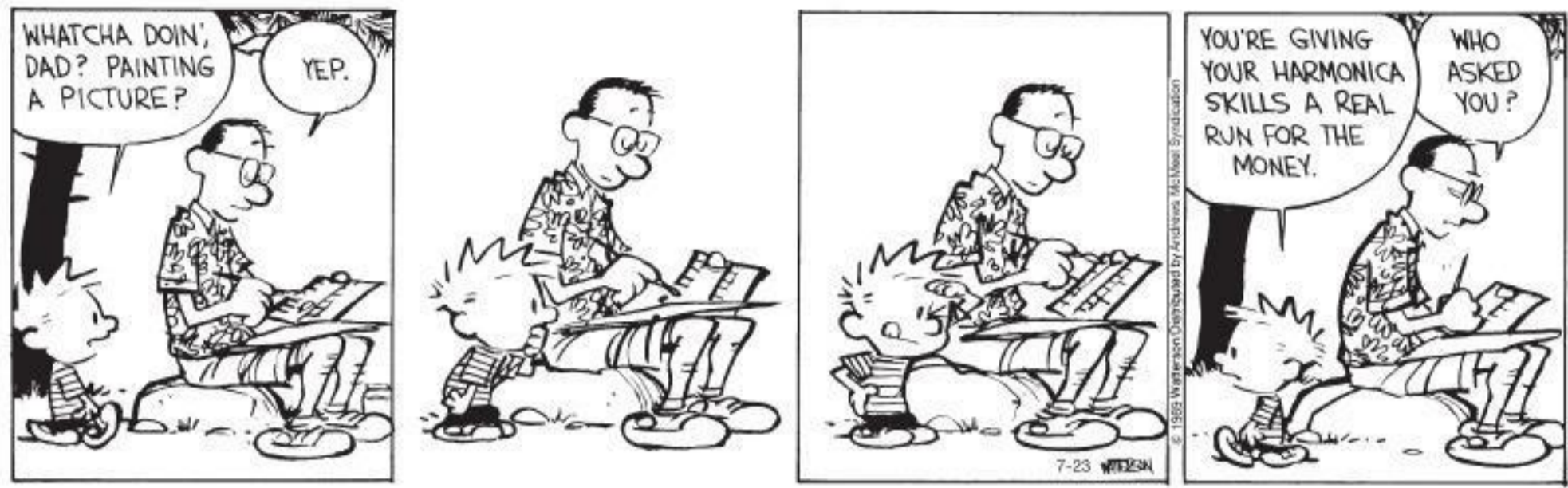
- ACROSS
1 Very good acquisition for an aquarium? (5,4)
2 The alternative in France is grave (5)
3 End a romance and go to pieces (5,2)
4 It often figures in art exhibitions (6)
5 Rascally fellow who organises travel (6)
6 The height of distinction (8)
7 Many take on experiments as trials of ability (8)
8 A sweet little thing to play with (6)
9 Emerges from the foliage (6)
10 Clued in a way to take one in (7)
11 We sat around in a state of anxiety (5)
12 He may investigate an insect and its changing form (9)
DOWN
2 Mean to a girl (5)
3 Allow the Spanish poison to be brought up (6)
4 Shakes with feverish disease and rests badly (8)
5 Rush from Athens (6)
6 Sarcastic extract from a newspaper (7)
7 Respect some hesitation in one's excuses perhaps (9)
9 Utterly incompetent (9)
13 An occasion of exemplary significance (8)
14 Badly angered and remaining furious (7)
16 Puts up secret amendments (6)
17 Shrinking flower? (6)
19 Swimming pools of solid construction (5)

Solutions Crossword 3923: Across: 1 Aspirin, 4 Erato, 7 Tang, 8 Educated, 10 Rehearsals, 12 Innate, 13 Reveal, 15 Appreciate, 18 European, 19 Star, 20 Donor, 21 Aintree. Down: 1 Altar, 2 Penchant, 3 Nudism, 4 Excellence, 5 Ante, 6 Oddball, 9 Waste paper, 11 Decanter, 12 Infield, 14 Armada, 16 Eerie, 17 Oran.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given clue. When the flower blooms, the \_\_\_ come \_\_\_ - Ramakrishna (4,\_,9)

Word puzzles with jumbled letters: REEEI, EEVNNU, HMIST, BRAVED. Includes a solution: SOLUTION: FERIE, SMITH, UNEVEN, ADVENERS.

SUDOKU 3986

Difficulty Level 3s Instructions To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes. Difficulty Level 1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

Sudoku puzzles and solutions. Includes a 9x9 grid for puzzle 3986 and its solution, and another 9x9 grid for puzzle 3985 and its solution.

DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

Please do take great care with your finances. There seems to be little doubt that rash actions now could result in increased costs later. Somehow your emotional security also seems to be involved, but perhaps you need to remember how ultimately you can only rely on yourself.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

Extremely powerful planetary aspects signify that you are now sailing on uncharted waters. If you can possibly ask for help and advice, please do so. Pride is a quality you can usefully do without. It will only get you into worse difficulties. And, in any case, other people might actually have done better than you.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

You can relax your efforts and allow others to do the arguing. No one has worked harder than you to keep the peace but now you deserve a little time to yourself. It is a fine moment to look after number one. After all, if you don't treat yourself well you won't treat anyone else properly, either.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

The combined influences of those mighty planets, Saturn and Jupiter, are about to work another major change in your private affairs. You're probably sick of hearing that your life's about to be transformed, but you've also probably become blasé, about upheavals that knock others for six.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

Somebody has made all the right moves, but whether this is enough to placate you or make you change your ways is another matter. You are in a stubborn mood, but only you can decide whether you should stay as you are or bend a little. Perhaps you could do both.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

The good news is that if you take a path of quiet meditation, devoted self-sacrifice and compromise, life will turn a very important corner and you'll end up with enhanced self-knowledge and understanding. And if you figure out your underlying motives then you'll make the right decisions.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

Although it may be an indirect approach which matters, you may be more impressed by a direct appeal for help. The point I am trying to make is that you are quite touchy and will respond irrationally to the precise manner in which others say and do things.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

If you're sensible you'll consider eating humble pie, impressing others with your amazing contrition. You have much to be vain about, but overweening arrogance could cost you your happiness. If you're too complacent then you might just miss the most important developments.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 23)

It's not the easiest thing in the world to come to grips with your solar chart at the moment. I am concerned that you may feel victimised or martyred. If so, please try and see what led you to this situation. Then you'll figure out how to get back to the way you were.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

Current planetary aspects will force you to accept that you have never made the most of your potential in certain ways. For example, have you ever truly shown the world the person you really are? I suspect that you haven't - but it's never too late to start.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

Isn't it better to stand on your own two feet? There is a definite need to look to your laurels now and not imagine that other people are going to bail you out. Close partners feel quite rightly that you must dig yourself out of whatever hole you have put yourself in.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

You may think you are being caring and considerate, but someone may be a little tired of what they see as your efforts to probe into their affairs. I'd say that discretion is now the order of the day. Total honesty may not be the best way to reveal secrets which can only cause consternation, so choose your words with care.

NOTICE BOARD

CORPORATE ASSOCIATE DIARY EVENTS, HONOURS



AWARD-AAI G Chandramouli, Regional ED (Western Region) & Aryama Sanyal, Airport Director, Devi Ahilya Bai Holkar Airport, Indore receiving the Best Airport Award (Rest of India Category) - National Tourism Award 2017-18.



AGM-PDIL 41st AGM of PDIL was held recently at Department of Fertilizers, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi under chairmanship of PS Sen Sharma (IAS), CMD, PDIL who in his Chairman's speech stated that PDIL achieved highest ever Profit after Tax of Rs 30.36 cr.



CAMP-ESIC On the occasion of birthday of the great revolutionary Bhagat Singh, the Sub-Regional Office of ESIC, Gurugram, organised a blood donation camp at its premises in sector 34 near Hero Honda Chowk recently.



BICYCLE RALLY-NCC MoS Defence Shripad Yesso Naik flagged in the Pan India Bicycle rally, as part of Mega Swachhta Pakhawada - 2019, conducted by NCC all across the country recently at India Gate New Delhi. The Minister congratulated the cadets for their splendid efforts.



MARATHON-INDIANOIL The 4th edition of PSPB Intl. Half Marathon, 'Petro Run', was flagged off by India's champion sportstars & IOCians, H Das & P Gopichand in the presence of Dr MM Kutty, Chairman, PSPB, & Secy, MoP&NG & S Singh, Pres., PSPB, & Chairman, IOCL.



LAUNCH-AAI Hardeep Singh Puri, MoS Civil Aviation, launched the SkyFit eBook in presence of PS Kharola, Secy, M/o Civil Aviation, A Aggarwal, Chairman, AAI & 1200 delegates from 193 countries during the ICAO's 40th Triennial Session & General Assembly.



CAMPAIGN-SER An awareness campaign against the use of plastic was carried out by SWRWVO at Hubballi Railway Station recently. This drive was part of appeal by PM on the occasion of 150th anniversary celebrations of the Mahatma Gandhi.



MELA-CANARA BANK As a part of Women Empowerment Programmes under the Bank's CSR Initiative, Women Empowerment Section, Canara Bank, Head Office organized 3 days Marketing Mela recently at Canara Bank, HO Auditorium.



AGM-NEEPCO 43rd AGM of NEEPCO was held recently at New Delhi. Addressing the Shareholders, VK Singh, CMD of NEEPCO highlighted the achievements of the company during the year 2018-19. The Company earned Rs 451.58 crs as profit before tax.



