

SILICON VALLEY IN THE CROSS-HAIRS

The tech offensive

The battle lines of an American regulatory assault on technology companies are being drawn

THE BILL, PROPOSED in America's Senate, reads like a coding manual for software developers. "Infinite scroll", which makes social-media apps display more content as users swipe up, would be prohibited, as would automatic playlists for videos. Social networks would need to show how much time users spend on them and set a default limit of 30 minutes a day.

Parents of teenagers mustn't get their hopes up: the Social Media Addiction Reduction Technology (SMART) Act is unlikely to become law. But the fact that it exists—and was put forward by a Republican senator, Josh Hawley of Missouri—shows how quickly the tide has turned in Washington against big technology firms. After decades of letting them do more or less as they please, the state is ready to strike back. Voters are on board: one recent survey found that two Americans in three support breaking the companies up.

Big Tech is worried. Its bosses, once infrequent visitors to the Beltway, have become a regular fixture. Last month Mark Zuckerberg spent a week there, meeting President Donald Trump and lawmakers. On October 1st a recording surfaced of Facebook's boss describing the plans of Elizabeth Warren, a left-wing Democratic presidential hopeful, to break up his firm and others as an "existential" threat. Google's parent company, Alphabet, has recruited as its top lobbyist a former chief of staff to a Republican senator. Wall Street wants to know what all this means for the business models of America's biggest companies. Microsoft, Apple, Amazon and Alphabet are the world's four most valuable listed firms. Add Facebook, which is the sixth, and they are worth a combined \$4.3trn.

Tech bulls can argue, with justification, that all the frenzied activity amounts to little more than exercises, with the odd warning shot. Some tech firms' share prices have been dented by the trade war. None, as yet, has been badly hurt by the techlash at home. Even so, the contours of a battle plan against the industry are emerging. It has two prongs. Officials are using existing laws to pursue the companies, particularly over anticompetitive behaviour. And politicians are drafting new legislation. Neither is yet an all-out assault. Both portend a prolonged pitched battle.

Start with the investigations. The Department of Justice (DOJ), the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and the House antitrust subcommittee have all launched inquiries. In a sign that Alphabet's new pointman will be busy, a congressional committee sent the company a 17-page letter last month demanding a decade's worth of emails between senior executives on a range of matters and, on September 9th, 48 state attorneys-general launched an antitrust probe into the company. Any day the attorney-general, William Barr, is expected to announce an investigation into Facebook.

gafa prone

Most of these efforts so far amount to fishing expeditions. Their precise scope has yet to be determined. Even the division of labour between the investigators is unclear. Although they reportedly agreed to one in June, the DOJ and the FTC have yet to decide which tech titans each will go after, as became apparent when senators quizzed Makan Delrahim, who heads the DOJ's antitrust division, and the FTC's



US president Donald Trump with Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg and senior executives of the social media giant in White House last month. White House

chairman, Joe Simons, on September 17th.

Even if the FTC and the DOJ argue for radical measures such as break-ups, and convince lower courts, most federal appeals-court judges (not to mention the conservative majority on the Supreme Court) are reluctant antitrust enforcers, steeped in old teachings of the University of Chicago, which urge that companies be left alone so long as they do not harm consumers.

Still, the general line of attack is clear. Amazon, Apple and Google are being taken to task over their chokehold on e-commerce, app stores and search engines, respectively. Google and Facebook face scrutiny over online advertising, which they dominate. The giants will have to show that buying startups like CTRL-Labs (which develops brain-computer interfaces and has just been acquired by Facebook) is not simply a way to neutralise rivals.

It is a similar story on Capitol Hill. Bills to regulate tech have mushroomed. Mr Hawley alone has introduced half a dozen since join-

ing the Senate in January. Besides the addictiveness of tech, they cover children's privacy, online gaming and content moderation. Some have Democrat co-authors. One, nicknamed the DASHBOARD Act (don't ask), would require online platforms to disclose the value of data they collect on users; Mark Warner, a former venture capitalist, helped write it. Another, backed by Richard Blumenthal and Ed Markey, would ban video games from letting players (including under-age ones) pay a fee and receive random awards, which looks an awful lot like gambling.

With the possible exception of a federal privacy bill, which tech firms are promoting

Bills to regulate tech have mushroomed. Mr Hawley alone has introduced half a dozen since joining the Senate in January. Besides the addictiveness of tech, they cover children's privacy, online gaming and content moderation. Some have Democrat co-authors.

before a strict California state law enters into force in January and becomes de facto law of the land, most existing proposals may not get far. Impeachment proceedings against Mr Trump will distract lawmakers for months. If elected next year, a President Warren may not be able to ram her ideas through what is likely to remain a Republican-controlled Senate.

But Big Tech will be under fire whoever wins the presidency. Agencies and politicians are "on a steep learning curve", says another lobbyist. The FTC has a dedicated "tech task force" and two activist commissioners. One, Rohit Chopra, cut his teeth at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, where he led ef-

orts to reform America's student-loan system. The House has hired Lina Khan, author of an influential paper on Amazon's power, as counsel.

Trustbusters and lawmakers are also gathering intelligence. Besides the missive to Google, the antitrust subcommittee has sent requests for information to Amazon, Apple, Facebook and dozens of other firms. Oracle, a software-maker and old foe of Google's, got one from Texas's attorney-general. Snap, a social-media firm, is said to keep a dossier documenting Facebook's anticompetitive actions, which it is sure to share with regulators and Congress.

Think-tanks which get pots of money from Big Tech are no longer the main resource available to its opponents. Less conflicted brain trusts backed by diverse donors, such as the Electronic Privacy Information Centre, which used to specialise in consumer-data protection, or Public Knowledge, once focused on media regulation, now study antitrust, too.

Tim Wu of Columbia Law School and others have devised a legal strategy to make Facebook spin off Instagram and WhatsApp. In September a report from the Booth School of Business at the University of Chicago, of all places, called for vigorous merger control and a "digital authority" to oversee online competition. Republicans, who are friendlier to big business but accuse tech platforms (without evidence) of discriminating against right-leaning content, have set up the Internet Accountability Project.

Big Tech is not standing still. Its lobbyists will try to disarm radical proposals. It has squadrons of lawyers on hand. Firms are adapting in anticipation of rules to come. Facebook, Google and others plan to make it easier for users to move their data between services. Neither Silicon Valley nor Washington is bracing for a Blitz. Rather, prepare for a grinding war of attrition.

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CHAGUAN

Reasons to be fearful

Xi's embrace of false history and fearsome weapons is worrying

THE MOST revealing moment of the national day parade through Tiananmen Square on October 1st lasted just a few seconds. It came as China's fearsome new DF-41 nuclear missiles, capable of striking any city in America, neared Chaguan's press seat on the Avenue of Eternal Peace. Loudspeakers came to life as their camouflaged, many-wheeled carriers growled towards the grand gateway of the Forbidden City where President Xi Jinping and other Chinese leaders waited on a rostrum. Unseen voices explained how the weapons would ensure that China always retains a deterrent capability, thus safeguarding peace. Turning lyrical, the voices compared the missiles to large dragons that can hide in massive mountains or boundless seas before delivering earth-shaking blows. The hand-picked crowd erupted in spontaneous cheers.

Those cheers reflect two messages conveyed by the parade, which marked 70 years of Communist rule. The first is that China wields such firepower that no country may safely defy it. The second is that China is great again thanks to the Communist Party which is, and has always been, a force for good.

That second message was pressed home by the civilian half of the parade, which began with open-topped, gold-painted buses carrying red princelings and other descendants of Communist China's founders and martyrs. One was a grandson of Mao Zedong, squeezed into a general's uniform. The point was reinforced by marchers dressed as Mao-era farmers, soldiers and workers, dancing and singing in celebration of party-ordained campaigns of the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s to tame nature, mo-

China's boss has not hidden his motives. He links the Soviet Union's collapse to the moment that Russian leaders disavowed crimes by Stalin and other Communist leaders. Mr Xi has chosen another course, curtailing the party's previous, limited tolerance for historical candour.

bilise the masses and turn China into an industrial power. Such sanitising of the Mao years is indecent. On balance those were lost decades that left millions of Chinese dead, whether from man-made famines, class warfare or ideological purges. Yet under Mr Xi, the twists, turns and dead-ends of party rule have been tidily woven into a glorious story of national progress. China's boss has not hidden his motives. He links the Soviet Union's collapse to the moment that Russian leaders disavowed crimes by Stalin and other Communist leaders. Mr Xi has chosen another course, curtailing the party's previous, limited tolerance for historical candour.

Previous parades have nodded to live debates. On national day in 1984 Deng Xiaoping, then China's leader, said the country's primary task was to reform the economy to remove obstacles to growth. That parade included busts of leaders purged or sidelined under Mao, and

a float from Shekou, a pioneering special economic zone that Deng's leftist critics called capitalist.

In elite settings, largely for the benefit of insiders, Mr Xi has repudiated past crimes by ultra-leftists who were deemed by Deng to have deviated from the party line. Honouring revolutionary heroes on the eve of this year's national day, Mr Xi remembered Zhang Zhixin, a party member executed in 1975 for speaking out against Mao-era excesses, though not before her larynx was cut to stop her calling to fellow inmates as she died.

No such candour is offered to the masses. The true story of China's recovery from Maoist ruin was written by hundreds of millions of individual Chinese. They were enabled to raise themselves from poverty through hard work and risk-taking, after Deng pragmatically embraced market forces. Yet in this year's parade, a vast painting of Deng in a Mao suit was escorted by identically dressed dancers waving fronds of grain, as if he were the skilled boss of a collective farm rather than the man who let peasants grow their own crops, transforming rural lives. Later floats, lauding the Xi era, showed such centrally planned glories as high-speed trains and space rockets. Some of the few visible representatives of private enterprise were delivery drivers on scooters, a low-paid group once praised by Mr Xi for being like diligent bees. In apparent homage to this simile, the parade's delivery drivers wore yellow and black hats topped with bee antennae, like heroes in a children's book. As if vanquishing the ghosts of the Tiananmen protests of 1989,



The most revealing moment of the national day parade through Tiananmen Square on October 1 lasted just a few seconds. It came as China's fearsome new DF-41 nuclear missiles, capable of striking any city in America, neared Chaguan's press seat. Reuters

students from the city's universities marched beneath their college flags, hopping with excitement as they saw Mr Xi, through air still heavy with the fumes from parading tanks.

China's nationalism is the world's problem

It is understandable, indeed inevitable, that a wealthy China would seek to become a great military power. What was not inevitable was that Mr Xi would embrace populist, nostalgic, red-flag waving nationalism, while glossing over the party's terrible mistakes. Traditionally, those urging China to reckon honestly with the past have appealed to rational self-interest. Brave, embattled liberals have called for more open debate about the

Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution, to prevent such mistakes from being repeated. That argument feels weak today. Mr Xi is not a revolutionary like Mao, bent on dismantling the party. Rather, he is an authoritarian obsessed with stability, determined to assert the party's absolute authority. To that end his team is happy to harness Maoist rhetoric, nostalgia for a simpler, less materialist China and the public's justifiable pride in the endurance of past hardships. Judged cynically, such propaganda is astute domestic politics. Mao-style strongman rule is still a danger, but there is little risk of a return to the mayhem of the Cultural Revolution.

Other countries may have more to fear from Mr Xi's embrace of false history. By telling

his people that Communist China has never taken a wrong turn, he is stoking an impatient, hair-trigger nationalism in which criticism from abroad equates to hostility.

China is not the first rising power to seek fearsome weapons. Its people's patriotism cannot be dismissed as brainwashing. Many are clear-eyed and rational in their love for their country and support for Mr Xi. But heavily armed, self-righteous nationalism can start wars. Both China and the rest of the world would be somewhat safer if party chiefs were to acknowledge their fallibility. That Mr Xi is heading in the other direction should alarm everybody.

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19 ECONOMY

GOLD	RUPEE	OIL	SILVER
₹39,325	₹71.07	\$58.48	₹47,330

*Indian basket as on October 8, 2019

SENSEX: 38,177.95 ▲ 645.97 NIFTY: 11,313.30 ▲ 186.90 NIKKEI: 21,456.38 ▼ 131.40 HANG SENG: 25,682.81 ▼ 210.59 FTSE: 7,191.59 ▲ 48.44 DAX: 12,123.52 ▲ 153.32

International market data till 1900 GMT

STATE ELECTIONS MAHARASHTRA

Development spending the bright spot, agri waivers a work in progress

AANCHAL MAGAZINE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 9

TWO YEARS since the announcement of farm loan waivers worth Rs 34,020 crore, Maharashtra has provided Rs 21,925 crore for the waivers, or about 64 per cent of the total announced amount. Even though the state government last month approved expanding the scope of farm loan waivers ahead of the upcoming election, over one-third of the amount announced earlier is yet to be provided for, according to the statistics provided by the state to the Reserve Bank of India.

The slow progress on the farm loan waiver allocations could have a bearing on the government's fiscal health staying within the stipulated caps outlined by the fourteenth Finance Commission, with the fiscal deficit for 2018-19 recorded at 2.1 per cent of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP). For 2019-20, it has been pegged at 2 per cent of GSDP. Also, while development spending by the Devendra Fadnis administration has been rising over progressive years, asset creation capital expenditure as a per cent of the total expenditure, which picked up in the initial years of the present government to 13 per cent, has subsequently slid — down to 10.3 per cent of the total expenditure in 2017-18.

The state, which has the highest share in the country's nominal GDP at 14.4 per cent, has seen its per capita income grow by over 44 per cent at constant prices in the last five years from Rs 1,32,476 in 2014-15 to Rs 1,91,827 in 2018-19. As per the RBI's 'State Finances: A study of Budgets of 2019-20', the Maharashtra government had announced farm loan waiver of Rs 34,020 crore in 2017-18, of which the Centre provided for Rs 15,020 crore or 0.8 per cent of the

state's GSDP in the first year itself, which reduced to Rs 6,500 crore or 0.3 per cent of the GSDP in the subsequent year. The Centre provided only Rs 405 crore for farm loan waiver in this year's Budget, which is almost equivalent to zero as a percentage of the state's GSDP, the RBI report showed.

While asset-creating capital expenditure as a per cent of the total expenditure has been struggling after an initial uptick, development expenditure — comprising expenditure incurred on social, economic services and grants-in-aid to local bodies and panchayat raj institutions — has, however, picked up gradually in the state over the past five years. From Rs 1.26 lakh crore in 2015-16, development expenditure rose Rs 1.63 lakh crore in 2017-18. As a per cent of the aggregate disbursement, development expenditure of Maharashtra has been over 60 per cent during the last three financial years.

Expenditure on agriculture and allied activities, which has about 46.1 per cent of the workers in the state, increased to Rs 23,468 crore, or 6.3 per cent of the total expenditure, from Rs 9,660 crore, or 4.3 per cent of the total expenditure in 2015-16. For 2019-20, however, the state has allocated 6.1 per cent of its total Budget towards agriculture and allied activities, lower than the 6.4 per cent average allocation of other states.

Maharashtra's proportion of spending on other key social sectors such as education and rural development has been higher than the national average. In FY20, Maharashtra allocated 18.9 per cent of its expenditure on education, higher than the average expenditure of 15.9 per cent allocated to education by other states. On the health front, the state has allocated 4.2 per cent of its expenditure, lower than the 5.2 per cent average expenditure of other states.

MAHARASHTRA GOVT CAPEX SINCE 2015-16

Year	Per capita income (Rs)	Capital expenditure (as % of total expenditure)	Development expenditure (Rs crore)
2015-16	1,46,258	11.2	1,26,004
2016-17	1,62,005	13.0	1,41,619
2017-18	1,76,102	10.3	1,63,036
2018-19	1,91,827	12.6	2,13,201

MCLR DOWN BY 10 BPS, BULK TERM DEPOSIT RATE CUT BY 30 BPS

SBI cuts rates on savings bank deposits by 25 bps to 3.25%

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 9

CLOSE ON the heels of the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) fifth cut in the repo rate last week, State Bank of India (SBI) on Wednesday slashed the interest rate on savings bank deposits (with balances up to Rs 1 lakh) by 25 basis points (bps), from 3.50 per cent to 3.25 per cent, with effect from November 1, 2019.

The bank also slashed its retail term deposit and bulk term deposit interest rates by 10 bps and 30 bps, respectively, for '1 year to less than 2 years' tenor, with effect from October 10, 2019. It has also reduced the MCLR (marginal cost of funds based lending rate) by 10 basis points, making home and personal loans cheaper for customers. This has been done "in view of the adequate liquidity in the system", the bank said. Other banks are set to follow suit and slash the rates in order to retain their customer base.

According to banking sources, SBI's move to trim rates on its savings deposits to 3.25 per cent is likely to trigger a spate of cuts across banks as they have moved to repo-linked loans. For big banks such as SBI, savings deposits form 25-35 per cent of deposits. The rate for SBI's FD tenure of one year to less than 2 years is now 6.4 per cent and for 180 days to 210 days, the rate will be 5.80 per cent.

Earlier, SBI had linked the interest rate on savings account deposits with balance of over Rs 1 lakh to the repo rate. Currently, it stands at 3 per cent. SBI's domestic savings bank de-

EXPLAINED Lender hopes to boost consumption amid slowdown

SBI'S DECISION to cut both the lending and deposit rates may nudge people to borrow more and spend more at a time when the economy is facing a consumption slowdown. However, the issue of transmission of RBI's repo rate cut into lending rates remains a major concern.