HINDI MONTH-INDIAN BANK Padmaja Chundur, MD & CEO addressing the staff members during Valedictory function of Hindi Month 2019 organised at Indian Bank Corporate Office, Chennai on recently.



TRAIN SERVICE-SWR To cater to the persistent demand of the public of Bengaluru, Ramanagaram, Mandya & Mysuru, SWR is pleased to extend Train No.16316/16315 Kochuveli - KSR Bengaluru - Kochuveli Express up to Mysuru.

INDIANOIL There are media reports of a possible LPG cooking gas crunch in the country in the festive season ahead. The Oil Marketing Companies would like to clarify that, contrary to such reports, they are fully equipped to meet the enhanced LPG demand through both indigenous sources as well as imports. While all LPG suppliers, including Saudi Aramco, are standing by their commitment to dispatch agreed quantities, indigenous supplies have also been stepped up and additional cargoes are being arranged to meet the enhanced demand in the festive period. The OMCs stand by their commitment of providing uninterrupted supply of LPG cooking gas to their valued customers.

NORTHERN RAILWAY INVITATION OF TENDERS THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT SYSTEM. Chief Admn. Officer/Const. Northern Railway, Kashmere Gate, Delhi for and on behalf of the President of India invites tender through e-procurement system to be opened at 14:30 hours on the dates as shown against each for the supply of the following items:-

POLICE HEADQUARTERS JAMMU AND KASHMIR, SRINAGAR. Tender Amendment. Following amendment is issued in NIT No. 67 of 2019 dated 31.08.2019 floated by Police Hqrs. J&K to procure BR Jackets:-

punjab national bank پنجاب نیشنل بینک. Branch Office: GT Road, Karnal. POSSESSION NOTICE (SYMBOLIC). Whereas the undersigned being the authorized officer of PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued a demand notice on the dates mentioned against each account as stated below and hereinafter calling upon them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of Notice/receipt of said notice.

# 25 TALK ART, MUSIC, STYLE, FOOD



## WORLD'S A STAGE

Manganiyar Seduction, under the direction of Roysten Abel, will perform at Washington DC's Kennedy Center of Performing Arts on November 1 and 2. With 40 singers and instrumentalists from Rajasthan, they will use theatre to create a crescendo.

## Remembering Kaalia



(Clockwise from above left) Viju Khote; in *Sholay*; in *Andaz Apna Apna*

### EKTAA MALIK

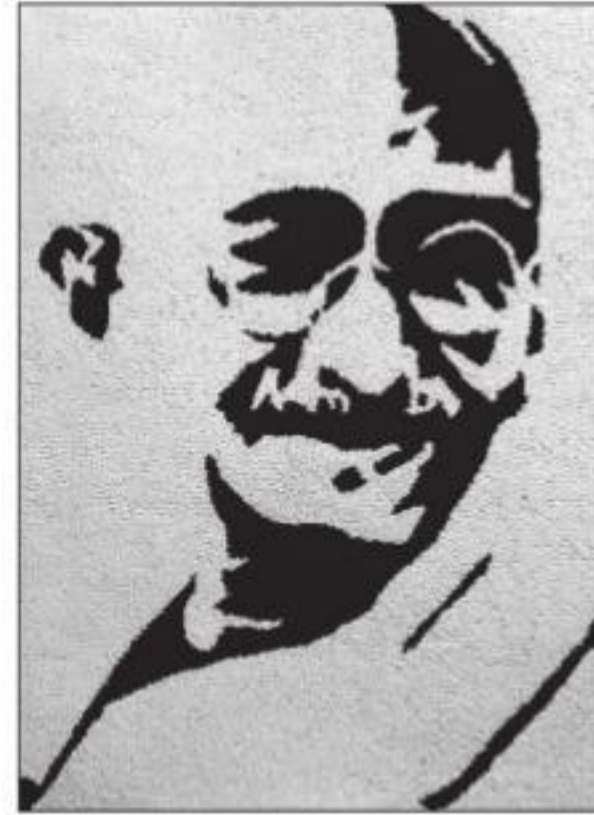
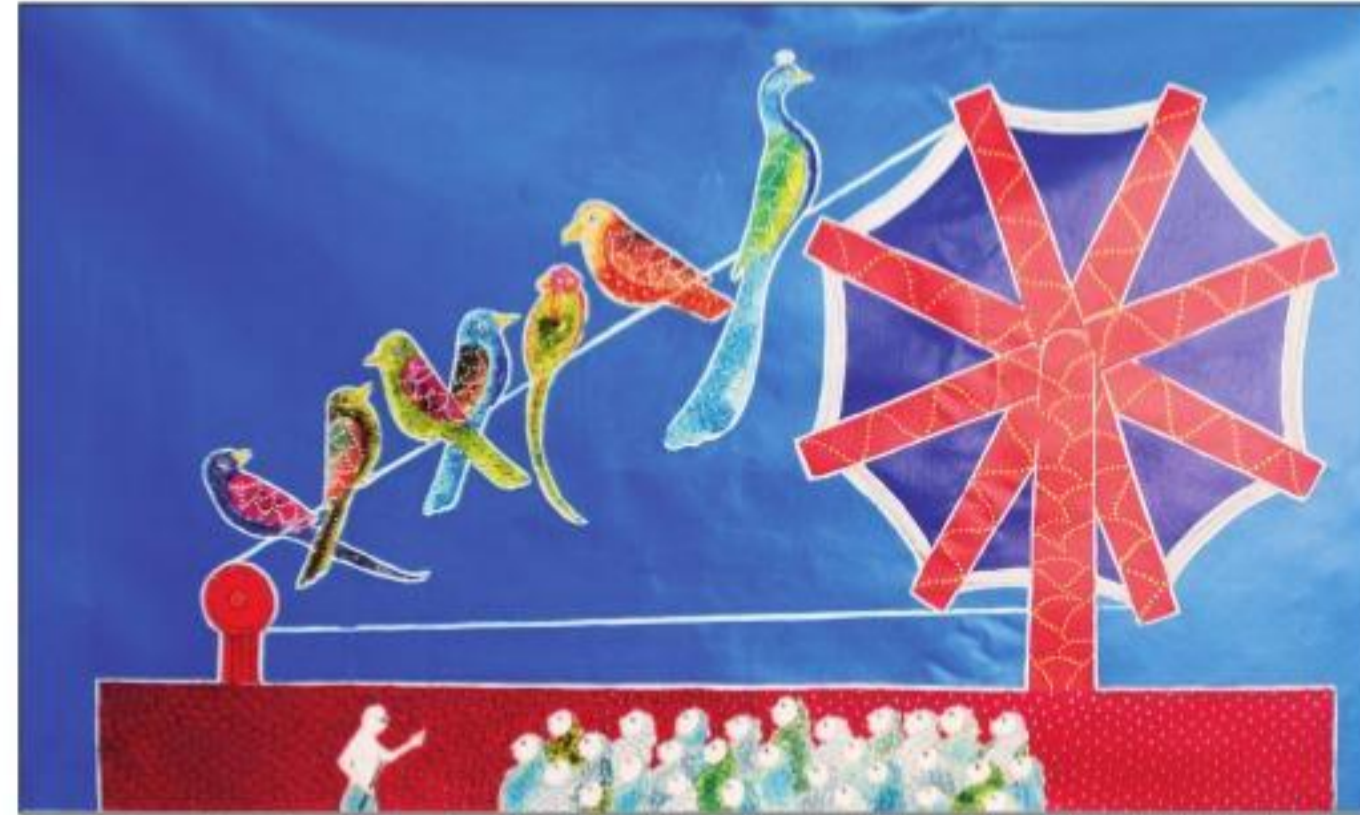
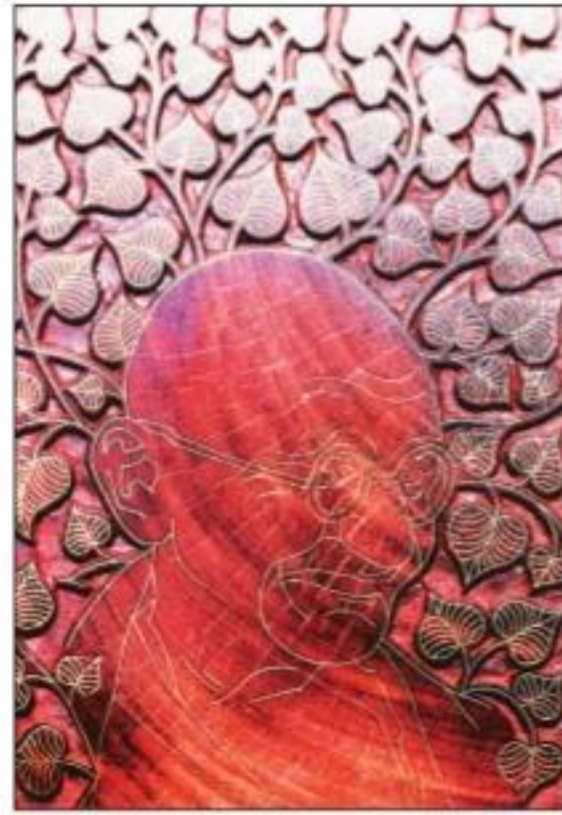
THOUGH HE appeared in more than 100 films and TV serials of equal volume, actor Viju Khote has been immortalised in the frames of cinematic history for his rendition of Kaalia, the faithful underling of dacoit Gabbar Singh, in *Sholay* (1975), a film that was a unique masala take on the Spaghetti Westerns. When after a foiled attempt to rake in grain from the poor villagers in Ramgarh, Kaalia and his two accomplices return empty-handed to Gabbar's den. The scene has Gabbar playing a form of Russian roulette with a revolver that only had three bullets, for the three culprits. "Tera kya hoga Kaalia?" asks Gabbar, when Kaalia's turn comes. Kaalia takes a gulp and utters, "Sardar, maine aapka namak khaya hai". Gabbar, just about to pull the trigger, responds, "Toh ab goli kha".