While the bank slashed the deposit rates by up to 30 basis points, the lending rates have been brought down by only 10 basis points. The cut in MCLR may not immediately benefit the floating rate home loan customers of the bank. It remains to be seen as to what other banks and HFCs do.

Bank of Maharashtra can't settle losses against reserve account: RBI

Mumbai: The RBI has denied permission to Bank of Maharashtra to settle its accumulated losses of Rs 7,360 crore against the balance lying in its share premium account and revenue reserve account.

The bank's board and shareholders approved setting off accumulated losses of Rs 7,360.29 crore as of March 31, 2019, against the balance lying in share premium account and revenue reserve account of bank as on date of set-off, the bank said.

"We hereby inform that Reserve Bank of India vide its letter dated September 27, 2019 has intimated about its inability to accede to the request made by the bank for setting-off the above accumulated losses against the balance lying in share premium account and revenue reserve account of the bank," the bank said. **ENS**

count of bank as on date of set-off, the bank said.

On October 4, the RBI slashed its key policy rate by 25 basis points to 5.15 per cent — the low-

est level since March 2010 — stating that the "continuing slow-down warrants intensified efforts to restore the growth momentum". This means interest rates on certain loans and deposits of banks will automatically come down as the RBI had already directed banks to link their interest rates to a benchmark rate. The fifth consecutive cut this year by the RBI has brought down the repo rate by 135 basis points from 6.50 per cent in 2019.

"With inflation being within the target, the forward guidance remains accommodative to revive growth. We believe the transmission of monetary policy rate changes will be faster now that banks have already introduced repo-linked retail and MSE products and the rate cuts will be passed on to these borrowers. With the busy and festive season having started, this rate cut will boost market sentiments," said Padmaja Chunduru, MD and CEO of Indian Bank.

Mrutyunjay Mahapatra, MD and CEO of Syndicate Bank, said, "The RBI has continued its accommodative stance on monetary policy and interest rates. With this, the banking sector, which has moved from MCLR to external benchmark loan rate, shall pass on the 25 bps reduction to the ultimate consumers faster than in the past." Stepping up its initiative to speed up transmission of rate reduction benefits to customers, the RBI last month made it mandatory for banks to link all new floating rate personal or retail loans and floating rate loans to MSMIEs to an external benchmark like the repo rate effective October 1, 2019.

Govt hikes DA by 5 percentage points for staff, pensioners

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 9

THE CABINET on Wednesday approved an increase in dearness allowance (DA) and dearness relief (DR) by 5 percentage points for government employees and pensioners. With this increase, the DA and DR will become 17 per cent of the basic pay and pension. The decision will benefit about 50 lakh central government employees and 65 lakh pensioners.

The Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, also relaxed the mandatory requirement of Aadhaar-seeded data as a precondition for release of funds to the beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan) scheme. This will ensure that the farmers whose Aadhaar details have not been seeded into PM-Kisan database continue to get benefits under this scheme.

Briefing about the Cabinet decisions, Minister of Information & Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar said, "The hike in DA and DR will be paid from July 1, 2019, this will bring cheers to the working class because central government is achieving many mile stones in various sectors and it is the contribution of employee to all this achievements."

The central government pays

The Cabinet also relaxed the mandatory requirement of Aadhaar-seeded data as a precondition for release of funds to the beneficiaries under PM-Kisan scheme

DA and DR to its employees and pensioners to adjust the cost of living and to protect their basic pay or pension from erosion in the real value. As per an official statement, "The combined impact on the exchequer on account of both DA and DR would be Rs 15,909.35 crore per annum and Rs 10,606.20 crore in the financial year 2019-20 (for a period of 8 months from July 2019 to February 2020)."

"The additional financial implication on account of this increase in DA is estimated at Rs 8,590.20 crore per year; and Rs 5,726.80 crore in the current financial year of 2019-20 (for 8 months from July 2019 to February 2020). The additional financial implication on account of the Dearness Relief to pensioners is estimated to be Rs 7,319.15 crore per annum and Rs 4,870 crore in the current financial year", it said.

Sensex snaps losing streak, rallies 646 pts

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 9

THE BENCHMARK Sensex on Wednesday staged a strong rally as investors lapped up banking and financial stocks ahead of the earnings season. The BSE Sensex surged 645.97 points, or 1.72 per cent, to end at 38,177.95, while the broader NSE Nifty zoomed 186.90 points, or 1.68 per cent, to 11,313.30, amid increasing doubts of a breakthrough in the upcoming US-China trade talks.

After a cautious start, the key indices gained momentum in afternoon trade, led by banking, financial and telecom counters. The sentiment got a further boost after the Union Cabinet hiked the dearness allowance (DA) for central government employees, which is expected to prop up festive demand, analysts said.

Vinod Nair, head of research at Geojit Financial Services, said, "The market recovered after many days of fall and rose comfortably above 11,300-level. Banks outperformed as the sharp fall in bond yield is indicating further room for rate cuts which will improve liquidity and consumption story. Further, a 5

per cent hike in DA by the Centre will add impetus to the festive demand. Going forward, the result season will dictate the market direction and investors are expecting some green shoots on account of festive demand and good monsoon."

IndusInd Bank spurred 5.45 per cent, followed by Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, SBI, M&M, Kotak Bank, Tata Steel and HDFC Bank. On the other hand, Yes Bank was the top loser with a 5.26 per cent decline.

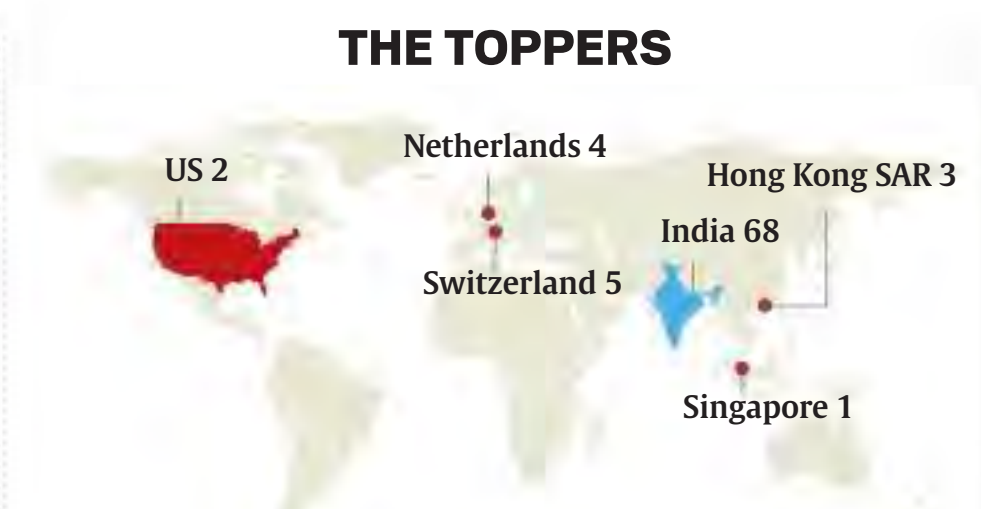
Sectorally, BSE telecom emerged the biggest gainer with a jump of 4.92 per cent, followed by banking (3.67 per cent), finance (2.84 per cent), metal (2.12 per cent), realty (1.99 per cent), basic materials (1.95 per cent) and energy (0.98 per cent). However, IT, consumer durables and tech lost up to 0.92 per cent. The BSE Midcap index shot up 1.38 per cent while the small cap gauge gained 0.66 per cent.

Meanwhile, the rupee pared most of its initial losses and settled the day marginally down by 5 paise, as China offering to buy additional US goods to ease trade tension bolstered hopes of a partial deal between the two major economies.

'India slips to 68th place on global competitiveness index'

India has fallen 10 places to the 68th rank on the Global Competitiveness Index, released by the World Economic Forum (WEF), largely on account of improvement witnessed by several other economies

WHAT IS THIS INDEX?
The Global Competitiveness Index, which was launched in 1979, maps the competitiveness landscape of 141 economies through 103 indicators organised into 12 pillars



■ Low ratio of female workers to male workers of 0.26; India is ranked at 128th place

■ Low rank, i.e. 118th, in terms of meritocracy and incentivisation

BRIGHT SPOTS

■ India well ahead of most emerging economies and on par with several advanced economies in terms of innovation

■ In terms of the market size, India is ranked third, while it has got the same rank for renewable energy regulation

SOUTH ASIAN NATIONS' RANKING:
84 Sri Lanka
105 Bangladesh
108 Nepal
110 Pakistan
China is ranked 28th (the highest ranked among the BRICS)

INDIA'S SHORTCOMINGS

- India's financial sector is relatively deep and stable, but the high delinquency rate continues to weaken its banking system
- Product market efficiency undermined by lack of trade openness
- Labour market characterised by a lack of worker rights' protections, underdeveloped active labour market policies
- Limited ICT adoption, poor health conditions and low healthy life expectancy

INDIA AT WTO 'Dilution of S&D provisions will lead to continuation of deadlock'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 9

INDIA, ALONG with several other countries including China and African nations, has cautioned against diluting special and differential treatment provisions related to developing countries, saying it would lead to "intractable deadlock" at the World Trade Organization (WTO).

A communication by west African country Benin, on behalf of the African Group, Bolivia, China, Cuba, India and Oman has said that developing countries should continue to enjoy benefits of special and differential treatment (S&D) under WTO rules and they must be allowed to make their own assessments regarding their own developing country status.

"Attempts to water down these principles would be a recipe for intractable deadlock at the WTO, including in the negotiations on fisheries subsidies. It is in the interest of the entire membership to avoid this situation," the communication sent to the WTO said.

RBI rejects proposed merger of Lakshmi Vilas Bank, Indiabulls Housing Finance

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 9

THE RESERVE Bank of India (RBI) has denied approval for the voluntary amalgamation of Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited (IBHFL) and its 100-per cent subsidiary Indiabulls Commercial Credit Limited (ICCL) with Chennai-based Lakshmi Vilas Bank Limited (LVB).

"This is to inform that the RBI vide their letter dated October 9, 2019, informed that the application for voluntary amalgamation of Indiabulls Housing Finance and Indiabulls Commercial Credit with the Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd cannot be approved," the bank said in a stock exchange filing.

After Indiabulls made the merger proposal, the bank had taken up with "applicable regulatory authorities for approval of the amalgamation process". "The bank had also sought approval from the RBI on May 7, 2019," the bank said. In April, LVB had announced its merger with Indiabulls Housing Finance in a share-swap deal, with an intent to create an entity with larger capital base and wider geographical reach. The Competition Commission of India had already approved the merger. The share swap ratio for the

INDIABULLS' BANK DREAM DELAYED

THE WORSENING financial profile of the bank and the court case involving Indiabulls could have prompted the RBI to reject the approval for merger, bankers said



merger was fixed at 1:0.14, which means that for every 100 shares of LVB held by shareholders, they would have received 14 shares of IBHFL, according to the filing on the stock exchanges. Indiabulls had attempted to enter the banking sector about six years ago, when the RBI sought applications for a banking licence. However, it failed to receive the license from the monetary authority in 2014.

The worsening financial profile of the bank and the court case involving Indiabulls could have prompted the RBI to reject the approval for merger, bankers said. The RBI had last week initiated Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) for LVB in the wake of high non-performing assets (NPAs) and low capital adequacy ratio. According to the bank's Annual Report for 2018-19, many accounts have slipped into NPAs from different segments includ-

month sought response of the Centre and the RBI on a plea seeking an SIT investigation into the alleged illegalities, siphoning of funds and violations committed by the promoters of Indiabulls Housing Finance. A Bench of Chief Justice D N Patel and Justice C Hari Shankar issued notice to the central government, the Reserve Bank of India and Indiabulls seeking their stand on the petition filed by an NGO. The court listed the matter for further hearing on December 13.

The court was hearing the PIL filed by NGO 'Citizens Whistle Blower Forum', whose members include former Delhi High Court Chief Justice A P Shah, former Chief of Naval Staff Admiral L Ramdas, former IAS officer Aruna Roy and activist-lawyer Prashant Bhushan. The plea has sought an SIT investigation into the alleged illegalities committed by the promoters of IBHFL. Indiabulls had earlier opposed the plea saying it was a "malicious" and "mala fide" petition, which was causing loss to its business and reputation. The Economic Offences Wing of the Delhi Police has registered a FIR against Lakshmi Vilas Bank, its directors and other unknown persons on a complaint made by Religare Finvest Ltd (RFL) regarding "adjustment" of Rs 794 crore deposit loan.

No more free Jio phone calls to other networks; to charge 6p/min

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 9

CITING REGULATORY uncertainty over the review of sunset clause for call termination charges, Reliance Jio on Wednesday announced it will charge customers 6 paise per minute for voice calls made to other networks like Airtel, and Vodafone Idea, and will compensate users by giving them free data of equal value.

Sunil Mittal-led Bharti Airtel, in a statement, said that the move by Jio was aimed to "force IUC (interconnect usage charge) to be brought down", adding that the ongoing review of call connect charges or IUC is consistent with previously-stated intent by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai). In 2017, Trai cut the interconnect usage charge (IUC) to 6 paise per minute from 14 paise and said this regime would end by January 2020. However, it floated a consultation paper to review whether the regime timeline needs to be extended. Since voice calls on Jio network are free, the company had to bear the Rs 13,500-crore payment made to rivals such as Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea. To recover the losses created

IUC GAME

■ Sunil Mittal-led Bharti Airtel said the move by Jio was aimed to "force interconnect usage charge to be brought down"

■ In 2017, Trai cut the so-called interconnect usage charge to 6 paise per minute from 14 paise and said this regime will end by Jan

out naming the company: "One of our competitors has imposed a rate of 6 paise for all off-net calls made to other operators to cover the termination charge of IUC. They have gone on to suggest that TRAI has re-opened this issue".

Airtel argued that the review was, in fact, in line with Trai's stated position on the matter in 2017 where it had made it clear that the issue will be revisited based on factors like adoption of new technologies (their impact on termination cost) and traffic patterns.

"Both these have not materialised. There are still over 400 million 2G customers from the poorest sections of society living in rural areas paying less than Rs 50 per month and who can still not afford to buy a 4G device. Second, there still is significant asymmetry of traffic," Airtel said. "The announcement by one of the telecom service providers today to charge for calls made to other service providers to cover the termination charge of IUC is not only an action of undue haste but it also does not bring out the fact that interconnect is a settlement between operators and not a consumer pricing matter," Vodafone Idea said in a statement.

'EXPECT SLOWER GROWTH IN 90% OF WORLD' Global slowdown: 'Impact on India more pronounced'

LALIT K JHA WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 9

THE GLOBAL economy is witnessing "synchronized slowdown", which will result in slower growth for 90 per cent of the world this year, and the effect is even "more pronounced" in some of the largest emerging market economies like India, new IMF chief Kristalina Georgieva has warned.

"Now is the time for countries with room in their budgets to deploy — or get ready to deploy — fiscal firepower. In fact, low interest rates may give some policymakers additional money to spend"

KRISTALINA GEORGIEVA MANAGING DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

cast to have real GDP growth rates above 5 per cent — including 19 in sub-Saharan Africa, Georgieva said. In the United States and Germany, unemployment is at historic lows. Yet across advanced economies, including in the US, Japan and especially the euro area, there is a softening of economic activity, she said.

"In some of the largest emerging market economies, such as India and Brazil, the slowdown is even more pronounced this year. In China, growth is gradually coming down from the rapid pace it saw for many years," the IMF chief said.

"The right reforms in the right sequence could double the speed at which emerging markets and developing economies reach the living standards of the advanced economies," Georgieva said.

"Trade is a case in point. And yet, we need to work together. From safely adapting to fintech, to fully implementing the financial regulatory reform agenda, to fighting money laundering and the financing of terrorism," Georgieva said.

"Now is the time for countries with room in their budgets to de-

ploy — or get ready to deploy — fiscal firepower. In fact, low interest rates may give some policymakers additional money to spend," she said.

Referring to a new IMF research, which shows how structural reforms can raise productivity and generate enormous economic gains, she said these changes are the key to achieving higher growth over the medium and long-term.

"The right reforms in the right sequence could double the speed at which emerging markets and developing economies reach the living standards of the advanced economies," Georgieva said.

"Trade is a case in point. And yet, we need to work together. From safely adapting to fintech, to fully implementing the financial regulatory reform agenda, to fighting money laundering and the financing of terrorism," Georgieva said.

PMC BANK CASE

Custody of 3 accused extended till October 14

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, OCTOBER 9

A MAGISTRATE COURT on Wednesday extended the police custody of three accused, including promoters of HDIL, arrested in the Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank case till October 14.



Former PMC Bank chairman Waryam Singh being taken into police custody on Wednesday. Ganesh Shirsekar

On Wednesday, drama unfolded outside the Esplanade court after victims who lost money in the scam attempted a rasta roko and tried damaging the cars of lawyers of the accused.

The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Mumbai Police had arrested HDIL promoters Rakesh and Sarang Wadhawan, former

PMC Bank chairman Waryam Singh, as well as the bank's former MD Joy Thomas in connection with the Rs 4,355-crore scam, that led to withdrawal restrictions being imposed by the RBI. The police's case is that Singh and Tho-

mas allowed the Wadhawans to take loans even after they did not repay it and then undervalued the non performing assets. Thomas is currently in police custody

A senior officer said, "We told the court we needed further cus-

ody of the accused as we found that they have falsified certain documents using which the fraud was carried out. The court remanded them in our custody for five days."