Viju had a 10-day schedule to shoot for the Ramesh Sippy classic, a film that made him a household name. Following the success of *Sholay*, Khote became a regular in Hindi films, he was a recognisable face in the supporting cast of many mega films, such as *Qurbani* (1980) and *Karz* (1980). Viju made a name for himself for his uncanny on liners, said often times with a sad, almost apathetic face. His co-star from *Karz*, Rishi Kapoor tweeted on his death. "RIP Viju Khote. Dear friend over the years. Though much elder, we used to bike together along with sister Shobha Khote

ji, when I was young. Passionate and well informed about American films. We will miss you."

Younger brother of actor Shubha Khote, Viju was born into a family, who were closely associated with films. His father was Marathi actor Nandu Khote, a prominent stage name, with many silent movies to his credit. Viju became a known face in the '80s. He would often appear as a wingman to the main villain. He also dabbled in Marathi theatre. Satish Alekar, Marathi actor and playwright recalls the late actor. "I met Viju Khote for the first time while shooting for *Ventilator* (2016). He was a very humble and cooperative person, who always came on time even when he was not in good health. I found that he was an ardent fan of Hollywood films and knew the smallest details of the films of John Wayne. He had acted in a lot of Marathi plays and had fond memories of them all. "Khote repeated his feat of playing the sidekick with *Andaz Apna Apna* (1994), where he uttered 'Galti se mistake' another line that became a pop culture phenomena and is repeated even today. Actor Paresh Rawal, who played Mr Bajaj and Khote's boss in the film, also tweeted about the actor's death. "An endearing fellow and a generous co actor. AUM SHANTI VIJUJI."

Viju is also remembered for his stint on TV, with *Zabaan Sambhal Ke*. He passed away yesterday, at the age of 77, due to multiple organ failure in his Mumbai home.



(Clockwise from above left) Mohammed Arshad's wood carving, brass inlay; gond art by Venkat Raman Singh Shyam; Abdul Kalam's hand-tufted carpet; Kartik Manna's batik art in indigo

# The Village Comes to the Capital

An exhibition and bazaar honours Gandhi's commitment to swadeshi crafts

### SHINY VARGHESE

THE SALT Satyagraha, like an earthmover, had excavated and moved scores of villages to join Gandhi in his protest against a law that hit every home in British India. For nearly 24 days, they would march till they reached the coastal village of Dandi. There were bullock carts that carried khadi and charkas, since he would spin thread even when he was on the move. On Dandi's shores, his fistful of salt shook the British empire like nothing ever had. It was a symbol of India's defiance, unity and a statement of the "battle of right versus might".

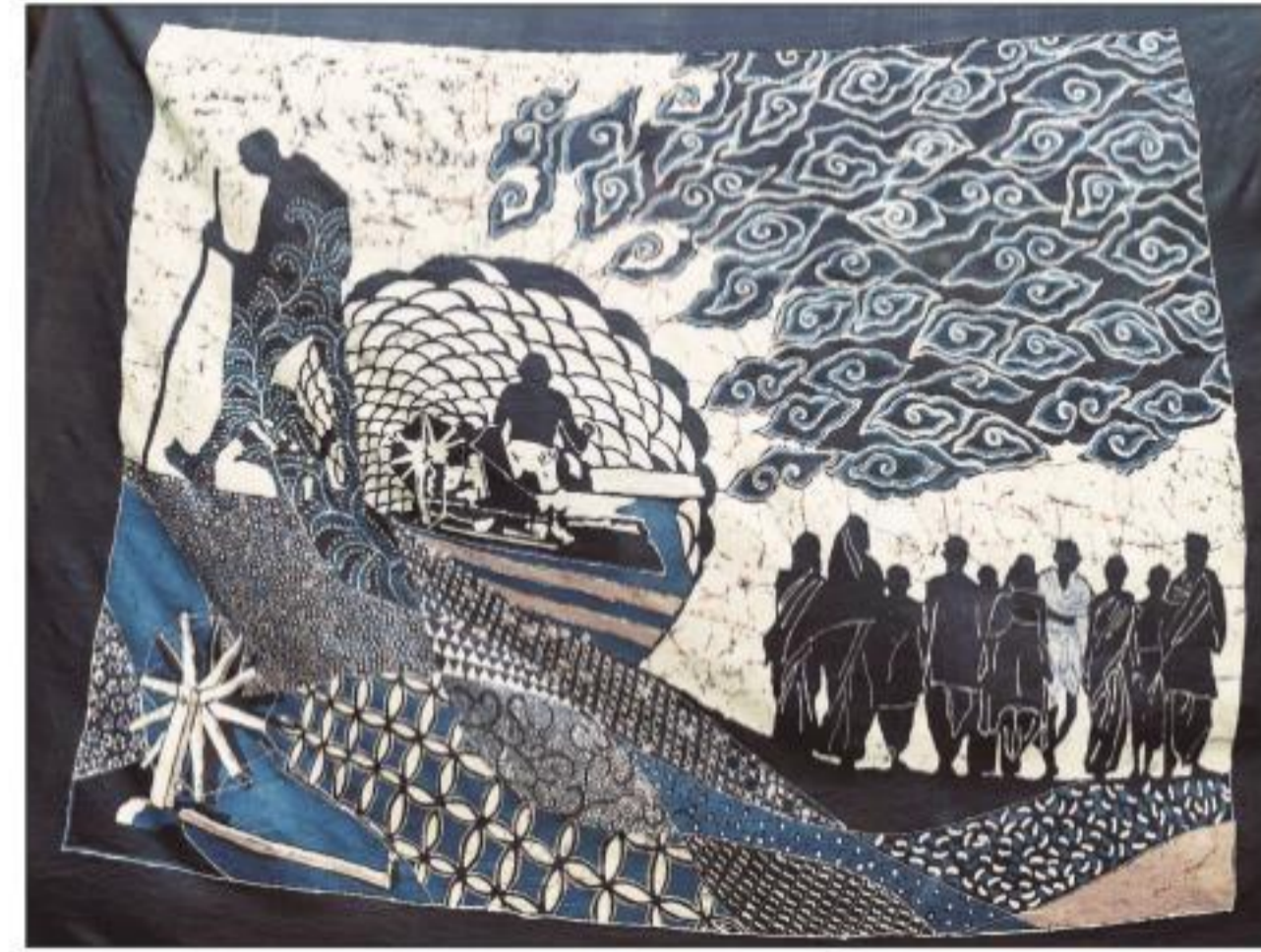
Gond artist Venkat Raman Singh Shyam is presenting the charka as a symbol of unity in his work done for Dastkari Haat Samiti's exhibition, "An ode to the Mahatma Gandhi", that opens today at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi. "We've all grown up hearing stories of his *andolans*, and as an artist it was my search to understand what unity meant. We live selfish lives and the birds lined on a thread of the charka are a metaphor for how we need to work together. Just like birds who flock together, we need to join hands, so our thread is not broken," says Shyam. Using traditional motifs and colours of Gond art, he presents a message close to the heart of the leader.

At the exhibition, nearly 25 award-winning artisans are presenting their ode to Gandhi through a multitude of artforms, including handloom weaving, tie and dye, shibori embroidery, batik, durry weaving, Godhna, Gond, Patachitra, miniature, Madhubani, Warli, kavadi art and terracotta panels. From wood carving and inlay to bamboo work, glass work and Sanjhi art, Gandhi's life and message are being exhibited at the IGNCA. "Each of them have tried to break boundaries in showcasing their idea of Gandhi. We have worked with them



to help them understand that they can go beyond their usual framework to showcase their skills in this new project. Most craftspeople are storytellers and there are many stories waiting to be told," says Jaya Jaitly, President, Dastkari Haat Samiti.

The week-long show includes a crafts bazaar to honour Gandhi's commitment to the handmade. Chosen by the Samiti from remote parts of India, the artisans will introduce visitors to the craft forms at the bazaar, which is being held at the Mati Ghar Grounds, IGNCA. Some of these include bead work and Gudia Shilp from Jhabua, wooden comb and papier-mache birds from Ujjain, thread jewellery from Uttaranchal, silver



jewellery from Rajasthan, bandhani and wood work from Gujarat, kotpad weaving and paddy craft from Orissa, and paper crafts from Tamil Nadu. Jaitly says that the idea of swades that Gandhi nurtured through village industries guided the Samiti in choosing artisans and craftspeople for the show.

At the gallery, there's Andhra Pradesh-based master weaver Gajam Govardhana's exhibit in calligraphy with zari, while blow glass artist Mahesh Kumar from Uttar Pradesh is presenting the idea

of Gandhi through his figurines. Wire work artist Mohammed Rafiq, who usually makes keychains and miniature cycles, has made a three-foot figurine. Under the guidance of Jaitly, the Delhi-based artist has given his work a twist with pop colours, leaving Gandhi's spectacles in plain steel. "These are artists who work with their hand and minds. It's not any mechanised product they have to fit. We often see craft as an end product on a shelf. It need not be this way. Much of the work at the exhibition has grown organically and we hope through the crafts

bazaar, they will get commissions for their work from museums, private collectors and galleries," says Jaitly.

In West Bengal artist Karthik Manna's batik work, there's a mix of Indonesian and Indian techniques as he presents his exhibit on khadi. "Today, the face of Gandhi is only a shadow. His ideals of going back to nature is depicted in my indigo work. I have shown Gandhi making thread on the charka inside the sun, as a symbol of hope. The wheel has been turning all these years, be it at a potter's kiln or the *manjha* that's used during kite flying or in the round fishing net we have in Bengal. Everything is constantly turning, and as the wheel turns and the thread is made, we can hope for a better tomorrow," says Manna.

For Abdul Kalam, whose family for generations have been carpet weavers from Bhadoli, Uttar Pradesh, taking the carpet from the floor to the wall as a work of art, has been a journey. His hand tufted carpet shows a silhouette of Gandhi's face. "I have developed Hollywood film posters into carpets. We can do much more if given a chance," says Kalam.

The exhibition and bazaar at IGNCA, New Delhi, is till October 8; 11 am to 8 pm

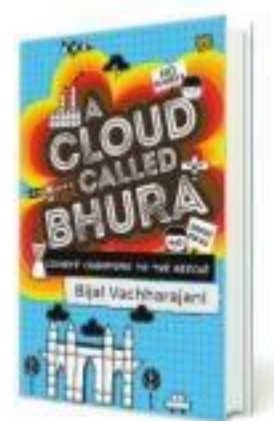
# Cloudy With a Chance of Catastrophe

A children's book that talks about caste, and inspires you to be a climate champ

### AMRITA DUTTA

IF YOU are one of those annoying members of the human species that author-editor Bijal Vachharajani calls "groan-ups", you probably do what almost all adults do in her new book, *A Cloud Called Bhura* (Talking Cub): put on your blinkers (and breathing masks) and learn to cope. One fine day, four teens in Mumbai — Amni, Tammy, Mithil and Andrew — wake up to find a fat brown cloud squatting over their city, gobbling up their sunlight and air, and turn it into a simmering, smoke-filled cauldron. What do people in charge do? Minister Motabhai calls the cloud, Bhura, an "anti-national" and a conspiracy against India's growth; news anchor Vaatodiyu Bahuche wonders if this Hollywood-style disaster is a sign of our "economic progress"; an ageing cinema superstar tries to vacuum away the dusty cloud in a televised dance performance; and numerous other parents plan to leave the city. The smog of denial is as toxic as Bhura.

But the children want answers and go about looking for them, despite the despair and disinformation all around. "I strongly believe children have the power to challenge things more than adults, because they observe. When you talk to them, they listen and act. I have worked with many children, some have asked me to sign tiger petitions, raised money for tiger conservation; written letters to chief ministers," says Vachharajani. She began writing the book in 2014, five years before a 16-year-old Swedish girl would grab the world's collar and force its attention on a dying planet. "That children would be a part of the solution wasn't as clear then. There was no global climate strike at the time," she says.



(Above) Bijal Vachharajani and her book that unpacks climate science for children

Even then, Vachharajani knew that the brown cloud was not just a figment of her imagination. She was an environment and animal rights activist in her twenties, and in 2012 did a Master's in climate change from the University of Costa Rica. "In our

climate science classes, we saw satellite images of seasonal brown cloud formations, mostly across the south of the world, caused by pollutants. But there was so little political will to do anything about them," she says. The story seeded in her head also because of the number of days she would open the weather app and find her hometown Mumbai "under smoke".

The children's literature community in India is a vibrant, passionate and close-knit one — and Vachharajani is one of its many spunky champions. As a senior editor with Pratham Books, Vachharajani curates books that are fun, intelligent and rooted in Indian life. Her work, as an editor and writer, also reveals a welcome interest in equality. *A Cloud Called Bhura* not just stands out for its biting satire, the way it breaks down climate science for kids, but also for being a rare children's book that talks about Ambedkarite politics.

While we enter the book through the perspective of Amni, a smart nerd from a privileged family, it is Tammy, her Dalit friend, who helps Vachharajani engage with questions of caste and inequality. "Tammy came from my late partner Abhiyan. He and I had several conversations about the Ambedkarite movement. He was very outspoken about discrimination, about the marginalisation he had faced. They made me realise that his experiences as a child were very different from mine. It left him feeling more alienated than anything else," she says. While Amni is "someone many of us know," Vachharajani knew that was not the only perspective.

"Climate change is going to impact the more vulnerable sometimes. And that frightens me sometimes. So, I wrote a whole draft only from Tammy's point of view. And then I merged it with an earlier one," she says.

While the book is her way of getting children talking about the climate crisis, Vachharajani is not an optimist about the planet's survival. "Sometimes, I think we are in a car crash," she says. "Change has to happen at many levels, but most importantly at the policy level. Finally, the children have forced our attention, what do we do with it?" Do the kids end up winning the battle? Let's just say, Bhura has a fight on its hands.



(Clockwise from above) Untitled; Vernacular Chants; Gandhi Street

## Everyone's Mahatma

An artist on finding the father of the nation moulded to suit many faces and philosophies

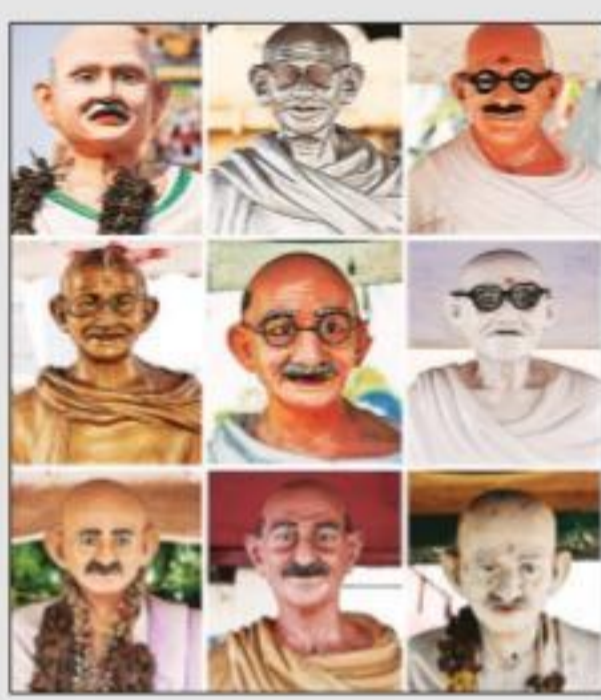
### VIVEK VILASINI

IN 2003, I was making granite features for a UK-based designer, and as part of my work, I visited a quarry near the small town of Attur in Tamil Nadu. It was quite late at night and I needed to find a hotel to spend the night in. I was directed to head towards the Gandhi statue in Attur, behind which, I was told, is the hotel. I reached the statue, which looked like that of a white man, holding a book and walking. It actually looked like Groucho Marx. Later, I saw a statue of Ambedkar that looked like Rajiv Gandhi. It got me thinking about how many statues there are of Gandhi and Ambedkar, which look like other people. I recalled Gandhi statues from my hometown Kochi, which looked nothing like Gandhi, and others that I had seen in other

parts of the country. Then there was this one statue that I saw in Bangalore, which seemed to be stuck to the ground. The statue had actually existed before the road, so when the road was built, they ended up covering his feet. So this statue of a man, who was known for walking everywhere, depicted him as being stuck in one place.

Another statue I saw was on the roof of a building, behind the house that I lived in while in Bangalore. This house belongs to a guy who makes and sell statues. On the roof, he had placed Gandhi's statue, along with one of Tirupati Balaji and a white man sitting naked on a commode. It was strange and funny.

There are a couple of questions that I wished to explore when I began photographing Gandhi's statues. One is how much of the images of Gandhi in the pub-



lic space do we accept as Gandhi? The other is how much of Gandhi's philosophy is appropriated and ends up not resembling what he had said. You see something similar in his images in the public space as well. I've seen a Gandhi statue that looked like LK Advani, whose politics is very different. Everyone has their own use for Gandhi, and I thought that these various images of Gandhi, which don't look like him, speak of that.

I also did a series of works in which I've projected onto my face the faces of people who have influenced me and my outlook on life. One such important influence is Gandhi. The projection is done in such a way that one eye of mine overlaps with one of Gandhi's eyes, so it's like I'm seeing the world through his perspective.

AS TOLD TO POOJA PILLAI

# An opening... or a dead end

Given the team management's trigger-happy ways, Rohit, treading the best phase of his career, needs to make an instant impact

SRIRAM VEERA  
VISAKHAPATNAM, SEPTEMBER 30

WHAT'S WITH Rohit Sharma that despite numerous examples of forced openers failing that we cling to the rare exceptions like Virender Sehwag to justify our hope that he would come good in Tests? Just recently, England tried the Sehwag template to hoist Jason Roy but he was dismantled and dishevelled by the end of the series that he had to be dropped for the final game.

Still, somehow, there is hope about Sharma. We know why of course – talented stars like him get that extra rope. Not necessarily, a consistent run over a few series but every now and then, an optimistic shove into a Test series to see if he can do some magic. He, of course, didn't but what makes this time different?

Probably because he is the best prepared he has ever been for a spot in Tests. Ideally, it should have been in the middle order but since that spot isn't opening up, he has been given that old Indian back-door entry as an opener. Still there is a reason to hope. For a man who used to get squared-up to straight deliveries outside off stump, he has come a long way in terms of his balance at the wicket. It's not been an overnight change either; slowly he has eased out one worry after another.

For a while, even when he was scoring big in ODIs, he used to get in a great deal of trouble against the ball that would duck back into him, especially if it was from a left-hander. The left leg would be pressed so far ahead and more importantly across the line, that he would get into an awful tangle. With quality seamers, there wasn't much time to wriggle out of trouble – and he was an lbw candidate.