As the accused were brought to the court Wednesday, several victims were standing outside the court carrying placards stating that the accused should not be given bail. The victims also tried a rasta roko outside the court but the police cleared the road. Some of the victims even tried damaging the four wheelers of the lawyers representing the accused.

During the probe, police have so far found that the accused had kept the 44 accounts linked to the Wadhawans' hidden by using a password. In its place, the accused allegedly used other dormant accounts as the ones that had defaulted on making payments.

Equity fund inflows lowest in last four months in Sept

Mumbai: Equity funds saw inflows of just Rs 6,609 crore in September, the lowest in the last four months, while money moved out of debt schemes causing the mutual fund industry to report outflows of Rs 1.51 lakh crore.

Open-ended debt schemes saw large outflows to the tune of Rs 1.58 lakh crore, largely due to

the redemptions from liquid funds. Data from the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) showed liquid funds saw outflows of Rs 1.40 lakh crore.

Moreover, ultra-short duration funds and money market funds also saw outflows of Rs 6,783.41 crore and Rs 6,278.07 crore, respectively. FE

DAICHI-RANBAXY CASE

HC directs Radha Soami chief, others to pay back RHC Holdings Pvt Ltd

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 9

THE DELHI High Court has directed 55 individuals and entities, including Radha Soami Satsang Beas (RSSB) head Gurinder Singh Dhillon and his family members, to deposit the amount due to RHC Holdings Pvt Ltd in connection with the execution of Rs 3,500-crore arbitral award won by Japanese pharma major Daichi Sankyo against former promoters of Ranbaxy Laboratories Malvinder and Shivinder Singh.

The court said the amount which these 55 garnishees owe to RHC Holdings of the Singh brothers shall be deposited with the Registrar General of the Delhi High Court within 30 days.

A garnishee order is an order against a third party for the recovery of debt or dues.

The court also directed the judgement debtors, including Singh brothers, to deposit the title deeds of all their immovable properties, original share certificates held by them with the registrar general of the high court within 30 days and asked them

not to dispose of or alienate with the possession of their assets till the next date of hearing on November 14.

Justice J R Midha said if any party disputes the claim of RHC Holdings or other judgment debtors, they shall file an affidavit to place on record the contention.

The court, in its September 27 order, also directed that the "55 parties shall not dispose of, alienate, encumber either directly or indirectly or otherwise part with the possession of any assets to the tune of the amount mentioned in the affidavit of July 30, 2019 except in the ordinary course of business such as payment of salary and statutory dues till the next date of hearing".

The 55 parties include RSSB chief's wife Shabnam Dhillon, sons Gurkirat Singh and Dhruvpreet Singh and daughter-in-law Nayan Tara Dhillon, RSSB associates' companies, former Religare Enterprises chief Sunil Godhwani and his brother Sanjay Godhwani.

The court had earlier restrained the Singh brothers and others from selling or transferring their shares or any movable or immovable property.

BRIEFLY

'FM to meet PSU banks' CEOs on Oct 14'

New Delhi: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will hold a review meeting with CEOs of public sector banks next week to discuss various issues, including progress on credit off-take. The meeting, scheduled to be held on October 14, is expected to review fund flow to stressed NBFC and MSME sectors, sources said.

PK Gupta takes charge as NBCC CMD

New Delhi: PK Gupta assumed charge as the Chairman and Managing Director of state-owned construction firm NBCC on Wednesday. "Before taking over the charge of CMD, NBCC, he was executive director (Regional Projects) in RITES Ltd," NBCC said.

NHPC takes over Lanco Teesta project

New Delhi: State-run NHPC on Wednesday said it has completed formalities for taking over 500 MW Teesta VI hydro power project, which it has bagged under the corporate insolvency resolution process. PTI

MNCs risk hefty hit in tax overhaul

Paris: Governments will get more power to tax big multinationals like Google, Apple and Facebook doing business in their countries under a proposed overhaul of decades-old rules. Big internet firms have pushed tax rules to the limit as they can book profit and park assets like trademarks and patents in low tax countries. Like Ireland wherever their customers are. REUTERS

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH, CHANDIGARH. Tender Notice No. PI(EP)/19-20/07. Sealed tenders are invited from the manufacturers or their sole authorized distributors/agents on the prescribed form for purchase of various items against tender No. 1-93 The manufacturers and their authorized dealers/distributors can offer their minimum rates as per terms & conditions contained in the Tender Form.

Bank of India BOI. Tender Request for Proposal (RFP) Notice. BANK OF INDIA INVITES REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR Implementation of Unified Payment Interface Solution. Last date for submission of RFP 05.11.2019 by 3:00 PM.

Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited. NOTICE INVITING TENDER. On behalf of MTNL, New Delhi vide Tender enquiry: 1. No. AGM (MPL)/Two Way Speaker Clip Feature Phone/2019-20/01 Online tenders are invited for Supply of Two Way Speaker Clip feature Phone in two parts (Part-A Techno Commercial and Part-B Financial Bid) (Estimated Cost : Rs. 1,587 Crores).

VASANTDADA SUGAR INSTITUTE. TENDER NOTICE. Sealed tenders in B1 form are invited from the experienced / reputed contractors for following works: 1. Providing & installing hangers, stalls and other furniture on rental basis.

GREATER VISAKHAPATNAM MUNICIPAL CORPORATION. Telephone No. 772995917. Tender Notice No. 18/2019-20/SE(W-II)/EE-II/DB/Dt: 7-10-2019. 01. Number of Works : 1 No. 02. Value of Works (ECV) : Rs. 173.04 Lakhs.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT. TENDER NOTICE. Tender Notice No.02/2019-20/SDO, Dated: 04.10.2019. For and on behalf of Governor of Tamil Nadu sealed schedule tender through online only will be received upto 11.11.2019, 15.00 hours by the Superintending Engineer (H) Projects Circle, Coimbatore for SI.No.1 under Railway Works Programme 2015-2016 works pertaining Salem (H) Projects Division.

DELHI JAL BOARD: DELHI SARKAR. OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SOUTH) IV. O.H.T.O.I.A Ph-II: OPPOSITE GOVIND PURI: NEW DELHI-20. e-mail: eesouthiv498@gmail.com/Tel. 011-26388976. Press N.I.T. NO: 65 S-IV (2019-20)

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI. OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SOUTH)-II. JAL SADAN: LAJPAT NAGAR: NEW DELHI. NIT No. 23/S-II/2019-20. Press Tender. S. No. Name of work Reserve price Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution Last date and time for download & RTGS through e-procurement solution

21 THE RURAL TRACKING THE CHANGING INDIA IN ITS VILLAGES



APPLE ECONOMY

Expectations belied

Bumper crop, higher tariffs on US fruit and ban on Chinese imports haven't brought cheer to Himachal Pradesh's growers

ASHWANI SHARMA
SHIMLA, OCTOBER 9

FOR HIMACHAL Pradesh's apple growers, this should have been the best possible year. Favourable weather — an extended winter and good snowfall necessary to meet the minimum chill hours for the fruit-bearing trees to blossom — promised a bumper harvest. The ban on imports from China since June 2017, the Narendra Modi government hiking the customs duty on US apples from 50% to 70% this June and, more recently, the lockdown in Kashmir causing disruptions in fruit movement from the Valley, ought to have made it a rich harvest as well.

Instead, what they are currently reaping is disappointment. The crop has, no doubt, turned out better than the last two years. In 2017, Himachal's apple production was estimated at 2.23 crore boxes (each containing 20 kg of fruit), which fell to 2.18 crore boxes last year. In this apple marketing season from August, arrivals in mandis across the state — mainly Shimla and also Mandi, Kullu, Sirmour and Chamba districts — have already touched 2.65 crore boxes till October 8, as per data from the horticulture department. With the crop from Kinnaur — a high-altitude belt at 8,000 feet-plus, as opposed to Shimla's orchards that are in the mid- and high-hill range just below or above 7,000 feet — to arrive after mid-October, the total figure is expected to be 3-3.3 crore boxes.

"The crop has been generally good, especially in the mid-hill belt. Only in the high hills, the fruit size was affected because of rains and thunderstorms in August at the time of maturity. But even here, there was no problem during the flowering (from March in low hills to May in the high altitudes) and fruit-setting (April-June) periods," notes Rohit Thakur, the owner of an apple orchard at Jubbal in Shimla district and also grandson of former chief minister Thakur Ram Lal.

For the state's growers, the source of disquiet right now isn't the size of their crop as much as the prices.

"Initially the markets showed up well. The early varieties from the lower and middle hills fetched Rs 1,800-2,200 per box. But after mid-September, the rates have crashed and there are hardly any buyers," says Prakash Thakur, a former vice chairman of HP Horticultural Produce Marketing and Processing Corporation Ltd (better known as HPMC) and orchardist from Thanedar in Shimla district.

According to him, the higher duty on Washington apples, on top of the ban on Chinese imports, has had very little impact. "A few growers in the low hills who were able to market their crop towards end-July/early-August would have got some advantage. On the other hand, Kashmir apples not reaching the markets has not been of any benefit, as demand has practically vanished after mid-September," he adds.

The average price this season for the standard Royal Delicious apples has been Rs 1,200-1,500 per box, while it was Rs 1,700-2,000 last year.

"It's a mystery why we have not got a good rate. Till now, everyone was blaming foreign apples, but I'm convinced it is the arthiyas (commission agents) who have engineered this crash," remarks Chetan Bragta. This young grower of Kotkhai, whose father Narinder Bragta is a former horticulture minister and sitting Bharatiya Janata Party legislator from the Jubbal-Kotkhai Assembly constituency, has produced 5,000 boxes of

apples from his family's 60-bigha (12 acres) orchard.

Most growers sell their produce straight from their orchards or bring it to the mandis. The bigger traders, who buy through the arthiyas, stock the apples in controlled atmosphere (CA) storehouses for selling in the off-season when prices go up. The bulk of these stores are outside Himachal, which has only a handful of them belonging to the likes of HPMC and the Adani Group.

"We need a permanent solution to break the hold of arthiyas and traders. And that can come only from setting up more CA stores within the state," points out Rakesh Singha, general secretary of the Himachal Pradesh Kisan Sabha and lone CPI(M) legislator from Theog, which is also a major apple-growing area of Shimla.

India annually produces 23-25 lakh tonnes of apples, with Jammu & Kashmir (18-19 lt) and Himachal Pradesh (5-6 lt) accounting for the bulk of it. The country, in 2018-19, also imported 2.83 lt, mainly from the US (1.28 lt), Chile (0.54 lt), New Zealand (0.26 lt), Italy (0.22 lt) and Turkey (0.16 lt). During April-August 2019, apple imports have totalled 1.61 lt, with Chile (0.42 lt), US (0.35 lt), Italy (0.28 lt), New Zealand (0.17 lt) and Poland (0.13 lt) being the major countries of origin.

At 3 crore boxes and Rs 1,500/box, Himachal's apple economy is worth Rs 4,500 crore. Some growers are trying to beat the market by growing premium varieties or going in for high-density plantation. Among them is Prem Singh Chauhan from

Jaltahar village in Kotkhai, who claims to have even developed his own 'APS' apple variety, for which he has applied for a patent.

"I have realised Rs 4,800 for a 28-kg box, which is more than the Rs 2,000-2,500 (per 20-kg box) rates for Washington apples," states Chauhan, whose 15-bigha (three acres) orchard plot has been visited by Indian Council of Agricultural Research scientists, even as he awaits the award from the Controller General of Patents, Designs & Trade Marks.

Another such progressive grower is Sandeep Singha. An architect, he, like Chauhan, has converted his entire 100-bigha (20 acre) orchard at Kotgarh in Shimla district into a high-density plantation. "We cannot compete with imported apples without growing new varieties or adopting new planting technologies," he tells *The Indian Express*.

Many young growers, who have returned to manage their family orchards after working as IT, engineering or management professionals outside the state, are the ones taking the lead. Their new high-density plantation orchards have 300-400 trees per bigha, as compared with the normal 50 or so. Besides, they are planting new imported varieties such as Red Chief, Super Chief, Oregon Spur and Scarlet Spur, fetching much better rates than the "traditional" Red Delicious fruit.

Motilal Chauhan got an average rate of Rs 3,200 for the 2,500 boxes of Scarlet Spur (II) and Jeromine apples, out of the 6,000 boxes that he harvested from his 20-bigha (four acres) orchard at Dhangvi village of Kotkhai. Moreover, this price was for produce purchased directly from the farm-gate. Chauhan attributes his higher realisations to the selection of superior root-stock imported from Italy and also good orchard management practices.

"The growers who have replaced their 30-40-year-old trees and raised new plantations from root-stock brought from Italy, US and New Zealand are the ones repeating a good harvest today," sums up the former horticulture minister Narinder Bragta.



Apple growers say rates crashed around mid-September

FARM INCOME SUPPORT

States steal Centre's PM-Kisan thunder

HARISH DAMODARAN

THE ANDHRA Pradesh government under Y S Jaganmohan Reddy has become the latest to launch its own farm income support scheme, over and above the Centre's Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi or PM-Kisan.

The Jaganmohan government's YSR Rythu Bharosa, being implemented from October 15, provides financial assistance of Rs 12,500 per year to some 64 lakh farmers, owning five acres or less as well as landless tenant cultivators. This amount includes Rs 6,000 under PM-Kisan, with the state government topping it with another Rs 6,500. The total budgeted outlay for YSR Rythu Bharosa in 2019-20 is Rs 8,750 crore, of which Rs 3,240 crore is coming from the Centre and the balance from the AP government.

Other states operating similar direct-cash-transfer schemes for farmers are, however, doing it totally independent of PM-Kisan.

The K Chandrashekar Rao-headed Telangana government's Rythu Bandhu scheme, which was unveiled from April 2018, eight months before PM-Kisan, is extending support of Rs 4,000 per acre for each season to all 55 lakh-odd farmers in the state without any landowning limit. That, for a five-acre farmer growing two crops a year, works out to Rs 40,000. Not for nothing does Telangana have an annual budget of Rs 12,000 crore for Rythu Bandhu, without any Central/PM-Kisan component.

The Naveen Patnaik-led government in Odisha has, likewise, allocated Rs 5,611 crore towards the Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation or KALIA scheme in 2019-20. Covering 75 lakh farmers that include 25 lakh landless agricultural households, it entitles each of them to Rs 10,000-per-year payment for two crops (kharif and rabi) — more than the Rs 6,000 in three installments under PM-Kisan.

The Trinamool Congress government in West Bengal, too, is giving Rs 5,000 in two installments to the state's estimated 72 lakh farmers and sharecroppers cultivating one acre or more under its Krushak Bandhu scheme. This entirely state government-financed scheme, with a budget of Rs 3,000 crore in this fiscal, is also assuring a minimum of Rs 2,000 to those with below one-acre holding.

The BJP-ruled governments in

Jharkhand and Haryana are the other two states to have come out with their own schemes for supplementing farmer incomes. Jharkhand's Mukhyamantri Krishi Aashirwad Yojana is providing Rs 5,000 per acre annually to an estimated 22.76 farmers owning up to five acres. The maximum benefit of Rs 25,000 under this scheme is again more than the Rs 6,000 from PM-Kisan. Haryana's Mukhyamantri Parivar Samman Nidhi Yojana, on the other hand, limits the annual financial assistance to a flat Rs 5,000, while applicable only to agricultural families (including labourers) with less than five acres and also monthly income below Rs 15,000.

The total allocation for all these farm income support schemes announced by state governments — starting with Telangana, which was the pioneer — would come to Rs 32,861 crore in 2019-20 (see table). This is in addition to the Rs 75,000 crore budgeted for PM-Kisan this fiscal.

The Reserve Bank of India's latest 'State Finances: A Study of Budgets' report has contrasted the income support schemes with farm loan waivers. Since 2014-15, 10 states have announced loan waiver programmes aggregating Rs 231,260 crore, out of which actual budgetary provision till 2019-20 has been Rs 154,418 crore.

The latter figure includes Rs 28,532 crore by Karnataka (out of the announced Rs 44,000 crore in 2018-19), Rs 27,202 crore by Uttar Pradesh (out of Rs 36,360 crore in 2017-18), Rs 21,925 crore by Maharashtra (Rs 34,020 crore: 2017-18), Rs 21,473 crore by Telangana (Rs 17,000 crore: 2014-15), Rs 13,000 crore by Madhya Pradesh (Rs 36,500 crore: 2018-19), Rs 12,731 crore by AP (Rs 24,000 crore: 2014-15), Rs 9,223 crore by Chhattisgarh (Rs 6,100 crore: 2018-19), Rs 8,848 crore by Punjab (Rs 10,000 crore: 2017-18), Rs 6,240 crore by Rajasthan (Rs 18,000 crore: 2018-19) and Rs 5,243 crore by Tamil Nadu (Rs 5,280 crore: 2016-17).

According to the RBI report, 2018-19 marked a "watershed", with some states opting for income support schemes over "conventional" policies such as farm loan waivers to alleviate agricultural distress. While welcoming this move to cash transfers, it has, however, noted that they can succeed only with digitisation of land records and their linking with Aadhaar-seeded bank accounts "for ensuring timely payments to farmers, while minimizing inclusion and exclusion errors".

STATE-LEVEL FARM INCOME SUPPORT SCHEMES (RS CRORE)

STATE	SCHEME	2018-19 (RE)	2019-20 (BE)
Telangana	Rythu Bandhu	12,000	12,000
AP	YSR Rythu Bharosa	0	8,750
Odisha	KALIA*	250	5,611
West Bengal	Krushak Bandhu	4,000	3,000
Jharkhand	Mukhyamantri Krishi Aashirwad Yojana	0	2,000
Haryana	Mukhyamantri Parivar Samman Nidhi	0	1,500
TOTAL		16,250	32,861

*Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation; BE: Budget Estimate; RE: Revised Estimate. Source: Reserve Bank of India

POULTRY INDUSTRY

Sunday or Monday, they won't come home to roost

A focused campaign to promote egg as a vegetarian food is necessary for boosting consumption



TARUN SHRIDHAR

Which came first, chicken or egg?

A pragmatic perspective should put to rest this unanswerable problem. In a country where a significant section of the population is vegetarian, for whom meat is taboo, it may be a reasonable compromise to settle for eggs. Scientifically speaking, egg is as vegetarian (or not) as milk. While both are animal foods, neither is derived from flesh nor calls for slaughter. Like milk from cows, hens don't have to die to lay eggs. Table eggs are also unfertilised and carry no living embryo; the hens produce them without even seeing any cock.

Among those who recognised these facts was the man whose 150th birth year we are now celebrating. In a 1942 monograph titled Key to Health, Mahatma Gandhi wrote: "Eggs are regarded by the layman as flesh food. In reality, they are not... A sterile egg never de-

velops into a chick. Therefore, he who can take milk should have no objection to taking sterile eggs."

Rising incomes that come with sustained economic growth would mean increased demand for animal protein. Animal proteins, unlike plant proteins, are complete. They contain a balanced combination of all the nine essential amino acids, which the human body cannot synthesise and have to be supplied in one's diet. Egg can supplement milk in providing a protein-rich and high nutrient-density, yet low-calorie count, diet without undermining vegetarian commitment. There could be no better word for this than "eggetarian".

At 103.93 billion eggs in 2018-19, India is the world's third biggest producer after China (566 billion) and the US (109 billion). From a mere 1.83 billion eggs in 1950-51, 10.06 billion in 1980-81 and 36.63 billion in 2000-01, it represents a huge jump. But our annual per capita availability of 77 eggs is still way below the 180 level prescribed by the National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad, or the 300-plus consumed in China. According to the EAT-Lancet Commission, a body of 37 leading global scientists that has sought to develop quantitative targets for healthy diets and sustainable food production, the desirable intake of eggs is about 13 grams/per-



At 103.93 bn eggs in 2018-19, India is third biggest producer after China, US. File

son/day or over 90 eggs in a year.

What is encouraging about India's poultry sector, spectacular growth apart, is that it has transformed a supplementary backyard activity to a highly organised farming business. Today, well over 80% of egg and poultry meat output in the country is from organised commercial farms. This is in contrast to even dairying, where hardly a quarter of the milk produced is handled by cooperatives and private corporate players. At an

average rate of Rs 4, the 100 billion-plus egg production would be worth more than Rs 40,000 crore annually, with the roughly 4 million tonnes of poultry meat at Rs 75/kg adding another Rs 30,000 crore.

But like any other good story, this one, too, has a twist.

The poultry industry's development has been highly skewed. Half of India's egg production is accounted for by just three southern states: Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and

Telangana. Secondly, despite the industry's organised character, our productivity levels remain relatively low. An average hen in the US lays some 289 eggs per year, whereas that number in India is about 108 from desi and 209 from improved birds. Most of our poultry farms have no proper climate control or quarantine systems, exposing the birds to diseases and abiotic stresses. To protect against these risks, the bird density has to be kept low that, in turn, reduces egg yields.

Yet, poultry's advantage over other livestock subsectors is that, being an organised industry, almost every farmer is integrated along the value chain. Also, few industries offer scope for rural entrepreneurship with relatively low investment and short gestation/payback. But sustaining even the existing growth momentum requires developing markets, both domestic and overseas.

The National Egg Coordination Committee's 'Sunday ho ya Monday, roz khao ande' adjectives of the 1980s gave a huge initial boost to egg consumption. What is required is a renewed and focused campaign that promotes egg as a vegetarian food. The so-called hardcore veggies are already moving towards having an occasional cake or homemade ice-cream containing egg. Just a little push, communicating egg's unique nutritional attributes and its likeness with milk as a non-flesh food, can make a huge difference.

Nutritionists term egg as a "reference protein", having to do with its high biological value and digestibility. Its biological value — the proportion of protein ingested and ab-

sorbed, that is absorbed into the body — is 93.7%, the highest for any food after whey protein concentrate.

The urban consumer should be told not only about egg's high protein efficiency ratio, but also its low calorie count. A 50-gram hardboiled egg gives just 77 calories, while packing all the essential amino acids plus Vitamin A, B2 and B12. Benjamin Franklin would have been a good brand ambassador for eggs among diehard vegetarians. As he famously said, "An egg today is better than a hen tomorrow".

There's equal scope to promote backyard poultry through organic branding. Eggs laid by free-range hens, reared in smaller flocks without being fed hormones or antibiotics, can fetch a higher value for farmers.

While domestic consumption should at least double, it is necessary to also focus on exports. India contributes to more than 6% of global egg production, but its share in exports is less than 1%. As against a close No. 3 behind the US in production, we rank lowly 32nd or so in exports, behind even the likes of Turkey and Lithuania. In 2018-19, our export of bird eggs and powder (mainly dried yolk) amounted to a paltry Rs 618 crore. The fact that the country has only a handful of egg processing plants is testimony to the long distance even this most organised of agro-industries has to travel.

The writer is former Secretary, Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying

CROSSWORD 3933



- ACROSS**
- Benefit a few and suffer for it (5)
 - Cursed, having spilt the salt in bed (7)
 - Rubbish put round the hill (3)
 - Its ups and downs may be studied by the pilot (4,5)
 - I join two hundred in a game that's played (7)
 - Money belt (5)
 - Given support or cast out (6)
 - Shy and put out when spots appear (6)
 - A way always short and direct (5)
 - Officer's responsibility given to the men (7)
 - A dog hunts? This sort does (9)
 - Note Eastern animal (3)
 - Apparently an off-day for twelve (7)
 - For those not wishing to take flight (5)
- DOWN**
- A support thus put up is appropriate (7)
 - Take choir in a new version of what may follow 'Jerusalem' (9)
 - Much attached to a game of chance (5)
 - A scoundrel not worth bidding for (3,3)
 - A stiff examination (7)
 - Check the night-flier has turned up (3)
 - Anxiety shown by redhead coming in late (5)
 - Foe had run into unprecedented difficulty (7-2)
 - Had tree replaced, safe from lightning (7)
 - A send-up on board produced melancholy (7)
 - Busy tenant (6)
 - It's South Africa in the sun for her (5)
 - A sitter, for example (5)
 - An attempt in the past (3)

Solutions Crossword 3932: Across: 1 Cradle song, 8 Pecan, 9 Sits out, 10 Opulent, 11 Alpha, 12 Obtuse, 14 Seadog, 17 Roman, 19 Conductor, 21 Peccavi, 22 Begin, 23 Apprehends. Down: 2 Recount, 3 Dance, 4 Ersatz, 5 Outrage, 6 Group, 7 Straighten, 8 Photograph, 13 Sunlamp, 15 Drugged, 16 Active, 18 Mecca, 20 Noble.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

It's a reasonably emotional day when all is said and done, and you may discover rare strains of sentimentality deep in your astrological psyche. Put family members first, and let friends and colleagues wait their turn. What you need is order, where once there was chaos.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

You should not expect to get your way over a professional matter. If you do succeed, all well and good, but otherwise you should be patient and accept that for any ambition to be fulfilled, the time must be right. There's little to be gained from fighting battles you can't win and a great deal to be lost.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

You may be inclined to distance yourself from certain events in your past, and in the future you might concentrate more on schemes designed to broaden your horizons. The crucial factor, though, is how much you can really afford. The first step, then, is to count your cash.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

There will definitely be a few emotional ups and downs today, and even the occasional misunderstanding, most likely around midday. Stay on your toes and keep an eye on the beneficial long-term pattern. And don't get too upset by people who pick up the wrong end of the stick.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

There could be a mystery to solve, perhaps a lost possession or mislaid instructions. There could even be an element of farce if other people fail to keep appointments or just generally miss the point. The best advice? Probably to hang on to your sense of humour.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

Once in a while you are given a moment to pause, to come up for air and take your bearings. This must be one such time, and if you can possibly work out exactly who is doing what, you'll get a very much better notion of your own future role and a good thing, too.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

Events which take place now could make you less inclined to count the cost of a relationship which may have lost its glitter. In other words, be thankful for what you have, and don't expect people to be things they're not. Sometimes happiness flows from appreciating what you've got.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

There are no simple solutions. However, you can ensure that others take you at your word, and give you the necessary backing. The emotional situation at the moment could be rather fraught if you fail to notice that partners require ten times the normal dose of affection.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

You have learnt many harsh lessons in the past, but now you must learn the hardest of all - to trust other people. Fortunately, the emotional issues seem to be slight, so only practical matters need to be faced. Right now, partners will appreciate a businesslike approach.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

Your chart is like a maze, and it's all a question of finding your way to the heart of the matter. For reasons best known to yourself you appear to be caught between two emotional choices. These seem to relate to family members rather than friends or lovers, and the solutions are right under your nose.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

An opportunity which materialises some time over the next few weeks could enable you to make a completely fresh start. The absolutely vital point now is to talk about all your plans, even at the risk of being thought silly. If partners don't understand you, that's their problem.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

You are in a creative mood and, both at work and at home, you should find ways to enjoy even the dullest activities. If you are considering new purchases or investments, keep talking and check the facts. You'll be in a much stronger position if you actually know what's going on.

JUMBLLED 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 quip.

OREBW INOODM
 BNROO AEHRTB

SOLUTION: BOWER, BORN, DOMINO, BATHEN/BREATH. Answer: Is boredom anything less than the sense of one's faculties slowly dying?

SUDOKU 3995

Difficulty Level 5s
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.

3	1			7	5			
9					5	7	1	
			2					
7		9				8		
	5				6		1	
				3				
	3	6	4					9
		5	7				6	8

SOLUTION SUDOKU 3994

5	9	1	4	2	3	6	7	8
7	4	2	8	9	6	3	1	5
8	6	3	5	1	7	4	2	9
4	8	9	1	6	5	7	3	2
2	1	6	7	3	8	5	9	4
3	5	7	9	4	2	1	8	6
9	7	4	6	8	1	2	5	3
1	3	8	2	5	4	9	6	7
6	2	5	3	7	9	8	4	1

Difficulty Level
 1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy;
 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard;
 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

NOTICE BOARD

CORPORATE ASSOCIATE DIARY EVENTS, HONOURS



PROGRAMME-ITPO
 Minister of Defence, Government of India, Rajnath Singh attended an exclusive programme on 'Indian Defence' at India International Security Expo 2019 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, recently.



FOUNDATION STONE-DDA
 Hardeep Singh Puri, MoS (I/C), M/o Housing & Urban Affairs, recently laid the foundation stones of several developmental projects worth Rs 292 cr of the DDA at Dwarka. These include a Golf Course, Sports Complexes, Foot over Bridges, etc.



SHRAMDAAN-REC
 REC organised Shramdaan for plastic waste collection at all of its office locations. The Shramdaan for 'Plastic Recycling', led by CMD Ajeet Agarwal, Dir (Tech) SK Gupta & CVO Sunita Singh, saw participation from the company's employees.



MOU-DFCCIL
 MoU for the construction of Road Over Bridges (ROBs) was inked between DFCCIL, Government of Uttar Pradesh and Indian Railway Zones namely North Central Railway (13 ROBs). These 29 ROBs on the EDFC will be built on a cost-sharing basis in UP.



AWARD-POSOCO
 POSOCO conferred with Zee Business - Delhi Best Employer Brand Awards 2019. The Award was received by Meenakshi Davar, Director (HR), POSOCO on 28th September, 2019 in a glittering function held at New Delhi.

PNB The reduction of the Repo rate by 25 bps to 5.15% by RBI is widely in line with market expectations. Further, RBI has continued with an accommodative stance, suggesting possibility of further rate cuts, if required. This rate cut will perfectly complement the fiscal measures announced by the government to help strengthen private consumption and spur investment activity going forward. Overall liquidity has remained surplus in August and Sept. 2019. In the backdrop of current macroeconomic setting of lower growth and range bound inflation, there may be a case for surplus liquidity to not only uplift the sentiment but also for effective rate transmission.

NTPC In line with the government's vision for a cleaner and greener environment, NTPC Ltd, India's largest power Generation Company, has introduced a complete ban on single use plastic across all its locations including the power stations, offices and residential townships. Further, to reduce use of plastic, the company is encouraging its employees to carry reusable or jute bags which has been provided to them for their daily purpose. On the eve of the birth anniversary of Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi, Gurdeep Singh, CMD, NTPC, emphasised, "on the need to bring out a policy and action plan to implement 'Integrated Plastic Waste Management' in NTPC."

BHEL Amidst stiff ICB, BHEL has bagged a significant order for the Turbine Generator (TG) & associated packages for the greenfield 2x660 MW Khurja Super Thermal Power Project in Bulandshahr district of UP. Valued at around Rs. 1,600 Cr, the order has been placed on BHEL by THDC India Ltd., a Joint Venture of the GOI & the Govt. of UP. BHEL's scope of work in the contract includes design, engineering, manufacture, supply, erection, testing & commissioning of the TG & associated packages for the 2x660 MW Khurja supercritical power project.

Government of Chhattisgarh has initiated many schemes and programs to combat the challenge of malnourishment in children in the state. Bastar & Surguja divisions of Chhattisgarh are the areas which are most affected. Government of Chhattisgarh is providing protein-rich food including eggs and pulses in the tribal areas on a pilot basis. The districts covered under the pilot programme include Bastar, Dantewada, Korba, Surguja, Koriya & few other districts. This scheme is planned to be scaled up to cover the entire state on 02nd Oct. 2019, the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.



EVENT-NHB
 An event organized by M/o Housing & Urban Affairs at Vignyan Bhavan recently, to celebrate World Habitat Day 2019, the MoS (I/C), M/o Housing & Urban Affairs, Hardeep Singh Puri released a Special Issue of NHB's in-house Hindi Magazine Awas Bharti.



INITIATIVE-CANARA BANK
 CUSTOMER OUTREACH INITIATIVE is being organized by Canara Bank in the District-Central Delhi recently under the guidelines of Department of Financial Services, M/o Finance. Canara Bank is the Lead Bank in Central Delhi District.



ACQUISITION-NHPC
 B Joshi, CMD, NHPC addressed in presence of A Kumar, JS (Hydro), M/o Power & R Kumar, Dir (Proj), NK Jain, Dir (Pers) & others from NHPC on occasion of signing of Definitive Agreement for acquisition of 500 MW Teesta VI HEP by NHPC.

PAKHWADA-DFCCIL
 The Rajbhasha Pakhwada (Fortnight) culminated with the distribution of prizes to the winners of numerous competitions by Anurag Sachan, MD, DFCCIL at the Corporate Office recently. At the ceremony attended by employees & staff.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, ALLAHABAD

E-Tendering Tender Notice Jhansi Division

Divisional Railway Manager (Works) N.C. Railway, Jhansi, for and on behalf of President of India invites sealed "Open Tender" through on line (E-Tendering) for the following works.