Sometime during the last IPL, one sensed he had worked out a plan. He stopped trying to work the ball to the leg, even if it meant tapping a ball on the middle and leg towards mid-on. The entire focus it seemed was on maintaining a balance and a side-on stance, feet not too wide at the crease.

The forward press became a matter of choice rather than an involuntary movement. He began to look in better control over there. But it also meant a greater strain on his mental fortitude – he now had to ensure he doesn't upset his balance by trying to flick. It created a few problems even in the dreamy World Cup in the early games where his aerial flick shots just about fell wide of lunging catchers at square-leg. He immediately shut the leg-side shop. Not easy for a free-flowing batsman like him but he did that.

## Tightened off-side game

The game outside off stump also has improved but it's still an area that could make or break his Test career. It's a better version than in the past of course when he would fish and hang his bat away from the body. A loose-limbed fatal prod and would get him squared-up. You would wait for the replays to see if it was some vicious leg-cutter but it would turn out to be a ball that just about dinked away if anything.

Just the muscular twitch was understandable to an extent – OMahela Jayawardene would offer a limp prod a lot in his young days but the squaring up was worrisome. All that has stopped in recent times. Simply put, he looks much better of control of his mind and as a result over his body in the middle.

But as Vernon Philander showed in the warm-up game the other day, it's an area that will test him. The only good thing is he now is like any other opener who has a problem with that line.



Rohit Sharma has repeatedly said that he's in his best mental space. But it would be a different game altogether facing new-ball-armed Rabada and Philander. PVI

All openers would have; it's not such an egregious weakness as it used to be for him. It's the ball that took him out in world cup semi-final when New Zealand's Matt Henry took him out with a lovely curler.

Like any other opener, he needs some luck and while Indian team management might think they have provided him with cover by giving him a home series. But his luck, he would run into the most nagging new-ball bowler in world cricket today, Philander, who thrives on any hint of inoffensiveness of technique and mind.

## Expected: Pitch to play low

The Vizag pitch is expected to play low but there has been some rain in the air and more has been forecasted in the days to come. If there is even an iota of moisture in the air or the pitch, Philander would exploit it in his new-ball spell. And that's the spell Sharma will be at his most tentative.

The general expectation about him is that if he gets through the first 10 overs, he will be good for the long haul in Indian conditions but he has to get through that period. There is another factor that he has to contend with: the impatience in this Indian think tank. Ask Ajinkya Rahane, R Ashwin, or even Cheteshwar Pujara.

The Australia series saved Pujara, and Rahane has climbed out of the grave with performances in the West Indies recently. Now, it's the turn of Rishabh Pant. The word is that Wriddhiman Saha is almost certain to replace him in the playing eleven for the first Test at Vizag.

The current think tank doesn't believe in

**The forward press became a matter of choice rather than an involuntary movement. He began to look in better control over there. But it also meant a greater strain on his mental fortitude— he now has to ensure he doesn't upset his balance by trying to flick.**

long unimpeded runs. Make or break. Perform or perish. Insecurity as a performance-enhancing drug. Ashwin one senses is at that stage now. The fastest bowler to 250 wickets now finds himself at a vulnerable stage in his career – a state of affairs he couldn't have imagined 20 months back.

Sharma now finds himself with a great opportunity in Tests but it comes with all these accompanying dark clouds. As he repeatedly kept saying in the last World Cup, he is at his best when he is at the best mental space.

It's perhaps not a coincidence that his performance dipped after the world cup and particularly after that alleged tiff with Kohli. He now gets a crack at the Test spot he has desired for a while now and it would be fascinating to see what he makes of it. His game is at its best it has ever been, whether it's enough to tackle the likes of Philander and Kagiso Rabada remains to be seen.

## Behind Rahane's revival: Not fretting over technique

Visakhapatnam: There is a definite spring in Ajinkya Rahane's steps after he ended a 17-Test run of not scoring a hundred, a number which has proved to be lucky for him. Rahane, India's Test vice-captain, was under pressure to perform in the West Indies and he delivered with an 81 and 102 in the first Test in Antigua.

"You get to learn from every match and every series and I had to wait for two years, 17 Tests, for my Test debut and for this century (in West Indies) I had to wait for 17 Tests. I think there was some co-ordination," said Rahane. "When I was playing for Hampshire, I was thinking, when I made my debut, how my mindset was before that. In these 17 Tests, I was not getting a hundred, I was going behind getting a hundred and it was not coming. "So, in the West Indies, my thought process was that I will not think of getting a hundred even once, whatever has to happen will happen. If a hundred has to come, it will come," said Rahane who could not hide the excitement of becoming a father soon.

Rahane insisted that he did not work too much on his technique to get back amongst the runs. "From outside it may look easy, for me it was about believing in my ability. Not thinking about the technical stuff, it was all about how I make the mental adjustment



Rahane returned to form with 271 runs in four innings in the West Indies.

like handling difficult situations," said the 31-year-old.

South Africa may not have the services of star players like AB de Villiers and Dale Steyn anymore but Rahane said India cannot afford to take the Proteas lightly. India hammered them 0-3 at home four years ago. "There are five Tests at home versus South Africa (three Tests) and Bangladesh (two Tests). Because of the Test Championship, you cannot take any team lightly. Even before the championship, we were not taking any team lightly." PVI

## DDCA secy cries foul over MLA as treasurer

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 30

DELHI AND District Cricket Association (DDCA) secretary Vinod Tihara has questioned the eligibility of OP Sharma, a BJP member of the legislative assembly, to continue as treasurer of the state unit arguing that it is not in accordance with the Supreme Court-approved amended constitution of the Indian cricket board. The constitution of the Board of Control for Cricket in India bars ministers, government servants or those holding public office from taking up posts in cricket administration.

In a letter to BCCI electoral officer N Gopalaswami, Tihara wrote: "The treasurer of DDCA namely Mr OP Sharma is a sitting member of the Legislative Assembly of Delhi and is bound to be disqualified but even after the judgement of the Supreme Court, no action has been taken by the DDCA or the Committee of Administrators..."

The DDCA elections were held in June last year and results declared in the first week of July. A month later, in August 2018, the Supreme Court – after a series of hearings – asked the BCCI to amend its constitution as per the Lodha Committee recommendations.

When asked why Sharma continued to remain DDCA treasurer, the state unit's counsel Saurabh Chadda said in a statement: "The amended Articles of Association (AoA) which came into force in Sept, 2018 made a person, who is a Minister or a Government Servant or holds a public office, ineligible for being a member of the Apex Council (which includes office bearers). However, when Mr. OP Sharma got elected as Treasurer, DDCA on 02.07.2018, this particular eligibility criterion of "holding a public office" was not there in the AoA. Thus, his election was both legal and valid and a subsequent eligibility condition cannot be applied to it with retrospective effect."

In the same letter to the BCCI electoral officer, Tihara also questions how DDCA president Rajat Sharma appointed himself as the representative of the state unit without the approval of the general body.

The letter further claims that Sharma had appointed himself as the representative of the DDCA to BCCI. "Rajat Sharma through the executive committee has taken the decision and has appointed himself as the representative of DDCA to BCCI. It is most humbly submitted that the Articles of Association of DDCA mandate that the general body of DDCA shall appoint its representative to BCCI," Tihara's letter reads. However, Chadda argued that under the present AoA of DDCA, it is the Apex Council and not the General Body which decides who will represent DDCA at BCCI meetings.

"We have not received any communication so far from the electoral officer, BCCI regarding any issues raised by Mr Tihara with him. The Articles of Association of the DDCA were amended as per the procedure laid down by SC. The amended AoA have been accepted by the CoA and the BCCI," the statement added.

**The DDCA elections were held in June last year and results declared in the first week of July. A month later, in August 2018, the Supreme Court – after a series of hearings – asked the BCCI to amend its constitution as per the Lodha Committee recommendations.**

## Azam and Shinwari quell Lanka's resilience

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE  
KARACHI, SEPTEMBER 30

IN THE end, it was a stroll for Pakistan, as they beat Sri Lanka by 67 runs at the National Stadium in Karachi. But they managed the victory only enduring a scare, as Shehan Jayasuriya and Dasun Shanaka, stitched together the highest sixth-wicket partnership for the Lankans in this format. But as soon as the 177-run alliance ended, after joining hands with the tourists reeling at 5/28, Pakistan were back in the game and cruised home.

Again, it was left-arm pacer Usman Shinwari who picked the wicket of Jayasuriya that snuffed out Sri Lanka's last lingering hopes of an unlikely heist. He then ejected the dangerous Işuru Udana to complete a memorable five-wicket on a memorable day for Pakistan.

He had earlier sliced through the top order, gobbling up Sadeera Samarawickrama, Avishka Fernando and Lahiru Thirimanne in a hostile first spell that all but ended Sri Lanka's hopes. Shinwari, who was adjudged the man of the match, explained his plan: "I've come in after 5-6 months. It was a comeback of a sorts. I put in my everything. It was a slow wicket, but I stuck to my plan. They hit me all over the park on my debut, I'm just avenging myself," he said.

Sri Lanka skipper Thirimanne blamed the defeat on the way they batted in the first 10 overs. "It was a great effort by Shehan and Dasun. They showed us how to bat in these



Babar Azam scored his 11th ODI hundred, helping Pakistan to 305/7. AP

conditions. Disappointed how we handled the first ten overs, it was not good enough. They bowled pretty well, but overall we could have kept them to below 300. Our bowlers did well in small phases, but later stages they've given some extra runs."