Description of work	E-Tender No.	Approx Cost (₹)	Earnest Money (₹)	Cost of Tender Form (₹)
Supply of potable drinking water at Banda, Mahoba, Khajuraho, Bharatkoop stations & other location under Sr DEN/East sub division for 02 years.	JHS-Engg-E-2019-157	₹ 3790545.40	₹ 75800.00	₹ 3150.00

Date of closing Tender: 13.11.2019 at 15.00 hrs. Date of completion / period from issue acceptance letter: 24 Months. * Tender online can be submitted up to 15.00 hrs on 13.11.2019. * For full details and submission of bid, please see the Indian Railway website www.irps.gov.in. 1443/19 FA

North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in railway northcentral@CPONCR

Government of Jharkhand
Dr. Ram Dayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute
 Department of Schedule Tribe, Schedule Caste, Minorities, and Backward Classes
 Welfare Department, Morabadi, Ranchi - 834008
 Tel: 0651-2551824 e-mail: tri.directorate@gmail.com / dir-triranchi@gov.in

Lt. No- 1246 Ranchi, Dated: 04.10.2019

Corrigendum P.R. No. 216884

The Expression of Interest on Ref. No. 1078 Dated 13.09.2019 has been deferred due to unavoidable circumstances. The last date of submission and opening of the tender has been rescheduled as given below:-

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Date of Submission As per Tender	Rescheduled date of submission	Date of opening as per tender	Rescheduled date of opening
1.	Study of History of Singhbhum from Ancient to British Period.	10/10/2019	21/10/2019	16/10/2019	25/10/2019

In this connection, the eligible firm/ agency /institution/ organisation are requested to submit their tender and present at opening as per rescheduled date and time. Sd/-
 PR 219076 Welfare (19-20)_D बंद - बंद नहीं करते तो बंद को तरसेंगे Director

झारखण्ड सरकार
पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग
ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट सूचना
 (द्वितीय आमंत्रण)

ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या - (तेनुघाट) (DMFT)08/2019-20 तिथि - 04.10.2019

No.	Name of the Work	Approximate Cost
1	Detailed survey, designing and drawing, Construction of R.C.C. Intake Well cum Pump House, R.C.C. Gangway 80 M long and 3.00 M wide, Infiltration Gallery, 1.00 MLD capacity Unconventional Water Treatment Plant, RCC Elevated Service Reservoir - (i) 1.50 Lakh Litre capacity with 13 M Staging, Staff Quarter, Compound wall, Approach road, Supplying and laying Raw and Clear Water rising main and Distribution Network, House Connection, Supplying and Installation of VT and Centrifugal pump motor, Five years operation & maintenance with allied works etc. all complete job for Dharwatand village Rural pipe Water Supply Scheme under D.W. & S. Division Tenughat on turnkey basis." 2019-20	21.10.2019 समय 04.00 बजे अपराह्न तक
2	प्राकल्पित राशि	516.69 लाख
3	अग्रधन की राशि	5.17 लाख
4	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	10000.00
5	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	24 माह (3 माह ट्रायल रन की अवधि सहित)
6	वेबसाइट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि	05.10.2019 समय 02.00 बजे अपराह्न तक
7	प्रो बीड निविदा की तिथि	11.10.2019 समय 12.30 बजे अपराह्न तक
8	निविदा प्राप्ति (ऑन लाइन बिडींग) की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	19.10.2019 समय 05.00 बजे अपराह्न तक
9	पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, तेनुघाट/अधीक्षण अभियंता का कार्यालय, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता अंचल धनबाद/क्षेत्रीय मुख्य अभियंता का कार्यालय, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग दुमका प्रखंड दुमका में परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य एवं अग्रधन के राशि की मूल प्रति जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	21.10.2019 समय 04.00 बजे अपराह्न तक
10	तकनीकी विड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	22.10.2019 समय 12:30 बजे अपराह्न
11	तकनीकी विड खोलने का स्थान	अधीक्षण अभियंता का कार्यालय पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता अंचल, धनबाद।
12	निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम/पदनाम	ई0 राम प्रवेश राम, कार्यपालक अभियंता, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, तेनुघाट।
13	निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले कार्यालय का टेलिफोन नं०	9430153040, 9430475767
14	ई- प्रोक्योरमेंट सेल का हेल्प लाइन नं०	0651-2480345

नोट - केवल ई निविदा ही स्वीकार किये जायेंगे।
 ऐसे सम्बद्ध जिन्हें पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग झारखण्ड सरकार का निबंधन प्राप्त नहीं है वे भी निविदा में नाग ले सकते हैं वशत कि वेसे सम्बद्ध को कार्य आवंटित की तिथि से दो माह के अंदर पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग झारखण्ड सरकार से निबंधन पत्र प्राप्त कर लेना अनिवार्य होगा। अधिक जानकारी के लिए वेबसाइट <http://jharkhandtender.gov.in> पर देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
 पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, तेनुघाट।

P.R.219075 Drinking Water and Sanitation(19-20):D



TIME TO UNPLUG

A green cardigan worn by late singer Kurt Cobain at Nirvana's MTV Unplugged performance and his Fender guitar from 1993 will be auctioned by Julien's Auctions on October 25 and 26. The other items of rock memorabilia going under the hammer include handwritten lyrics penned by Bob Dylan and Eric Clapton.

A still from *Diego Maradona* (above); Asif Kapadia with Maradona

'I'm only interested in making films about difficult subjects'

Four-time BAFTA and 2016 Oscar winner, British filmmaker Asif Kapadia talks about Diego Maradona, the subject of his third documentary about child geniuses, how documentaries are constructed realities, and why the Argentine legend hasn't watched his film yet

ANUSHREE MAJUMDAR

ASIF KAPADIA'S *Diego Maradona* begins with a car chase in Naples, a heady five-minute sequence that is slightly reminiscent of *The Italian Job* (1969), what with the camera on the dashboard of a car; it's not gazing at snow-capped mountains, but following a blue car that jerks and speeds ahead. It's a fantastic run-up to that moment on July 5, 1984, when 75,000 fans filled up an entire stadium to meet the diminutive Argentine genius for the first time. After tracing the life and tragic deaths of the prodigiously talented F1 racing driver Ayrton Senna, and the British singer-songwriter Amy Winehouse, Kapadia, 47, turns his attention to Maradona. In the seven years he lived and played in Italy, Maradona became a cultural and almost religious icon in Naples — only to fall from grace in a way he could never recover from. Excerpts:

Under one of the YouTube links for the trailer of your latest film, *Diego Maradona*, somebody commented: "Maradona's life didn't go wrong. His life went LIFE." What do you make of that?

I agree. I'm not saying that his life went wrong, but I'm interested in 'how did that happen?' What I want is to show that journey, to show how life is, because no one really plans how they get to a certain place.

Your feature films, *The Warrior*, and *Far North*, also put people in extreme conditions. They're very Shakespearean in their plot and treatment.

Yes, they're all tragedies. *Diego Maradona*

is like a Greek tragedy. There's no drama without conflict. Or else what's the point? I like the idea of taking someone's life and expressing it via a classical perspective.

In all your documentaries so far, you're tracing the apotheosis of an individual, how with their talent, they attain nearly god-like status in their respective fields, before they fly too close to the sun or in Senna's case, an accident ends their life.

I'm genuinely interested in the psychology of these characters. I want to see how their background, their appearance, their relationships and their environment affects them. With *Amy*, it was a conscious decision to make the viewers feel complicit about what happened to Amy Winehouse. It was about her and her life, but it was also about the media and us, how we played a part in her story. I wanted to turn the camera around and say, that we did this, we're doing this now. When we click on the link of somebody doing something crazy, when we're laughing at them or sharing pictures and videos — people dressed up as Amy Winehouse for Halloween! I made *Amy* to comment on where I'm from, but in a way, it worked for everyone.

The empathy we felt while watching *Amy*, would you say that it's hard to do that for somebody like Maradona?

Yes, and that was the reason to do it. I'm

only interested in making films about difficult subjects. I'm not saying he's Senna or Amy — he is complicated in different ways. I don't think any of us can live life in a certain way and still be the innocent person that we once were. He was Diego and he became Maradona. I felt like I was interviewing this 58-year-old man in Dubai but I was making a film about somebody else. Even though it's his life story, I felt that his memory and his version of events are not necessarily the most reliable; people around him at that time had a different version. But you can't ignore him, that's what he wants, and perhaps, that's what I've given him as well.



Your style of documentary filmmaking has changed the genre — no talking heads, heavy use of archival footage from the family and the press, very impactful background score. You've said the documentary form isn't as realistic as people make it out to be.

Yes, it's all about constructed reality. You have to do a lot of cheating to find the truth. You have to take images and join them together, so that they say something that wasn't there before — that's what cinema is, it's all about lying. The idea that documentaries are more honest and truthful is rubbish. We use slow-mo, music, sound design — it's accentuated and conflated reality. You have to use every trick in the book — our films are more technically complex than most fiction films are.

You're also famous for not working to a script.

There was no script on *Amy* or *Diego Maradona* but what I do have is post-it notes and a whiteboard. I draw out the film like a map.

In interviews, you talk about how your films are about putting your fingerprint on a particular subject. How would you describe that?

Hmm, I don't know if I can. I'm interested in outsiders, those who aren't the best examples of society, and I'm interested in humanising them.

After *Amy* won the Oscar for Best Documentary, Maradona shared that you were making a film about him. Now that it's done, why do you think he won't watch it?

Has anyone even told him that it's ready? (laughs) His entourage might not have. Sometimes, famous people have a bad reputation for being difficult or ignoring you, but then you realise that they didn't know you were trying to contact them. I've tried to show it to him many times — I went to Argentina two weeks ago, but they wouldn't let me see him. But he's going to watch it at home because everybody has and they are talking about it. If somebody posts about it on Facebook, his reaction will come out on Instagram soon (laughs).

I read that you tried to touch his left foot when you went to interview him. Did you?

I did. I haven't washed my hand since.

Coming of Age

Ragini Ahuja's stellar show kicked off the first day of India Fashion Week



EKTA MALIK

FOR A fashion week which is attempting to embrace the hashtag and idea of "#myfashionmytribe", the Lotus Make-up India Fashion Week (LMIFW) and the Fashion Design Council Of India (FDCI) could not have asked for a better opening show. Delhi-based designer Ragini Ahuja, who presents her work under the label Ikai, showcased her show titled 'Quwa' and kicked off the Spring Summer 2020 edition of the LMIFW.

Her collection invoked the nomadic cultures of Persia, Uzbekistan, Tibet and Arabia and was accompanied by percussion-heavy African music. The show was low on drama; even the make-up was kept subtle. The models sashayed down the ramp in multi-coloured braided barefoot sandals, with their hair in matching braids. The show was presented on a ramp that had built-in steps and had been inlaid with carpets.

Ahuja's collection was heavy on the layers, with long jackets, flowy capes, and bolero jackets juxtaposed with loose cotton trousers among others. The humble salwar-kurta-dupatta was also presented, but the salwar was replaced by slim pants. There was a rare sighting too, a sari (a simple white number with a floral applique border). Stand alone tunics, skirts and dresses, too, were a part of the collection.

Staying true to her 'anti-fit' mantra and high wearability factor, the clothes would not seem out of place at an office, a picnic and even a dressy occasion. 'Quwa' marks the coming of age for Ahuja. Her last showcase at FDCI, a cou-

Models in designer Ragini Ahuja's creations

ple of years ago, had more whites and the designs reflected her search for a footing. She had showcased 'Clan' then which was inspired by tribal narratives and motifs. With 'Quwa', she seems to have found her ground.

The show opened with a tangerine ensemble which featured an open jacket and pants, and it just got bolder. "I have used the accents of fire, the various hues that we see in an open flame," said the designer. "Hence the mint tea, and the navy blue, and of course rust and beige," she added.

There were also more busy and floral motifs which were created using applique embroidery on silk and chanderi. Linear patterns were created using thread work. "This show has been all about empowerment. After being in the industry for a while, you evolve and you finally get to a place where you know what is it that you want to do. This show is that point in my life," said Ahuja, who graduated from National Institute of Fashion Design, New Delhi. Experience, or the fact that her label has now been favoured by the ilk of Kareena Kapoor Khan, things are certainly working out for the designer.



SNAP SHOTS



King Khan Meets David Letterman

DESCRIBING HIS latest guest as the 'most popular movie star in the world', renowned talk show host David Letterman will be seen interviewing actor Shah Rukh Khan in *My Next Guest Needs No Introduction With David Letterman* on October 25. Letterman will be seen engaging with the actor in a standalone interview for Netflix. Khan, who has lately produced *Bard of Blood* and was last seen in *Zero*, said in a statement, "I'm a huge fan of his style of interviewing. I'm thrilled, and honoured to share my story with him."

Out in the Open

AFTER EXPLODING the inside tale of Cambridge Analytica last year in March, whistleblower Christopher Wylie reveals details surrounding the political consultancy firm yet again in his memoir *Mindf*ck: Inside Cambridge Analytica's Plot to Break the World*, in-



Loan Denied

RENAISSANCE ARTIST Leonardo da Vinci's famed 1490 drawing *Vitruvian Man* (pictured), showing a man with his arms and legs spread out like an eagle's wings and currently in Venice, has been stopped by an Italian court to grace the master's retrospective at the Louvre in Paris beginning this month. Citing the fragility of the work and that there was a risk of being damaged by the lighting in the Louvre if displayed for a long period, the move — conveyed by the Tribunale Amministrativo Regionale (TAR) in Venice — was announced after the non-profit group Italia Nostra protested against the lending of the artwork.

cluding the alleged psychological manipulation that led to the US President Donald Trump's election. The book by the Canadian data scientist, released in India through Hachette, digs deep into how Cambridge Analytica got hold of nearly 87 million Facebook users and gives an overview of the allegedly rigged elections.



Craft in Action

Indian crafts converge at one of the world's largest virtual exhibitions on the strength of technology, images and real-life stories

SHINY VARGHESE

WHEN A design is hidden within punch cards, and lifeless animal hide takes divine forms, when the task at hand asks for purity of mind and body, and one travels the world on the point of a needle, that's when crafts in India come alive. And then, a Banarasi sari takes shape, a leather puppet from Andhra Pradesh tells the story of gods, and a Kashmiri shawl opens up a garden full of flowers. Capturing processes and stories, is "Crafted in India", one of the world's largest virtual exhibitions, an initiative of Google

Arts & Culture, in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism, Dastkari Haat Samiti and 20 other cultural institutions. From fabrics and embroidery, wall paintings to stonework, metal casting to wood carving, it is an immersive experience with some of India's oldest crafts.

Until now, bazaars and melas were possibly the only route for those in cities to engage with craftspeople. One often didn't know their names or how they lived, what their homes looked like or how they produced the final product. "Crafted in India" changes the way we understand and appreciate the intensity of their work, their pur-



(From left to right) A screen printed Mata Ni Pachedi textile; Channapatna toys; miniature metallic insect made by Rajasthan's Gadiya Lohar community

suit for perfection and the skill of their hands, feet and minds. From 29 states, over 50 crafts, more than 280 online exhibitions, and over 11,000 images and videos, there are stories waiting to be told at the click of a button — of how embossed wax figures turn from soot black to golden brass in the bell metal craft of Payyanur; how the warrior village of Konoma in Nagaland finds a place for every member in every family in its basket-weaving tradition; how a textile shrine of the Mata Ni Pachedi from Gujarat becomes the way to reach the altar of the gods; or how a king fascinated by a Persian toy inspired the tradition of Channapatna lacquer toys.

"Through imagery, we wanted to tell a deeper story of Indian crafts and its people. India proves itself as a country of multiple cultural stories that carry different traditions, communities, languages, styles of dressing and lifestyles," says Jaya Jaitly, President, Dastkari Haat Samiti. At the launch of the virtual platform on Monday, Jaitly spoke of how Google was a word alien to most craftspeople until now, where they have a platform to

showcase their work internationally. She added that for them, more than money, craft was the search for faith in their heritage.

One sees it in the shawls that 29-year-old Shaquib Ali Beigh had brought to Delhi, where the skill of Kashmiri sozni embroidery speaks of centuries-old designs being brought to life, how communities are bound by silken threads and a centimetre of space holds over 500 stitches. We see a way of life come into being when Hazari Lal from the Gadiya community of blacksmiths from Rajasthan displays his miniature metal crafts in the detailing of beetles and crickets.

Amit Sood, Senior Director, Google Arts & Culture, spoke of the power of Indian craft, in its ability to tell stories. "This project puts the spotlight on handicraft traditions and celebrates the people behind them," he says. A convergence of over three decades of work by the Samiti and the technological finesse of Google, through various formats and themes, the platform opens up a panoramic view of how craft comes alive.

'Now we don't need to push Shami anymore'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PUNE, OCTOBER 9

INDIA CAPTAIN Virat Kohli is happy that his team has "bought" into the philosophy of "selfless attitude" and "flexible thinking" which has led to a transformed Mohammed Shami and an aware Kuldeep Yadav.

"Now, he (Shami) is taking the responsibility. We don't need to push Shami anymore. We don't need to tell him 'come on, you need to bowl this spell for us'. He wants the ball, he understands the situation when he's given the ball," Kohli said on the eve of the second Test here on Wednesday.

If Shami is at one end of the spectrum, there is young chinaman Kuldeep, who must be wondering where he has gone wrong after having picked up five wickets in the last Test that he played (against Australia at Sydney). The skipper said that even Kuldeep knows the reason why he is not in the Test eleven.

"No one is self-centered and everyone is thinking about what I can do for the team. It's the same about Kuldeep. He understands that in India, Ashwin and Jadeja will be our first choices because they give us so much more with the bat as well."

In the past few years, the Indian team management has often changed their combinations going into successive Tests and skipper Kohli wants everyone to see the results and understand why it has been done.

"Lot has been spoken and said about the system that we have followed over the last two years. The only thing that matters to us is wanting to win as many games as we can and have been able to do that," said Kohli. "We have the least losing percentage in the last three years and there is a good reason for that. We obviously are flexible but as I said it can't be possible if the team doesn't buy into it. The guys have bought into it," said Kohli, who has lost only one Test (vs Australia at Pune in 2017) at home as the Indian captain.

Talking about Shami, the skipper once again spoke about how Shami's ability to get movement off the pitch makes him deadly even on the most unsuitable surfaces for fast bowling. "I think on the pitches we play, I don't see anyone with so much seam movement apart from him (Shami)," the skipper said.

What makes Shami stand apart is his ability to do it regularly when situations look hopeless. "He is someone who can change the complexion of the match totally when you don't see it coming. His skill is obviously there for everyone to see. Especially, in the second innings, when the situations are difficult he comes in and does the job every-time. It's great," said Kohli.

'Double points for away wins'

The World Test Championship has already raised the excitement level in the longest format with points on offer for every match but an away win should earn a team double that is awarded for a victory at home, Kohli said on Wednesday. The Championship will see the top nine test nations face-off over a two-year period, scoring points based on their success and culminating in a final at Lord's in June 2021.

World's top-ranked Test side India lead the standings with three wins from as many matches with away victories against West Indies and the win over South Africa.

"The importance of every game has become that much more," Kohli told reporters. "In situations in a three-match series (where) you probably would have played out a draw, teams are going to go for wins and get those extra points."

I think it's great for Test cricket, the matches are going to be that much more exciting is what we all feel and we can already experience that. If you would have asked me to make the points table, I would give double the points for an away Test win. That is something I would definitely have liked to see, maybe after the first edition."

—REUTERS



SHOT MAKER

Net bowlers take selfies with Rohit Sharma on the sidelines of a practice session in Pune on Wednesday. The second India-SA Test begins here on Thursday. Arul Horizon

What SA need: Luck and pluck

Faf laments luck with coin, but history shows visitors need to make every post a winner even when they win toss

SANDIPG
PUNE, OCTOBER 9

IT PROBABLY had to do with the timing of the question. After Sri Lanka had run roughshod over South Africa in Galle last year, bundling out the visitors for a meagre 73, South Africa captain Faf du Plessis was queried whether he would be happy if the concept of toss was scrapped, one of ICC's plans to reduce home advantage for its World Test Championship. Instead, the away skipper could decide whether to bat or bowl first.

"I'm a big fan of taking away the toss. I would have been a happier captain now," du Plessis gleefully remarked.

It might have been an opinion forged by his own experiences with the toss. Of the four times he has won the toss, the Indian skipper went on to win three times, denied a fourth by unrelenting showers in Sydney.

While winning the toss alone is not the most decisive factor in the outcome of a Test, it does have a bearing on the result, especially in the subcontinent. The strips were considerably less devilish compared to some of them Du Plessis had encountered on his previous trip. The Visakhapatnam pitch was no Nagpur clone, but winning the toss still presents the best route to win in the subcontinent for touring sides.

Losing it could be the first psychological blow for the visitors, culminating in the mere thought of batting last, whether on the fourth

day or fifth. They begin on the back-foot, intimidated by the proposition to bowl when the surface is at its prime for batting and to bat when the strip is at its worst for batting.

Rarely ever has there been a bowl-first wicket in India this century — perhaps the Nagpur one in 2004 or, more recently, a monsoon-ridden surface in Kolkata last year. But largely, there is neither wicked lateral movement or sharp turn. Fuelling the woes, the visitors — on losing the toss — come up against a group of relentless Indian line-up, which has perfected the art of forensically batting out the opposition. Add the scorching temperatures, and the opposition bowlers are blown away.

From thereon, the contests assume a predictable pattern and ends with another morale-crushing defeat. Admitted South Africa's lead-spinner Keshav Maharaj after labouring on the first day in Vizag, an archetypal first-day subcontinent wicket, where the surface had enough pace for fluid stroke-making, but not enough pace for speedsters to bully batsmen. There was turn, but not enough to examine the Indian batsmen. "The toss does play a role because you want the best conditions for the spinners to bowl in, which we didn't get," he said.

But by the time the Indian spinners strode in with a cushion of 502 runs, the strip had begun to take turn, not outrageous snake-pit deviation off the surface, but enough for the highly versatile Ravichandran Ashwin to unfurl his vaunted tricks.

The lofty first-innings total too was vital, as India could set aggressive fields even when the batsmen were looking to take the bowlers on. While Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja could be expected to out-bowl their counterparts even on the first day, the best chance to put India and their spinners under pressure is to win the toss and bat first.

In fact, the few instances under Kohli wherein they had been relatively ineffective came when they had lost the toss and were made to bowl on the first day of a Test match. The series against England and Australia were classic instances.

Barring a first-innings meltdown in Mohali,



Faf du Plessis would love to have his rotten luck with the coin in the subcontinent turn upside down.

England piled up competitive first-innings totals — 537 in Rajkot, 400 in Mumbai and 477 in Chennai. Australia conjured 260 (on a Pune dust bowl), 451 in Ranchi and 300 in Dharamshala (where Ajinkya Rahane had captained).

It's a different story that India still managed to win both the series — it required marathon efforts from their batsmen — but they won only three of the six Tests, lost the one in Pune and sweated to draw the Rajkot match. Contrastingly, Kohli has won all but one of the nine games when he had clinched the toss, the exception being the Sri Lanka match in Delhi the year before.

A slim ray of hope

So while losing the toss can be as good as bracing for an eventual, winning the toss at least offers a slim ray of hope. With the regimented bowling firm Kohli has at his disposal — even without Jasprit Bumrah, they seem as

invulnerable as they're unrelenting — opposition batsmen can still be blown away, but batting on the first day of a Test match offers the best chance for a non-subcontinental team to put this brilliant team under some pressure.

The sun would be blazing, Ishant Sharma and Mohammed Shami ploughing without much assistance — it's when the ball gets older that they become dangerous — Ashwin and Jadeja forced to rely on flight and drift than turn off the surface, the surface is at its quickest, the bowlers without the cushion of chunky first-innings totals.

Of course, it requires a lot of application from the batsmen, but if they do manage to blunt them, the pressure is reversed, desperation kicks in, the close-in cordon disappears, and the surface becomes a promised subcontinental batting paradise.

As significantly, lingers the possibility of making India batting last, which they have rarely done in meaningful contexts. Often, they're tasked to chase a pittance of runs. But two instances where they were considerably pressured were against England in Rajkot and Australia in Pune. It required the skipper's defiance (unbeaten 49) in Rajkot, while in Pune they had no answers to the wares of little-known left-arm spinner Steve O'Keefe.

But to push India to bat on the fourth-fifth day, they still had to prise out a substantial lead. It's where England faltered, as they let India rack up 418, 417, 631 and 759 in those Tests when the hosts batted second. Australia ended up conceding 603 in Ranchi.

In effect, even winning the toss and batting first isn't guaranteed good news, not even a job half-done premise. They should complement the stroke of fortune with obvious factors of reading the conditions correctly, picking the best condition-specific combination, and playing meticulous cricket. But in the accident of a coin flipped lies the best hope of South Africa spicing up the series, pushing India to the edge of a precipice and halting the ruthless winning machine.

The next best thing for du Plessis after the ICC nipped the toss-scrap idea in the bud.

Heads I win, tails you lose

ALWAYS A difficult place for visiting teams, under Virat Kohli, India have become almost invincible at home. Since 2015, when the Kohli era began, India have played 24 matches at home, winning 18 and losing only one. Of late, it's been postulated that toss advantage trumps home advantage. At least in India's case, it's not true. Even when they lose the toss, they often find a way to win. At home, so far, Kohli has lost 10 tosses. India have come back to win on six of those occasions and drawn on three others. Their solitary home defeat in four years, though, came after losing the toss.

WINS AFTER LOSING TOSS

Vs Eng, 2016, Mohali

WINNING THE toss is a help, but a team needs to capitalise on the good fortune by putting up big totals. England didn't do that — as scores of 283 and 236 would attest. To compound the agony, they allowed the Indian lower order to more than double the first innings score after the hosts were reduced to 204/6. Once in the driver's seat, India never looked back and sealed an eight-wicket win.

Vs Eng, 2016, Mumbai

PUTTING UP 400 on the board after winning the toss could be termed a decent effort. But Alastair Cook and his men had few answers as Virat Kohli and Co. went about dwarfing that score. A lead of 231 led to an innings victory as England had to bat on the fourth and fifth days with Ravichandran Ashwin playing havoc.

Vs Eng, 2016, Chennai

EVEN 477 in the first innings wasn't enough as Karun Nair's triple ton and KL Rahul's 199 set the stage for the Ravindra Jadeja show and another rout.

Vs Aus, 2017, Dharamshala

SMITH AND David Warner had put the Aussies in a strong position, but once debutant chinaman Kuldeep Yadav got amongst them, the visitors fell for a below-par total. But it still needed a gutsy lower-order batting effort to squeeze out a slim Indian first-innings lead. Once ahead in the game, the hosts never allowed the Australians a way back and sealed a series triumph.

Vs SL, 2017, Nagpur

SOMETIMES, THE gulf in class between the two sides makes the toss irrelevant. The visitors called correctly but could muster only 205 and 166 in their two innings against a relentless Indian pace-spin combination. The Indian batsmen made merry en route an innings-and-239-run romp.

Vs WI, 2018, Hyderabad

ON OCCASIONS, the visiting team competes admirably for the first half of the match before fading away. Scores of 311 and 367 promised an engrossing second-innings contest, but the men from the Caribbean were bowled out cheaply in their second essay and India cantered to a win.

LOSS AFTER LOSING TOSS

Vs Australia, 2017, Pune

AUSTRALIA REAPED the rewards of winning the toss on a diabolical pitch. While a first innings score of 260 doesn't seem much, it turned out to be plenty as journeyman left-arm spinner Steve O'Keefe and Steve Smith's second-innings masterclass sealed a comprehensive victory.



TRACK RECORD

Intrigue surrounds Pune pitch, which has ranged from paata to sandpit

DEVENDRA PANDEY
PUNE, OCTOBER 9

IT'S HARD to ignore the cricket pitch in Pune, especially as the ICC rated it 'poor and not to international standards' last time India played a Test here in 2017. That one for the Australia game was a sandpit and six months later, more controversy hit the venue as local curator Pandurang Salgaonkar was caught in a TV sting operation for 'malpractice'.

All that background has meant the authorities are tight-lipped about the match pitch. There has been heavy rain in the last couple of weeks which has hampered preparation. The sun peeps out in the day but the city and the ground has been drenched by evening rains. India might have desired a turning track but with the elements playing

havoc, they might not get it.

Sources in the Indian team say that they don't expect it to be a turner. And if the ground authorities don't shave off the grass, it might be a *paata* (batting track). It does seem a dry pitch but with rain around and the surface under covers, some moisture is expected on the first day at least.

The South African camp wants to wait till the morning of the match to see the effects of grass-removal on the pitch, though they also concede, in private, that as of now it doesn't look like a turner. They have also been a bit spooked out by the fact that they have been losing tosses regularly since the last time they were in India.

As India concluded their practice session, the team management gathered for a close look at the track. Skipper Virat Kohli, who had just finished the presser, joined Rohit

Sharma, head coach Ravi Shastri, bowling coach Bharat Arun and batting coach Vikram Rathour. Soon Salgaonkar too joined them along with the ground staff.

Unprecedented rains

The drainage system at the ground is efficient but unprecedented rain last week could have an effect. The association covers only the centre square and the outfield is kept uncovered as it's sand-based and they reckon a game can restart within half an hour of heavy rain.

In domestic cricket, the players joke about it being a road though last year, the two Ranji Trophy games played here were won outright. But it certainly does change in character during international games. At times, it turns out to be a sandpit as it was in the Test against Australia. It has also helped seamers

as it did in an ODI against Sri Lanka. No one is sure about how the current pitch would play.

Officially, the Indians said they weren't too fussed about the track.

"The pitch can very well change with so much sun over the last three days. If there's a bit of moisture that's gone into the pitch, yeah it should be a good pitch to play on for seamers initially, and the ball does tend to turn here and batsmen for the first two days tend to get runs here with the quick outfield. We will have to play good cricket regardless of how the pitch plays. If it's damp so be it, if it's hard and good to bat on, we have to bat well or bowl well. None of us know how the pitch will behave tomorrow morning," Kohli said.

It's clear the first day will provide some assistance to bowlers, but the track does tend to help batsmen as the match progresses. It could be a tricky decision to make at the toss.



Ravichandran Ashwin tries his (left) hand at left-arm spin. AP

In and out: Chopra told to withdraw from Open nationals at the 11th hour

NIHAL KOSHIE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 9

IN LESS than 12 hours, star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra went from being the main attraction at the 59th National Open Athletics Championships in Ranchi — where he was scheduled to make a comeback after being on the sidelines for over a year because of an injury — to extending his rehabilitation.

The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) had also tweeted about his comeback to drum up interest around the competition which begins on Thursday.

Yet, within a few hours of releasing a statement in which Chopra was quoted as saying 'I really want to get back to the competition mode' and 'doctors have said I am ok to compete', a top AFI official confirmed that Chopra would not be participating in the championships.

Chopra's name was in the entry list of the men's javelin event but he was asked to withdraw after coaches felt he had not re-

covered sufficiently following an elbow surgery in May.

"Neeraj Chopra is not ready for competition yet. We had a discussion between the high performance director Volker Herrmann, bio-mechanics expert Dr. Klaus (Bartonietz), and deputy chief coach Radhakrishnan Nair, and were of the view that it was a bit early for him to return to competition. We decided that we should find him a competition a few months later in Europe. But at this point it is a little too risky to let him participate," AFI president Adille Sumariwalla told *The Indian Express*. "We have told him not to participate and so we don't expect him to participate."

Incidentally, Chopra wanted to participate in the World Championships in Doha too but the AFI had to put its foot down.

Chopra is yet to qualify for the Tokyo Olympics, the qualification period for which began on May 1 this year. With the World Championships coming to an end on Sunday, competitions in the rest of the year will be few and far between.

Chopra's keenness to compete is under-

"I really want to get back to the competition mode. And since this is the last competition of the season, I want to use it to get into that feeling of competition. I have spoken to my doctors and they have said I am okay to compete."



NEERAJ CHOPRA
IN AN AFI RELEASE

standable as he has been undergoing a period of rehabilitation and recovery since the surgery in May.

He had met qualification standards for the Worlds when he registered a distance of 83.90 metres at the All India Inter-Services Athletics Championships at Jalahalli in September last year.

Watching the world championships

Neeraj is not ready for competition yet. We had a discussion between high performance director Herrmann, bio-mechanics expert Dr. Klaus and deputy coach Nair, and were of the view that it was a bit early for him to return to competition.



ADILLE SUMARIWALLA
AFI PRESIDENT

would have provided Chopra a feeling of 'what if' as the gold was bagged by Grenada's Anderson Peters, who registered a distance of 86.69 metres. Chopra's personal best stands at 88.06 metres, the throw which earned him the gold at the Asian Games.

Chopra had first felt discomfort in his elbow in November last year after winning gold medals at the Asian Games and the

Commonwealth Games. For a while on Wednesday, it seemed certain that Chopra would make a highly anticipated comeback. "Back in business, everyone's super star, the one and only... Neeraj Chopra is all set to take the field at the 59th National Open Senior Athletics Championships," the AFI had tweeted from its handle on Wednesday morning.

Chopra was also quoted in an AFI release as saying: "I really want to get back to the competition mode. And since this is the last competition of the season, I want to use it to get into that feeling of competition. I have spoken to my doctors and they have said I am okay to compete. I am feeling good. I started training in Patiala a few weeks back and the throws are going well."

However, after assessing Chopra's current condition and advising him to withdraw from the Open championships, Sumariwalla added: "He is recovering and throwing in practice. He is doing physiotherapy and is on a very good wicket at the moment but we don't want him to give 'extra jerk' during a competition in an effort to win a medal."

Chopra could not be contacted on Thursday.

Four-year ban for Sheoran

Monaco: Sprinter Nirmala Sheoran has been stripped off her two Asian Championships gold medals and banned for four years by the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU), which manages track and field doping cases. The AIU came out with the order to ban Nirmala on October 7 for testing positive for steroids drostanolone and metenolone at a competition back home in June 2018. According to AIU, the Indian athlete, whose biological passport also showed irregular blood readings, accepted the sanction and did not request for a hearing.

The period of her ban started from June 28, 2018. Her results from August 2016 to November 2018 were also struck off.

Nirmala had won gold medals in the 400m and 4x400m relay at the 2017 Asian Championships in India. She also ran in both the events at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics. PTI

Borgohain, Boro add to quarterfinal crowd

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ULAN-UDE (RUSSIA), OCTOBER 9

Last edition's bronze-winner Lovlina Borgohain (69kg) and debutant Jamuna Boro (54kg) on Wednesday marched into the quarterfinals of the World Women's Boxing Championships with comprehensive victories in the pre-quarters here.

Boro outpunched fifth-seeded Algerian Ouidad Sfour, an African Games gold-medallist, in a unanimous verdict, while the third-seeded Borgohain got the better of a sprightly opponent in Morocco's Oumayma Bel Ahbib, also a 5-0 win.

In the quarterfinals on Thursday, Boro will take on Germany's Ursula Gottlob, who upstaged European Championship bronze-medallist and fourth seed Yuliya Apanasovich of Belarus in her pre-quarterfinal bout in a split 3-2 verdict. The referee mistakenly raised Apanasovich's hand at the end of the fight but later corrected himself.

Next up for Borgohain is sixth-seeded Karolina Koszewska, who defeated Uzbekistan's Shakhnoza Yunusova. Poland's Koszewska had claimed a gold medal at this year's European Games. Boro opened the proceedings for India and the 22-year-old Assam Rifles' employee was slow off the blocks. However, she became the dominating aggressor as the bout progressed.

During an engaging battle in the second and third round, it was Boro who made a better impression with her cleanly-struck straight punches. The third round belonged entirely to Boro with Sfour coming short for most part.

The Assamese, whose mother worked as a vegetable seller to financially support her sporting aspirations, is a gold-winner from this year's India Open. She was a bronze-medallist at the 2015 Youth World Championships. "I was a bit confused to start with but then I figured how to push her and managed to pull off a victory," Boro said.

The last bout of the first session featured Borgohain and she also took time to find her rhythm against Ahbib. What was striking about Borgohain's gameplan was her resolve to keep distance from Ahbib, who tried her best to draw the Indian in with aggressive posturing. The Moroccan did succeed in flinging her arms for a few impactful jabs but Borgohain had last laugh with counter-attacks, which were more effective in garnering scoring punches. "It wasn't particularly flinging her arms for a few impactful jabs but Borgohain had last laugh with counter-attacks, which were more effective in garnering scoring punches. "It wasn't particularly flinging her arms for a few impactful jabs but Borgohain had last laugh with counter-attacks, which were more effective in garnering scoring punches. "It wasn't particularly flinging her arms for a few impactful jabs but Borgohain had last laugh with counter-attacks, which were more effective in garnering scoring punches."