Earlier, it was the stylish Babar Azam

thrashed a swashbuckling hundred to steer Pakistan to 305-7 in the second day-night international against Sri Lanka on Monday as Karachi staged its first ODI in 10 years. The 24-year-old proved he is currently one of the best batsmen in limited overs cricket with a 105-ball-115 to lift Pakistan to a big total after the

home team won the toss and batted. Azam, when on 54, became the fifth batsman to complete 1,000 ODI runs in 2019 – behind India's duo Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, and Australian couple Aaron Finch and Usman Khawaja.

He added an innings building 111 for the third wicket with Haris Sohail (40), as Sri Lankan bowlers toiled to break the stand. It was only through an unfortunate run out that Sohail fell, leaving Azam to anchor the innings. He square cut pacer Lahiru Kumara for a boundary to complete his 11th ODI hundred off 97 balls. Azam was finally out at deep mid-on off Kumara, cracking eight boundaries and four sixes. Iftikhar Ahmed batted aggressively for his 20-ball 32 not out—two sixes and as many boundaries—as Pakistan made 89 in the last 10 overs.

Openers Fakhar Zaman (54) and Imam-ul-Haq gave Pakistan a solid start of 73 before Sri Lanka's best bowler, leg-spinner Wanindu Hasaranga, trapped Imam for 31. Hasaranga also had Fakhar for 65-ball 54 studded with six boundaries and a six. Hasaranga finished with 2-63.

Skipper Sarfaraz Ahmed was also run out for eight while Imad Wasim made 12. While the first match was rained off in Karachi on Friday, the third and final game will be held in the city on Wednesday.

**BRIEF SCORES:** Pakistan 305 for 7 (Babar 115, Fakhar 54, Hasaranga 2-63) beat Sri Lanka 238 in 46.5 overs (Shehan Jayasuriya 96, Dasun Shanaka 68, Usman Shinwari 5/51).

## Haryana government asks for advisory panel if HCA doesn't follow SC directions

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
KOLKATA, SEPTEMBER 30

THE HARYANA government on Monday wrote to the BCCI, asking the cricket board to consider appointing an advisory committee at the Haryana Cricket Association (HCA) if the state body doesn't fall in line with the Supreme Court directions and the Lodha Committee recommendations.

The HCA, however, denied the allegation of not conforming to the reforms, mentioning that the letter could be a result of "incorrect information" sent to the government, as it has already amended its constitution in accordance with the Lodha recommendations.

The Committee of Administrators (CoA) that helms the BCCI at the moment is tight-lipped on the issue, although in an application filed before the Supreme Court on September 23, it stated that the HCA hadn't yet adhered to the new BCCI constitution.

The Haryana government, in its letter, expressed apprehension that if the HCA doesn't comply with the apex court's directives and the Lodha reforms, the BCCI might de-recognise the state body, which could prevent cricketers from the state to play in the Ranji Trophy. "As a precautionary measure, the Haryana

government has written to the BCCI that if the Haryana Cricket Association doesn't comply with the Supreme Court directions and Lodha Committee recommendations and it results in the association losing the membership of the BCCI, the BCCI should appoint an advisory committee," Anand Mohan Sharan, principal secretary (sports), Haryana government, told *The Indian Express*.

He added: "Haryana players should not suffer and the players should not be barred from playing in the Ranji Trophy and other tournaments. We do not have any intention to interfere in the BCCI affairs but if the need arises, the BCCI should form an advisory committee for running the sport in the state."

The HCA, though, alleged that some individuals are trying to "pull the wool" over the state government's eyes, and claimed that the association has already amended its constitution along the lines of that of the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association (HPCA), which was approved by the CoA. "We are not aware of any such communication by the Haryana government, but if any such communication has indeed been sent, it would only be on account of incorrect information or on account of some motivated prodding by some individuals by pulling (the) wool over the eyes of the state government," an official told this newspaper.

**BRIEFLY**

**Gebrselassie says athletes could have died**

DISTANCE-RUNNING great Haile Gebrselassie says it was a mistake to hold the track and field world championships in Qatar and that marathon runners could have died from the heat. The women's marathon on Saturday started at midnight to dodge the worst of the heat in Qatar but was still held in humidity that made it feel like 40-degree celsius. Twenty-eight of the 68 women dropped out, 30 runners were given medical inspections and one was briefly hospitalised. "It was a mistake to conduct the championship in such hot weather in Doha, especially the marathon race. As someone who has been in the sport for many years, I've found it unacceptable," former marathon world-record holder Gebrselassie said. "God forbid, but people could have died running in such weather conditions," Gebrselassie said.

**Withdrawals make Asher-Smith favourite**

BRITAIN'S DINA Asher-Smith powered her way into the 200 metres semifinals on Monday, with a gold medal suddenly up for grabs following a rash of high-profile withdrawals. After taking silver in the 100m on Sunday, Asher-Smith will be licking her lips at the prospect of 200m gold after clocking the top time of 22.32 seconds in the opening heats with many of the medal favourites unable to make it to the starting blocks.

Newly-crowned 100m champion Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce, who beat Asher-Smith to the gold, decided not to attempt the double due to the effort put in on Sunday while Ivory Coast's bronze medalist Marie-Josée Ta Lou was also a scratch having picked up an injury in the final. Dafne Schippers, 200m champion at the last two worlds, pulled out of the 100m final after straining an adductor muscle and decided she was not fit enough to defend her crown. The event had already lost one of the gold-medal favourites Shaunae Miller-Uibo of the Bahamas, who owns the best time of 21.74 this season but opted out of the 200m in Doha.

**Blessing disqualified twice from 200m**

BLESSING OKAGBARE was disqualified from the 200 metres for a second time. Because of a mix-up by her nation's track federation, the Nigerian sprinter was initially disqualified after she didn't show up for the 100-metre races that she never intended to run. Only after an appeal and a long wait did Blessing find out she was back in. But when she got to the race, she was disqualified for stepping outside of her lane. Nigeria's track federation had entered both her and Divine Oduduru in the 100-metre races, even though neither intended to compete at that distance. When they didn't show up, IAAF rules called for them to be disqualified from the rest of the meet, including their main events, the 200, and the 4x100 relays.

**Russia's anti-doping chief cries 'betrayal'**

Russian anti-doping agency's CEO said he feels "betrayed" after evidence emerged that crucial doping data was tampered with. Russian authorities handed over the data to the World Anti-Doping Agency in January after it had been kept under seal by Russian law enforcement. The data was widely believed to hold the key to past doping offences in Russian sports, but WADA is now investigating apparent tampering and could impose new sanctions on Russia. "We have been betrayed, we have had the right to be on the side of truth taken away from us," Yuri Ganos, CEO of the Russian agency, wrote in an open letter dated Monday. AGENCIES

**Mothers' day**

Fraser-Pryce and Felix, both competing in first Worlds since taking pregnancy break, clinch record gold medals

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE  
DOHA, SEPTEMBER 30

JAMAICAN SPRINT queen Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce surged to an unprecedented fourth 100m crown and US legend Allyson Felix broke Usain Bolt's gold medal record tally as the returning new mothers lit up the World Championships here. Fraser-Pryce and Felix, both racing in their first major championships since taking time off from the sport to have children, lit up a pulsating day three of competition even if the action was played out inside a near-empty Khalifa Stadium on Sunday.

The 32-year-old Fraser-Pryce, who skipped the 2017 championships to give birth to her first child, delivered a bamboozling run to take the 100m in 10.71 sec. Britain's Dina Asher-Smith took silver with a time of 10.83 sec while Ivory Coast's Marie-Josée Ta Lou claimed bronze in 10.90 sec. "To be standing here as world champion again after having my baby, I am elated," said Fraser-Pryce.

"The females keep showing up. We love to put on a performance and for me I am just really happy to come away with the win," Fraser-Pryce was in control from the gun, rocketing out of the blocks and taking the lead in the opening 20 metres. From that point there was only going to be one winner, and the veteran Jamaican swept over the line majestically to add to the world titles won in 2009, 2013 and 2015 before setting off on a victory lap carrying her two-year-old son Zyon. The two-time Olympic champion's dominant display was the highlight of a day three which also saw US track queen Felix win a record 12th World Championship gold medal.

Felix only returned to the sport in July after a 13-month layoff which saw her give birth to her daughter Camryn by emergency C-section last November. The 33-year-old, who failed to qualify for the individual 400m event in Doha, took gold in the 4x400m mixed relay as the United States motored to victory in a world record time of 3min 09.34 sec. Felix's 12th gold medal broke Jamaican legend Bolt's record tally of 11 World Championship gold medals. Overall, Felix now has an incredible 26 medals, a dazzling haul that also includes six Olympic golds.

Felix, competing in her ninth straight world championships, has accumulated more World Championship and Olympic honours than any other track and field athlete in history. "So special, to have my daughter here watching means the world to me," Felix said afterwards.

"It's been a crazy year for me." Felix later paid tribute to the support of Fraser-Pryce as she worked her way back to fitness this season. "We've talked a lot this year and been there for each other," Felix said. "She's been an amazing support. I'm just thrilled to see her back on top and better than ever, and I hope that is an inspiration to others. I know that she's an inspiration to me." There was another victory for a returning mother in the final event of the day, the women's 20km race walk, where China's 2016 Olympic champion Liu Hong won gold Liu, 32, who took a maternity break from 2017-2018, shrugged off steamy heat and humidity to lead a Chinese sweep of the medals in 1hr 32min 53sec and secure her third world title. Qieyang Shenjie took silver in 1:33:10 while compatriot Yang Liuqing won bronze in 1:33:17.