In all, five Indians have made the quarterfinals of the mega-event.

Six-time champion and third seed M C Mary Kom (51kg), Manju Rani (48kg) and Kavita Chahal (+81kg) are the other Indians



Jamuna Boro (54 kg) beat fifth-seeded Algeria Ouidad Sfour to enter the last eight at the World Championships. File

to have made the last-eight stage. Chahal is yet to take the ring and has got direct entry into the quarters thanks to the small size of the draw in her weight category.

Thapa, Siwach enter final

Baddi: Shiva Thapa (63kg) and Sachin Siwach (57kg) progressed to the finals of the ongoing 4th Elite Men's National Boxing Championships here on Wednesday. With 20 bouts being played, eight boxers from Services and five pugilists from Railways entered the finals. Railways' Sachin continued his winning run as he defeated Punjab's Sagar Chand 5-0, while Assam's Shiva staged off the challenge of last year's silver medalist Abhishek Yadav with a unanimous win. Sachin, the India Open silver medalist, began slow and started becoming more aggressive towards the end of the first round before dominating the bout.

Shiva, on the other hand, stayed low against his tall and muscular opponent from Uttar Pradesh to deliver his combination blows. He will play for the gold medal against Services' Akash, who defeated President's Cup gold medalist Ankush Dahiya 3-2 in a close bout.

In the other semi-final in the bantamweight category, Commonwealth Games bronze medalist Mohammad Hussamuddin clinched an easy 5-0 win against Rajasthan's Roshan Sain. The Services boxer will face Sachin in a highly-anticipated final on Thursday. Railways' Rohit Tokas (75 kg) also walked home with an easy 5-0 win over Rohit of All India Police. Haryana's Ankit Khatana blanked Chandigarh's Pankaj Chauhan 5-0 in a one-sided bout and will face Rohit Tokas for the gold medal tomorrow. Railways' Naman Tanwar (91kg) continued his flawless run as he trounced Uttarakhnad's Kapil Pokhariya 5-0 to set up a rematch of the 2019 India Open final against Sumit Sangwan.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, OCTOBER 9

THE COMMITTEE of Administrators (CoA) has barred three state associations — Tamil Nadu, Haryana and Maharashtra — from attending/voting at the BCCI's October 23 general body meeting for their 'non-compliance' to Lodha reforms. The disqualification notices have been sent to the respective state associations. Copies of the letters have been forwarded to the BCCI's electoral officer N Gopalaswami, who will take the final call on representation. The final list of representation is expected on Thursday.

"The letter we have received from the CoA has been sent to the electoral officer, recommending this action (disqualification). Tomorrow is the date when the electoral officer will decide the final list. Only after that we will take a call about moving court, if we are not allowed. We have already forwarded the letter to our legal team," the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association (TNCA) secretary R Ramasaamy told *The Indian Express*.

The TNCA's amended constitution is not in sync with the Lodha Committee recommendations (BCCI constitution) basically on two points. The state association has elected two vice-presidents instead of one. Also, the TNCA constitution has limited the restrictions like tenure cap, cooling-off etc. only to the office-bearers.

"Our stand is that each association has got a different setup. And our understanding is that the Supreme Court has accordingly allowed people to make small changes. So based on that we have two vice-presidents, because our district setup is very strong and we wanted a representation for them. The other thing is that the Supreme Court in its September 20 order stated that disqualification should be confined only to the office-bearers," Ramasaamy said.

However, the CoA's interpretation is that the apex court's September 20 order is applicable only to the state associations, with regards to their elections/AGMs, while the court's August 9, 2018 judgment and its approval of the BCCI constitution, the clauses therein, remain in full force.

Accordingly, 'non-compliant' states are ineligible to attend the BCCI election. The CoA had earlier sent notices to the three associations, citing 'non-compliance' in their amended constitutions, which could potentially debar them from attending the BCCI AGM.

The TNCA responded to it, saying: "Since the said issue is sub-judice, all the associations shall be allowed to participate and the issue of legality of their participation shall be decided on the basis of the final orders passed by the Supreme Court in the matter." Asked, if the CoA has the authority to de-



Tamil Nadu Cricket Association's newly-elected president Rupa Gurunath after assuming charge. The CoA has barred the state unit from sending a representative for the BCCI AGM and from voting. File

The CoA had earlier sent notices to the three associations, citing 'non-compliance' in their amended constitutions, which could potentially debar them from attending the BCCI AGM.

bar a state association from attending the BCCI general body meeting, a Committee member said: "They (the three associations) are non-compliant by our standards; on some major points. If 32 states have followed the CoA advisory, then there's no reason why two-three of them don't. It's as simple as that."

The Haryana Cricket Association (HCA), too, is mulling legal options. "We are compliant. Also, every BCCI member has a right to sit and vote at the BCCI general body meeting. The CoA can't take away that right. Now, it's up to our legal team to decide our future course of action," an HCA official said.

As far as the Maharashtra Cricket Association (MCA) is concerned, according to

a former state association official, the MCA constitution doesn't provide for direct elections to the office-bearers' posts. First, it appoints the Apex Council, which in turn appoints the office-bearers. This is contrary to the Lodha Committee recommendations and the BCCI constitution. According to him, the three state associations now "will have to move court".

Shukla deposes

Meanwhile, former IPL chairman Rajeev Shukla on Wednesday deposed before the BCCI's electoral officer after his representation at the cricket board's general body meeting on behalf of the Uttar Pradesh Cricket Association (UPCA) was challenged by Sanjeev Gupta, a life member of the Madhya Pradesh Cricket Association. According to Gupta, Shukla continued to hold the post of the IPL chairman till August 21, 2018. So he needs to serve a cooling-off period till August 20, 2021. Two Uttar Pradesh members, too, have complained against Shukla of him holding post in another sports body.

In its July 29 advisory, the CoA, "in concurrence with the BCCI's electoral officer",

directed the member associations to ensure that their representatives to the BCCI "should not be disqualified to become an office-bearer of the BCCI or a Councillor in terms of the BCCI constitution". The electoral officer's decision is expected tomorrow.

CoA member for ICC meeting?

The ICC's upcoming Board meetings in Dubai from October 12 to 14 might see a CoA member represent the BCCI instead of its acting secretary Amitabh Choudhury. According to sources, the CoA chairman, Rai, wants one of his colleagues, Lt Gen Ravi Thodge or Diana Edulji, to attend the meeting in place of Choudhury, as the latter didn't turn up for the ICC Full Council in London in July. He also missed the Asian Cricket Council AGM in Bangkok last month. The CoA had showcased Choudhury, who cited health reasons for his absence. The CoA was said to be not satisfied with Choudhury's reply. The BCCI acting-secretary, however, represents India as a director at the ICC Board. Also, the Supreme Court's April 17, 2017 order authorised him to attend the ICC meetings.

[SPORTS BAR]



Sameer, Lakshya advance at Dutch Open

Top seed Sameer Verma, Lakshya Sen and BM Rahul Bharadwaj progressed to the pre-quarterfinals of the men's singles competition at the Dutch Open Super 100 in Almere. Sameer, who had skipped events at China and Korea due to fitness issues, notched up a 21-19 19-21 21-13 win over fellow Indian Kiran George in the second round. He had received a bye in the opening round. He will face either Japan's Yusuke Onodera or Germany's Lars Schaenzler next. Lakshya Sen, who had claimed the Belgian Open last month, also entered the pre-quarterfinals after registering straight-game wins in the first two rounds

Sindhu sets sights on gold at Tokyo Olympics

India's first world badminton champion PV Sindhu on Wednesday said her next aim was to bag the gold in the Tokyo Olympics in 2020 and she would have to work much more harder. Speaking on the sidelines of a reception accorded to her by the Kerala government and the state Olympic Association here, the ace shuttler said the upcoming Denmark Open and Paris Open events would be a sort of qualifiers for the quadrennial event. "Definitely my ultimate aim is to get (Olympics) gold. But it's not going to be easy. I need to work much more harder. Denmark Open and Paris Open are ahead of the Olympics. So this is the like Olympic qualifiers," she told reporters.

Debutant Punia stars with bat for India

Debutant Priya Punia starred in injured Smriti Mandhana's absence following a fine bowling performance to set up India's emphatic eight-wicket win over South Africa in the first ODI in Vadodra. South Africa were bowled out for 164 in 45.1 overs. It was an all-round bowling effort from India with Jhulan Goswami (3/33), Shikha Pandey (2/38), Ekta Bisht (2/8) and Poonam Yadav (2/33) sharing the bulk of the wickets. India centered to victory in 41.4 overs with openers Punia (75 not out off 124) and Jemimah Rodrigues (55 off 65) laying the foundation for a resounding win.



The 53-year-old former Inter Milan boss arrives on a two-year deal. Reuters

Fallen giants AC Milan gamble on Pioli

Fallen Italian giants AC Milan on Wednesday appointed Stefano Pioli as their new coach a day after his predecessor Marco Giampaolo was sacked after just seven games in charge. The 53-year-old former Inter Milan boss arrives on a two-year deal, reported to be worth in the region of two million euros (\$2.2 million) a season. Giampaolo was fired after just 111 days in the job as the former seven-time European champions slipped to 13th place in Serie A, following a run of four defeats in seven games. The appointment of Pioli, an experienced coach but one who has never won a trophy in his 16-year managerial career, was a surprise one for the 18-time Serie A champions, who won their last league title in 2011. "It's a choice that has been weighed up," Milan technical director Paolo Maldini told a press conference in the city. "Being the seventh round it can be seen as a gamble, but we want to be protagonists this season. "This is why we decided to change with an experienced coach. For a young team we wanted a coach with strong ideas." Pioli managed city rivals Inter Milan in the 2016-2017 season, but has been without a team since resigning from Fiorentina last April.

Atalanta fined \$11,000 for racist chanting

Atalanta has been fined (\$11,000) for racist chanting by its fans, adding to the notion that Italian soccer authorities are doing little to combat racism. Fiorentina defender Dalbert Henrique was targeted by racist chanting during his team's 2-2 draw at Atalanta on Sept. 22. The match was briefly suspended because of the abuse. Dalbert was the third black player — after Inter Milan's Romelu Lukaku and AC Milan's Franck Kessie — to be targeted by racist chants during the four opening weekends of Serie A but it was the first sanction to be handed out by the Italian league, federation or police. FIFA president Gianni Infantino recently lambasted Italian authorities for their lack of action.



Praggnanandhaa in joint lead

India's hopes in the Under-18 Open brightened as R Praggnanandhaa outclassed compatriot P Niyan in the highly-anticipated battle between two Indian Grand Masters in the World Youth Chess Championship in Mumbai. Playing black, Niyan opted for the Pirc Defence, which was easily countered by Praggnanandhaa, forcing him into inaccuracies in the opening itself. Praggnanandhaa kept increasing his advantage with every move and emerged victorious on move 38. With this win, Praggnanandhaa joined Iran's IM Aryan Gholami in the lead after the latter was made to settle for a draw by Indian IM Mitrabha Guha. Top seed GM Sargsyan Shant of Armenia kept himself in the hunt by crushing George Stoleriu of Romania.

England players ready to walk off over racist chants

REUTERS
LONDON, OCTOBER 9

ENGLAND'S PLAYERS are ready to walk off the pitch if they are subjected to racist abuse in Euro 2020 qualifiers against Czech Republic and Bulgaria, striker Tammy Abraham has said.

England face the Czechs away in Group A on Friday before visiting Bulgaria on Monday for a match in a partially-closed stadium due to the home supporters' racist behaviour in June. "If it happens to one of us, it happens to all of us," Abraham was quoted as saying by the BBC. "(England captain) Harry Kane even said that if we're not happy, if a player is not happy, we all come off the pitch together."

England manager Gareth Southgate called a team meeting on Monday to discuss what action the players would take if they were the target of repeated racist abuse in the future.

European governing body UEFA's three-step protocol for racism can lead to the referee abandoning a match if warnings to the crowd do not stop the fans racially abusing the players. "(The meeting) was just about, if it does happen, which unfortunately it does sometimes, what we need to do and what the protocol is," Abraham's Chelsea team mate and new squad member Fikayo Tomori was quoted as saying by Sky Sports.

"He just briefed us about what was going to happen. We should be prepared for that because we know that sometimes you can go to countries and stuff like that can happen unfortunately. "We are just there to play the game and whatever happens in the stands, we'll just let the authorities deal with that."

UEFA ordered the partial closure of Bulgaria's national stadium after racist behaviour by their fans in Euro 2020 qualifiers with the Czechs and Kosovo in June.

If it happens to one of us, it happens to all of us. Harry Kane even said that if we're not happy, if a player is not happy, we all come off the pitch together."

TAMMY ABRAHAM,
ENGLAND STRIKER

Breaking the glass ceiling

For the first time since 1979, Iranian authorities allow women to attend men's football match in the stadium

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
TEHRAN, OCTOBER 9

THOUSANDS OF Iranian women fans are to attend a football match freely on Thursday for the first time in decades, after FIFA threatened to suspend the country over its controversial male-only policy.

The Islamic republic has barred female spectators from football and other stadiums for around 40 years, with clerics arguing they must be shielded from the masculine atmosphere and sight of semi-clad men.

World football's governing body FIFA ordered Iran last month to allow women access to stadiums without restriction and in numbers determined by demand for tickets.

The directive came after a fan dubbed "Blue Girl" died after setting herself on fire in fear of being jailed for dressing up as a boy to attend a match. Women were quick to get their hands on tickets to attend Iran's 2022 World Cup qualifier against Cambodia at Tehran's Azadi Stadium on Thursday.

The first batch sold out in less than an hour, and additional seats were also snapped up in short order, state media said.

The sports ministry said the 100,000-capacity stadium — whose name means "Freedom" in Farsi — was ready to host even more women. One of the 3,500 women to have secured a ticket was Raha Poorbakhsh, a football journalist.

"I still can't believe this is going to happen because after all these years of working in this field, watching everything on television, now I can experience everything in person," she said.

But Poorbakhsh said she was aware of many other women without tickets and some were expected to travel from as far away as Ahvaz in southern Iran in the hope of still getting one. There have been rare occasions in recent years when Iranian women have been allowed to watch matches, but this time they were free to buy their own tickets, albeit a set number.

Those lucky enough to attend will be segregated from men and watched over by 150 female police officers. People on the streets of Tehran said they supported the decision to allow women into stadiums.

"I would like there to be freedom for women, like men, to go freely and even sit



In October 2005, as many as 100 "handpicked" Iranian women watched a friendly against Bolivia. AP

side by side without any restrictions, like other countries," said a woman who gave her name only as Hasti.

Nader Fathi, who runs a clothing business, said the presence of women could improve the atmosphere in stadiums. But he said "they will regret it" if they are exposed to "really bad swear words" and "bad behaviour". The bumpy road Iranian women have travelled in order to gain free access to stadiums has not been without tragedy. Sahar Khodayari died last month after setting herself ablaze outside a court in fear of being jailed for attending a match.

Dubbed "blue girl" because of the colours of the club she supported - Tehran giants Esteghlal FC - she had reportedly been detained last year when trying to enter a stadium dressed as a boy.

Her death sparked an outcry, with many calling for Iran to be banned and matches

boycotted. The judiciary dismissed reports she had been told she would be jailed, and Khodayari's father said she did not "sacrifice" herself for any cause.

Shadow of FIFA

Ahead of Qatar 2022, FIFA has pressed Iran to allow women to attend qualifiers.

But Iran denied its decision to allow women into Thursday's match was a result of "foreign pressure". "The presence of #women in stadiums is due to the internal social demands and government's support of those demands," government spokesman Ali Rabiei tweeted. The ban on women in stadiums is not written into law or regulations, but it has been strictly enforced.

Since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, women have only had rare access to stadiums in Iran. About 20 Irish women attended a World Cup qualifier in 2001, and four years

later a few dozen Iranian women watched the national team take on Bahrain.

In October, as many as 100 "handpicked" Iranian women watched a friendly against Bolivia. The day after, the prosecutor general warned there would be no repeat, saying it would "lead to sin".

Then in November, a select group of about 850 women attended a match between Esteghlal's Tehran rivals, Persepolis FC, and Japan's Kashima Antlers. The issue continues to be deeply divisive in Iran.

Reformists have welcomed the latest move, but conservatives have come out strongly against it. The Donya-e-Eqtesad financial newspaper called it "a step to weaken a taboo and also free Iran's football of the looming shadow of FIFA's punishment".

But the ultra-conservative Kayhan daily said women were more concerned about economic issues.

THE MOVE CONTINUES TO DIVIDE IRAN

The history

Iran's ban on women attending stadiums is not written in law, but was enforced after the 1979 Islamic Revolution. In 2005, around 100 "hand-picked" Iranian women watched a friendly against Bolivia. The day after, the prosecutor general warned there would be no repeat, saying it would "lead to sin". The issue continues to be deeply divisive in Iran. While reformists have welcomed the latest move for women to enter stadiums, conservatives have come out strongly to condemn it.

Blue girl, the catalyst

In recent times, the issue gained global prominence after Sahar Khodayari, a female fan who set herself on fire after she was denied access to a football stadium in Tehran. Dubbed the 'Blue Girl' on social media after the colours of her favourite Iranian football team, Esteghlal, Khodayari was charged with "openly committing a sinful act" by "appearing in public without a hijab" when she attempted to enter a stadium "dressed as a man" in March 2018.