Elsewhere Sunday, triple jump king Christian Taylor completed a superb hat-trick of World Championship titles after surviving near elimination in a nerve-jangling final. The two-time Olympic champion and now four-time world champion clinched gold with a leap of 17.92m.

That was good enough to fend off the challenge of compatriot Will Claye, who took silver with a best jump of 17.74m. Burkina Faso's Hugues Fabrice Zango claimed bronze with a jump of 17.66m. Taylor, the world champion in 2011, 2015 and 2017, had flirted with elimination at the start of the final after fouling his first two jumps. In the women's pole vault, Anzhelika Sidorova — competing under the Authorised Neutral Athlete banner due to the IAAF ban on Russia over the doping scandal — won with a vault of 4.95 metres. America's Sandi Morris took silver with 4.90m while Greece's Olympic champion Katerina Stefanidi took bronze.



**MAMMA'S BOY**

Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce celebrated winning the 100m by taking her son Zyon on a lap of honour. AP

**Annu rewrites own history, enters javelin final**

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
SEPTEMBER 30

IN A span of seven months, Annu Rani has rewritten her own javelin throw national record twice. Armed with a much-improved technique, she threw the spear to a distance of 62.34m at the Federation Cup in March, and on Monday reset the record again with an attempt of 62.43m to become the first woman from the country to qualify for the javelin final in the World Championships.

Annu's best throw, which came in her second attempt, put her in fifth spot overall in the qualification round. The 27-year-old has come back strongly this season after her Asian Games disappointment where she failed to even cross the 55m mark.

Annu was left high and dry after the Jakarta event. She was omitted from the throws camp in South Africa under national coach Uwe Hohn.

Her long-time coach Kashinath too discontinued his services at NIS Patiala around the same time. That was when veteran javelin coach Baljeet came to her rescue and thus began her revival. Baljeet suggested some significant tweaks to Annu's technique and employed unorthodox training methods using golf balls and lighter javelins to improve his ward's throws.

"There are small things which need to be kept in mind. The knees, shoulder, hip and the throwing arm needs to be aligned in a perfect manner. I had the issue of lowering my throwing arm and then almost freezing it before release. This resulted in me unable to use all my power. Actually, power or strength is not an issue for me but it is my



Annu Rani recorded a distance of 62.43m in her second throw, bettering her earlier national record of 62.34m. Reuters

technique," Annu had said in March after rewriting her national mark from 61.86 to 62.34m. Annu joined the national campers in Poland after the Federation Cup and has been training under Hohn since.

Back home in Meerut, Annu's family has been following the action on television closely. Elder brother Upendra, who inspired Annu to take up sports, is ecstatic about the qualification for the final but says the family would only celebrate if she returns with a medal.

"We know that it is really tough to bag a medal at the Championships but it's our job to hope and pray. We are really proud of her achievement. She called me a while back and said she was feeling really good about the throw and is confident of putting up a better show in the final," Upendra, a farmer, told The Indian Express.

Getting on the podium will be an uphill task for the Indian going by the strength of the field. Asian Champion Huihui Lyu of

**ACTION ON DAY 5**

19:00	M	Hammer Throw Qualification Group A
19:05	M	400 m Heats
19:20	M	High Jump Qualification
20:00	W	400m Hurdles Heats
20:30	M	Hammer Throw Group B
22:35	M	Pole Vault Final
23:20	W	400 Metres Semi-Final
00:05 (2 OCT)	W	200 Metres Semi-Final

**INDIA WATCH**

20:45	3000 m SC Heats
<b>AVINASH SABLE</b>	
23:50	Javelin Throw Final
<b>ANNU RANI</b>	



Avinash Sable will run in Heat 3.

China managed a mammoth throw of 67.27m to top the qualifiers while Christin Hussong of Germany registered 65.29m.

At the previous edition of the World Championships, the top six spots in the final went for throws above 64 metres. But for now, the Indian javelin camp is pleased with Annu's historic achievement.

"She is very hardworking and I am really happy to see her do well. It's a huge moment for us and India. We are rooting for her to do well in the final," said Shivpal Singh, a national camp teammate, from Doha.

**Other Indians fizzle out**

PTI adds: The other two Indians who competed on Monday, Archana Susheendran and Anjali Devi, failed to go past the first round in the women's 200m and 400m respectively.

Archana, 25, who got a last-minute invite from world governing body IAAF to take part in the showpiece event, finished last in heat number 2 and 40th overall out of the 43 participants who completed their races with a timing of 23.65 seconds.

She has a personal best of 23.18. The 21-year-old Anjali, meanwhile, finished sixth in heat number 6 and 36th overall out of 46 athletes, with a time of 52.33 seconds. Anjali, who underwent a confirmatory trial before being cleared for these championships, has a personal best of 51.53, which she achieved while winning gold at the Inter-State championships in August in Lucknow.

The top three finishers in each of the six heats and the next six fastest qualified for the semifinals. The slowest time that made the cut for the semifinals was 52.23.

**LOW ATTENDANCE**



Poor turnout presents a major headache to Qatar and Sebastian Coe. AP

**Late starts, working week blamed for empty stadium**

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE  
DOHA, SEPTEMBER 30

QATAR CONFIDENTLY promised there would be "no empty seats" when it first bid for the World Athletics Championships — three days into the 2019 championships that promise rings as hollow as the Doha stadium.

One of the greatest athletes of all time, Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce, won a record fourth 100 metres title in front of a sparse crowd on Sunday with officials and friends and family of the athletes making up a large proportion of the spectators. Although Doha hosts a Diamond League meeting, athletics has no real roots in Qatar and the decision to take the World Championships to the Gulf raised eyebrows.

Fans even left before local medal hope Abderrahman Samba had run his heat on Friday in the men's 400 metres hurdles.

It is not the image the International Association of Athletics Federations and its newly re-elected president Sebastian Coe — who normally has a sure political touch —

would have wished for in the first championships since the sport's huge drawcard Usain Bolt retired after an almost sold-out championships in London in 2017.

Fraser-Pryce shrugged off Sunday's desert of fans but it is not the first time the Jamaican has won world titles in a less than full stadium — the crowd was decidedly thin when she and Bolt triumphed in Moscow in 2013.

"I'm used to having the stands rammed," commented a bemused Bolt at the time. That was despite the now disgraced IAAF president Lamine Diack and vice-president Sergey Bubka doing a deal with a Ukrainian oligarch to fly in 2,000 of his employees to populate the stadium.

Diack, who is under investigation in France with the successful bid by Qatar part of the dossier, may take the blame for the Doha debacle but Coe was on the evaluation commission for that bid race.

According to the official figures, over 11,000 spectators filed into the Khalifa International Stadium both on the opening night and then for one of the marquee events, the men's 100 metres final, on Saturday.

The stadium has a maximum 40,000 capacity but had already had its size reduced to around 20,000 by blocking out an upper tier. The organisers issued a statement on Monday saying extra efforts would be made to ensure larger crowds during the remaining week of the championships.

"After two solid days of attendance, (70 percent on Day 1 and 67 percent on Day 2), numbers were down on our expectations on Day 3, under 50 percent, which coincided with the start of the working week in Qatar," it read. "We are confident that our renewed efforts will encourage the local community to come and witness the stunning performance of the world's best athletes."

They added that part of the problem lay with many finals being held late in Qatar to fit global television schedules. "This impacts on the number of spectators remaining until the end of the session," the statement said.

The organising committee added that attendances Sunday were "down on our expectations", which they said "coincided with the start of the working week in Qatar". The unfilled seats will also raise questions

about the atmosphere that can be expected at the football World Cup in three years' time, although that sport's reach is greater than athletics. However, the lack of atmosphere in Doha has left those participating cold.

Canadian sprinter Andre de Grasse, the 100m bronze medalist, said: "It has maybe got to be closer to where everyone's fan bases are." Qatar is quite far for fans to travel to but I think next year the Olympics (in Tokyo) won't be like that." Others have chipped in with Britain's 2000 Olympic heptathlon champion Denise Lewis launching a rare broadside at authorities.

"I don't think it's right," she told the BBC. "Our governing body has let our athletes down, massively. I didn't expect it to be this bad. We want to see people. The athletes deserve people, an energy and an atmosphere to thrive on."

Track legend Michael Johnson did not put the low attendance down to doping issues within the sport. "Lack of gaining new fans has nothing to do with doping," the American tweeted. "Cycling had a huge doping scandal. Still thriving!"

# Neuer out to settle keeper debate

Against Tottenham, Bayern captain will aim to prove he's still Germany's first choice ahead of ter Stegen

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE**  
LONDON, SEPTEMBER 30

BAYERN MUNICH captain Manuel Neuer heads into Tuesday's Champions League clash with Tottenham aiming for a display that settles the debate about whether he should remain Germany's first-choice goalkeeper ahead of Barcelona's Marc-Andre ter Stegen.

The showdown in London will be key in deciding who will win Group B, with Bayern currently top after beating Red Star Belgrade 3-0 in their opener a fortnight ago and Spurs needing a home victory to get back on track after throwing away a two-goal lead in a 2-2 draw at Olympiakos. Neuer will want to use the high-profile clash to prove his form after a shaky display on Saturday, in which he was twice beaten — including once from a long-range effort — at bottom club Paderborn.

Neuer could do little about the first goal, but was at fault when Paderborn defender Jamilu Collins scored from 30 metres out to make it 3-2 and give Bayern a nervy final 10 minutes before they eventually won and topped the Bundesliga for the first time this season. The captain insisted the result and his performance has "little bearing" on the Spurs game, but the shaky manner of the win detracted from the Bavarians taking first place.

"We should have decided the game earlier for ourselves," Neuer fumed as Bayern squandered chances before Robert Lewandowski scored what proved to be the winner with his 10th goal in six league games.

That display came on the same day Ter Stegen launched Barca to a 2-0 win at Getafe with a sensational long-range pass for Luis Suarez's opener after snuffing out an attack from the home side.

Ter Stegen had sparked a war of words between Germany's top goalkeepers when he said it was a "tough blow" to remain on the bench after watching Neuer beaten four times in a home defeat by the Netherlands in this month's Euro 2020 qualifier. The Barca keeper had been promised more games in 2019 by national coach Joachim Loew, but he has so far only had a 45-minute cameo against Serbia in March, and Neuer telling the 27-year-old his comments were unhelpful to team spirit only led to a terse reply of "Manu doesn't need to comment on my feelings".

While Loew has refused to be drawn on the row, Bayern's outspoken president Uli Hoeneß waded in by insisting the Bundesliga champi-



Manuel Neuer will want to use the high-profile clash to prove his form after a shaky display on Saturday at Paderborn, in which he was twice beaten. Reuters

ons would refuse to let their stars play for Germany should Neuer be dropped, before eventually rolling back from the threat.

At 33, Neuer is entering the latter stage of his career and only a strong display at Spurs will silence the raging debate back home as to whether his rival should be promoted and end Neuer's nine-year reign as Germany's first-choice stopper.

With a high-profile friendly international looming at home to Argentina, Loew is under pressure to drop his captain after ditching fellow 2014 World Cup winners Mats Hummels, Thomas Mueller and Jerome Boateng in March.

Manuel Neuer has kept nearly 300 clean sheets in just over 600 Bundesliga games and was named in FIFA's World XI four years running up until 2016, when he was made German captain. He was at his peak in Brazil five years ago when his superb saves helped Germany lift the World Cup, but like many of his team-mates was far from his best in a disastrous 2018 campaign.

## Future tense for Alli

Hampered by injuries and poor form, Tottenham midfielder Dele Alli faces an uncer-

tain future while his club are battling to recover from their own troubling period. In a clear indication of the malaise gripping Alli, the England international is far from certain to feature when Tottenham host Bayern.

That would have been unthinkable just two years ago when Alli was regarded as one of Europe's rising stars.

Since then, the 23-year-old has been stuck in a steady decline that raises questions about his long-term future in north London. After appearing in four of Tottenham's five pre-season games, Alli was absent for the final friendly against Inter Milan due to the latest in a long line of hamstring issues.

Having missed games against Aston Villa, Manchester City and Newcastle, Alli was introduced on the hour for the 2-2 draw at Arsenal on September 1.

But that remains Alli's lone Premier League action this term, with his two other appearances coming in two of Tottenham's most underwhelming displays of the current campaign. He was hauled off after 73 minutes of 2-2 Champions League draw at Olympiakos, with Tottenham reeling having blown a two-goal lead.

## Must improve to be a Galactico: Hazard

Barcelona: Real Madrid forward Eden Hazard said he needed to improve to live up to his 'Galactico' billing after a slow start to the season, having failed to score or assist for his new side.

The Belgian winger joined from Chelsea this summer for 100 million euros (\$109.07 million) as the marquee signing in the club's overhaul after a disastrous 2018-19 campaign.

Hazard is viewed as the replacement for Cristiano Ronaldo in Madrid's side, with the team's all-time top scorer departing for Juventus in the summer of 2018, and has inherited his No. 7 shirt.

"I'm not a Galactico yet, I have to show that I can be one," Hazard told reporters on Monday ahead of Real Madrid's Champions League clash with Club Brugge.

"We all know the history of the No. 7 at this club and I want to show that I can be the best in the world. I want to give my all, not just in matches but in training too."

Alli's current lowly place in Pochettino's pecking order was clear for all to see when he was forced to start in under-strength Tottenham side for their League Cup third round tie at minnows Colchester last week.

That Alli delivered a limp performance in Tottenham's shock penalty shootout defeat suggested Pochettino had been correct to use his playmaker so little. Alli's anonymous display in the depths of Essex was a cry from arguably the finest night of his career when his brace inspired Tottenham's 3-1 Champions League group stage victory over Real Madrid in November 2017.

Alli was hailed as Tottenham's next generational talent after a swaggering show capped by an impudent nutmeg of Real defender Sergio Ramos.

Yet since his star role in handing Madrid their first group stage loss for five years, Alli has been stuck in a rut. Cutting an increasingly peripheral figure in Tottenham's midfield, Alli's form was a concern for Mauricio Pochettino for much of last season.

# Powerlifter alleges coercion by NADA to collect sample, agency denies charge

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 30

AN ANDHRA powerlifter, Raghavendra Goud Yelugani, has alleged that the National Anti-Doping Agency used coercion to extract a fresh sample from him after the suspended National Dope Testing Laboratory's report of his B sample had cleared him of any violation.

However, a senior Project Officer from the NADA categorically denied any use of "force" and said that the powerlifter has "consistently used steroids as the fresh sample indicated".

The 24-year-old Raghavendra has alleged that the NADA forcibly collected a fresh sample from him at its Delhi headquarters and kept him provisionally suspended after that.

The documents in possession of PTI reveal that Raghavendra was tested 'In Competition' (IC) by the NADA during the National Unequipped Powerlifting Championship on September 30, 2018 and the sample was handed over to NDTL on October 3, 2018.

On January 9, 2019, NDTL's report had Adverse Analytical Finding (AAF) on three counts and Raghavendra tested positive for banned substances.

As per norm, he sought a test of his B sample on January 25, 2019 for a fee of Rs 11,500.

Raghavendra, in his letter to NADA Director General Naveen Agarwal, alleged that he was asked to come to NADA headquarters in New Delhi on March 29, 2019 and was forced to provide a third "urine sample", which according to him was used to suspend him.

This was after Raghavendra received a letter from NADA on August 7, 2018 which stated that his "B" sample did not confirm the A sample adverse analytical finding (AAF). Accordingly, Anti-Doping Rule Violation (ADRV) case couldn't be recorded against Raghavendra as per clause 7.3.4 of NADA's anti-doping rules. The clause states: "If the B sample analysis doesn't confirm the A sample analysis, then (unless NADA takes the case forward as an ADRV violation under clause 2.2), the entire test shall be considered 'negative' and athlete, athlete's national federation, athlete's international federation and WADA shall not be informed." However, it is understood that NADA kept him under provisional suspension because the test results of his B sample report (6342656), taken on his insistence late January, differed from the test result of fresh sample No (6364400), which the powerlifter alleged to

**Raghavendra alleged that he was asked to come to NADA headquarters in New Delhi on March 29, 2019 and was forced to provide a third "urine sample", which according to him was used to suspend him.**

have been forcibly collected from him on March 29 at NADA headquarters.

Raghavendra's legal counsels Parth Goswami and Hemant Phalper have questioned the alleged collection of a third sample collection in March after the 'B' sample was taken in January.

"In a letter written to Agarwal, the athlete has claimed that he was insulted and humiliated by NADA officials when he was called to the NADA office for investigation. He further claimed that he was forced to give his urine sample under duress and under threats of facing life ban from the sport.

"Lifter has also asked DG NADA to withdraw notice of charge for his sample collected at NADA office," the lawyers have written in the letter to NADA. NADA's Project Officer Dr Ankush Gupta told PTI that no force was used.

"Yes, his B sample report was negative after the A sample showed adverse analytical finding (AAF). However there was some discussions how parameters of A and B sample (collected at the same time) differed drastically. There was discussion and NADA DG asked us to conduct an inquiry to see why there is such anomaly," Gupta said. "Accordingly, he was called at the NADA office and our investigating officer Mr Sharma (full name he couldn't recollect) gave the athlete ample chance to explain his story. Since the reports have been different, we treated the case as null and void. The DG had said that if he is present, why don't we collect fresh sample from him," said Gupta, even though he didn't deny that the athlete was made to wait from morning till evening.

However, he rubbished claims that multiple officers threatened the powerlifter. "Athletes keep coming to our office and we know how to handle them. Also, if the athlete is saying 10 officials were present, let me tell you, at any given point, we never have so many officers present in NADA office. Also the fresh sample again had AAF. He has been consistently using steroids," Gupta said.

# Scotland alive and kicking after bonus-point win over Samoa

Kobe (Japan): SCOTLAND GOT two penalty tries and Samoa winger Ed Fidow got a red card for giving away both of them in a pressure-relieving 34-0 win for the Scots at the Rugby World Cup on Monday. Fidow collapsed a maul to earn a first yellow card. He slid in knees first to stop Sean Maitland scoring for his second sin-bis offense with five minutes to go. The two yellows added up to a red to keep Samoa's terrible disciplinary record going at the World Cup. They had two yellows in their first game

and Fidow was also warned for punching.

Scotland's chances of reaching the quarter-finals would have been left hanging by a thread if it had slipped to a second straight loss in Pool A. The quarters are still by no means certain, but Scotland is in a much better position than it was after a 27-3 walloping by Ireland in its opener.

First-half tries by wing Maitland and scrumhalf Greig Laidlaw, and a dropped goal from distance by fullback Stuart Hogg, put

Scotland out of sight on a steamy night under the closed roof at Kobe Misaki Stadium. Hogg launched his drop from near halfway and wide out on the left wing for a 20-0 halftime lead. Scotland's two penalty tries came in the second half. Scotland host Japan in what might be a decider for the quarterfinals in the last pool game. Scotland plays Russia before that.

Samoa didn't score a point in a Rugby World Cup game for the first time in seven tournaments. AP





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