'Discriminatory, dangerous'

According to Iran's Fars News Agency, women will be segregated from men and watched over by 150 female police officers. Photos on social media showed fencing being put up around the designated women-only sections. While Thursday's match marks a step forward for Iranian women watching football matches, Human Rights Watch called the cap of 4,600 female fans "discriminatory, deceptive, and dangerous." "The 5% quota on seats for women contravenes FIFA's constitution, statutes, and its human rights policy," it said. AGENCIES

Not for the faint-hearted

Wales prevailed over Fiji but it was at the cost of several bruised and battered bodies, with crunch games coming in the knockout stages of the Rugby World Cup

All's not well that ends Welsh

Often in rugby, one step forward is three steps back, for a tackling shove is like a hurricane. Wales entered the World Cup quarterfinals fending off Fiji with a bonus point and a hat-trick by Josh Adams. But some of the most tooth-chattering, rampaging tackles during the match brought with them injury concerns for both Adams and Jonathan Davies (knee), while Liam Williams was left checking various parts of his body after three crunching blows.

Fiji, with their own personal human wrecking ball Semi Radradra, struck Wales before Super Typhoon Hagibis hits Japan in the coming days. A breakdown of the physical, chomping game-breakers that left bones and spirits sore:

YELLOW OR RED?

Fiji might have left the Welsh utterly knackered, but the worst tackle of the day came from the Dragons.

Wales hooker Ken Owens split opinion among former players and fans after picking up a yellow card in the eighth minute for lifting Fijian No. 8 Viliame Mata through the horizontal before dropping him on his back. That Mata wasn't tipped on his head and fell on his back helped him being sin-binned for only 10 minutes, instead of reducing the Dragons to 14 men for the remaining 72 minutes. It could yet attract further action if he's cited following the match. Welsh fans would've cringed given how it triggered memories of Sam Warburton's tip tackle against France in 2011 that saw him sent off prompting a haunting end to the campaign. "Consider yourself lucky, Owens" was the overwhelming reaction for the dump tackle.

Ex-Wales prop Paul James fell back on the cynical refrain and was quoted by walesonline as saying, "May as well play touch rugby game going soft, contact sport."

But given rugby's crackdown on dangerous tackles, Owens was fortunate not to see red. Later, Fiji were reduced to 14 men when lock Tevita Cavubati was guilty of a reckless shoulder into the back of Moriarty at a ruck.

The Failed Tri-tackles

Wales, never too thrilled about war cries, seemed to have been rattled by the intimidating Fijian performance of the cibi. The first 10 minutes were a nightmare as they trailed 10-0. Fiji had a try in the fourth minute from a five-metre scrum when right wing Josua Tuisova grabbed a pass from scrum-half Frank Lomani and, like a charging bull, leaped over in the corner, despite being tackled by three different Welshmen - Josh Navidi, Adams and Dan Biggar - who



Fiji were knocked out of the World Cup following their 29-17 defeat to Wales.

were unable to stop him from running right through them. "Josua Tuisova's wonder finish in the corner for the opening try was box office, a perfect summary of his talent," UK's Telegraph wrote. "Do not believe everything they flash up onto the big screen - his weight during the team announcements was listed as 92kg. And the rest, Josh Adams, Dan Biggar and even Josh Navidi could not stop Tuisova before he reached out to score." Tuisova is called the Bus and as he blasted Adams out of the way and carried Biggar and Navidi over the line hanging off him. He had set the alarm bells ringing and nerves so jangled they'll ring through the next fortnight. Fiji had ousted Wales in 2007, and more than one Dragons supporters would have been breathing heavy, not fire, at this juncture.

The Poleaxe

Williams had a try to his name, but was rattled himself when he poleaxed teammate Dan Biggar as both men went for a high ball forcing the Wales fly-half off for a second head injury assessment in as many games. The referee stopped the game, an ambulance wheeled in, but Biggar jogged off though he'd taken all of the pointy beefy shoulder of the teammate while Wales still trailed 14-17.

Davies, the pick

Centre Jonathan Davies was the pick of the magical moments through a searing break-and-fend before an outstanding offload around the back to Adams which gave him his third try. Normally an occasion to celebrate, if it wasn't for how tattered it had left him. "The try had consequences with Davies forced off the field and Adams struggling with a leg injury before being replaced after hobbling for a short period... But this victory might come at a cost and it was telling that none of the players celebrated at the final whistle."

Wales will be without Biggar for their final pool match after he suffered a second head injury in successive games and will be a doubt for a quarter-final, probably in 11 days in Oita. Welsh medics will be kept busy over the next 48 hours with Biggar's bump on the head, Davies limping off and Adams staring at a muscular injury. This with a potential face-off against England and France in the quarters, and Uruguay yet to be put down. **ENS**

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GERMANY

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF THE FALL OF THE WALL



FREEDOM TURNS 30!

The Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany, **DR. JÜRGEN MORHARD**, recounts the Fall of the Berlin Wall thirty years ago; and envisions a great future for Germany and India.



Namaskar!

THIRTY YEARS AGO, A DREAM CAME TRUE for my countrymen! History surprised us; history surprised the world. And from Berlin came a powerful message: The power of freedom is stronger than walls or weapons.

On November 9, 1989, Germans danced on top of 'the Wall', fell into one another's arms not quite believing what had happened. The Berlin Wall had opened, and within a year's time Germany was reunited. It has been thirty years now that we have been rejoicing the day, and at our German National Day reception, we re-create the jubilation.

The building of the Berlin Wall, and its ultimate demolition, reflects that symbolism of things and events, over time, are capable of change. The remains of this barrier are today a symbol of freedom and unity. Segments of the Wall, formerly attributed to dictatorship, separation, restriction and division, are now found and preserved on many continents. They represent the triumph of the cry for freedom. The Wall is no longer a reminder of separated families and destroyed dreams, but instead a phenomenon we exulted over, as history was created. The yearning for freedom of the oppressed deprived the oppressors of their power. Not only in Berlin but also in Gdansk and Prague, in Budapest and Leipzig, the downtrodden stood up. What had been torn apart grew together. Germany became one, and Europe overcame the division between East and West.

On the Day of German Unity, we celebrate what we have achieved and created with the support of our friends, including India.

However, not all barriers have been broken down. Invisible walls and prejudices still prevail in our heads. As a Consul General, it is my constant endeavour to break these figurative barriers and build bridges instead, by connecting minds and linking people. An effort to bring civil societies together, and engage with young minds to chart a



better future is one that will never go to waste

We see a Germany that has a strong economy and is respected worldwide. We see a vibrant democracy in which confident citizens resolve disputes peacefully and look pragmatically for solutions. The joy we have experienced in recent years also gives us the strength to take on responsibility in the world, and foster cooperation with our allies and partner countries. 'Multi-lateralism' is the key-word in German foreign policy these days. In simple terms, it means, 'You cannot do it alone'. It's an effort to boost international cooperation by tackling global issues - be it democracy, human rights, disarmament, digitalisation or climate change.

Besides our partnership with India on global issues, we can proudly say that Germany and India enjoy manifold areas of bilateral cooperation. The momentum for this agenda is ably provided by our partners: The Indo-German Chamber of Commerce (IGCC) that connects businesses, and the Goethe Institut (Max Mueller Bhavan) in Mumbai, that completes a remarkable fifty years. Goethe Institut has truly been a builder of bridges and has played a vital role in contributing to the cultural landscape of India.

This year, I complete three

years as the Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Mumbai. My love for the country and the potential it offers in terms of bilateral relations inspired me to extend my tenure here. Every other day, I meet the young generation aspiring to achieve. In fact, Germany is one of the most preferred countries for higher education.

On the trade and commerce front, while many German companies are looking to make a foray into India, there are many that have already made headway here, and have expansion plans in the offing; German companies are keen to 'Make in India' and provide job opportunities, and innovative and technological solutions for the people of India. We are optimistic about India's economic development and growing prosperity.

To showcase the strong affiliation between India and Germany, the German Consulate together with the IGCC is hosting the third edition of the 'German Days in Mumbai' from October 10th to 13th at the Mahayanist Racecourse, where we would bring Germany to the city of Mumbai - the taste of German delicacies, the flavour of German beer, the spirit of football and a family-carnival equipped with science labs, virtual reality experiences and the works, for curious minds and joyful hearts.

FAST FACTS



The Holocaust Memorial is a memorial in Berlin to the Jewish victims of the Holocaust

The Federal Republic of Germany is a country located in Central Western Europe, which lies between the Baltic and North Seas to the north; and the Alps, Lake Constance and the High Rhine to the south. It borders Denmark to the north, Poland and the Czech Republic to the east, Austria and Switzerland to the south, France to the southwest, and Luxembourg, Belgium and the Netherlands to the west.

A founding member of the European Economic Community in 1957 and the European Union in 1993, Germany is a part of the Schengen Area, and became a co-founder of the Eurozone in 1999. Germany is a member of the United Nations, NATO, the G7, the G20, and the OECD. Known for its rich cultural history, Germany has been continuously the home of influential and successful artists, philosophers, musicians, sportspeople, entrepreneurs, scientists, engineers, and inventors. Germany has over 2 millennia of history. Berlin, its capital, is home to art and nightlife scenes, the Brandenburg Gate and many sites relating to WWII. Munich is known for its Oktoberfest and beer halls, including the 16th-century Hofbräuhaus. Frankfurt, with its skyscrapers, houses the European Central Bank.

Official Name: Full Name: Federal Republic of Germany

Capital: Berlin (also the largest city)

Other Major Cities: Munich, Hamburg, Frankfurt, Stuttgart, Dresden, Leipzig, Cologne

Government: Federal Parliamentary Republic

President (Head of State): Frank-Walter Steinmeier

Chancellor (Head of Government): Angela Merkel

Reunification of Germany (National Day): October 3, 1990

Anthem: Das Lied der Deutschen (The Song of the Germans)

Area: Total 357,386sq km (137,988 sq mi)

Population: 83,019,200 (2018 estimate)

GDP (PPP): Total \$4.555 trillion
Per capita \$54,983(2019 estimate)

Currency: Euro

1 Euro = 1.10 USD

1 Euro = 78.07 Indian Rupees

National Flower: Blue Cornflower (Knapweed)

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EUROPE'S NO. 1 STUDY DESTINATION

OUT OF 30 EUROPEAN COUNTRIES RANKED BASED ON SCORES IN THREE DIMENSIONS – EDUCATION, COST, AND LIFE & CAREER, GERMANY'S OFFER OF MOSTLY TUITION-FREE, WORLD-CLASS UNIVERSITIES WAS DISTINCTLY HARD TO BEAT

AN ANNUAL ANALYSIS BY EUROPEAN HIGHER EDUCATION PORTAL Study.EU ranks Germany as the best choice for international students within a table of 30 European study destinations. Interestingly, this marks the second consecutive year in which Germany appears at the top of the Study.EU Country Ranking, a performance the portal attributes to the country's remarkable mix of world-class education at zero or nearly-zero fees. In addition, Study.EU points out that Germany has made a considerable improvement in the number of courses offered in English, and boasts the lowest unemployment rate for university graduates in Europe.

According to Study.EU, the key question addressed by its ranking is 'which European countries are the best choices for full-time degree students?' Data informing the ranking include university world rankings, governmental and university information on study programmes and tuition fees, and data from sources including Eurostat, the UN, and the OECD regarding cost of living, unemployment, quality of life, and safety in the various countries.

The ranking is based on scores in three areas: Education, Cost, and Life & Career. For the first time, this year's analysis incorporates a score for 'personal safety' in the Life & Career area, reflecting the importance of this consideration for today's international students. Of the three dimensions, Education (i.e., quality of education) is weighted the highest, making up 45% of the total score, with Cost accounting for 30% and Life & Career scores contributing the final 25%. These three key factors are used to generate an overall score for each country out of 100.

Looking just at Education factors, the UK is ranked first by a wide margin with a score of 86.7% versus the next highest scores of Germany (74%), Netherlands (61.3%), and France (53.4%). This dimension is scored according to performance in university rankings, indicators of teaching quality, and number of English-taught bachelor's and master's programmes. When it comes specifically to teaching quality, as measured by staff-to-student ratios and academic reputation surveys, Switzerland, the Netherlands, and Germany score the highest.

The Cost dimension considers affordability across a number of areas, including cost of living, housing, and average tuition fees. In this area Poland scores the highest – 98.1% – followed by Serbia (96.3%), Hungary (95.7%), Romania (94.1%), and Turkey (92%). This is a decidedly different group of countries than the one represented in the overall ranking. Germany is an exception, with a relatively high



Humboldt University, Berlin

score in this dimension (88.5%) as well as being the overall top-ranked country, thanks to its virtually tuition-free public university system and moderate cost of living.

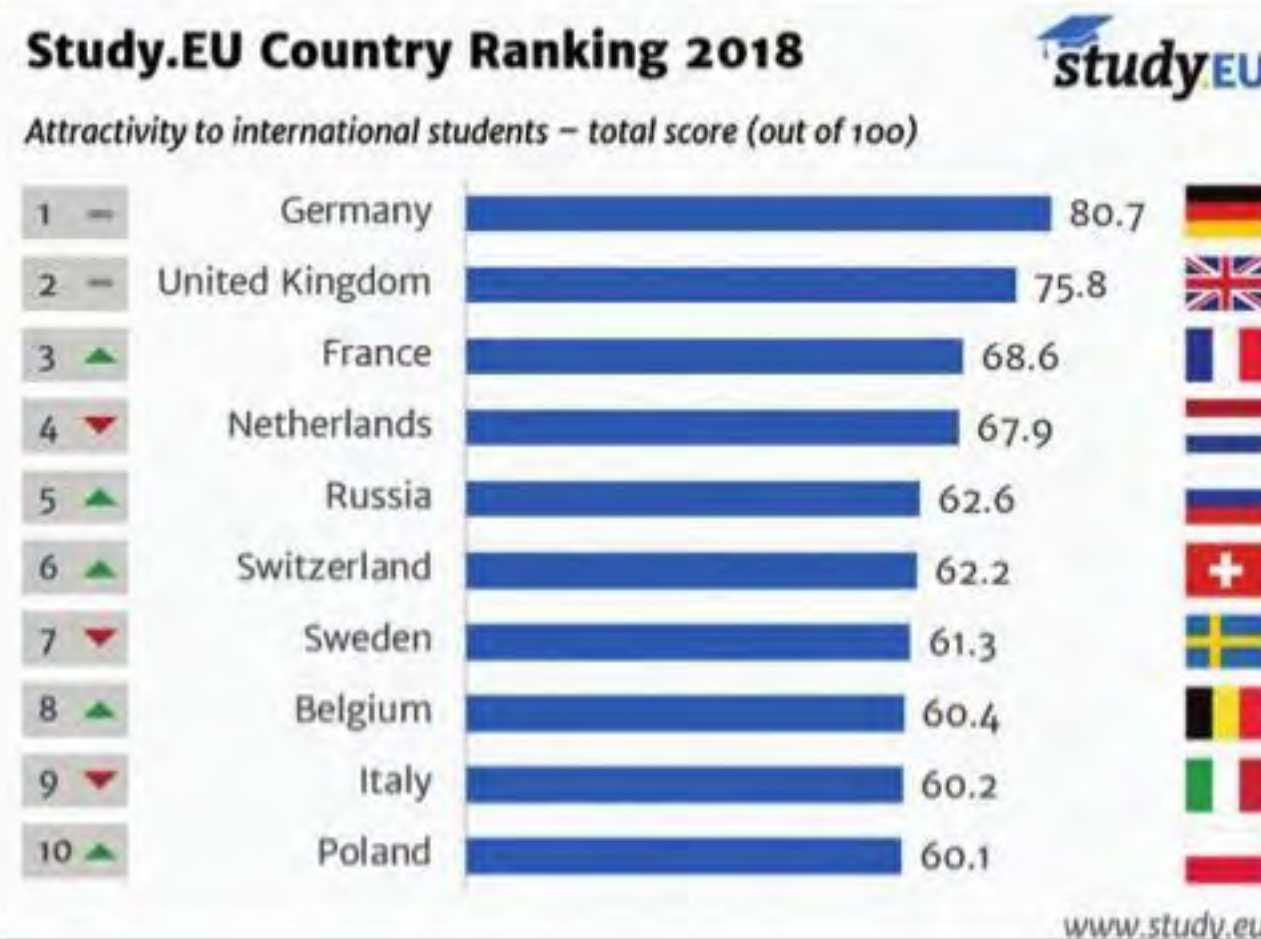
By contrast, the UK places last in the Cost dimension, though Study.EU notes that (a) studying in the UK is more affordable this year than in 2017 due to the declining value of the British pound, and (b) that the Cost dimension offers only 'rough guidance', given that it is an average. For example, they point out that a year studying for an MBA in London will inevitably be much more expensive than, say, an Anthropology degree in Cardiff.

Life & Career scores, which represent 25% of the overall score contributing to a country's ranking, are ever more significant given how much students think about their study experience as well as post-graduation outcomes today. The factors going into Life & Career are English proficiency among the population, UN World Happiness Index data, unemployment rates for the tertiary-educated, and personal safety indicators. The leading countries in this area are the UK (88%), Ireland (87.6%), Iceland (87.4%), Norway (86.4%), and the Netherlands (85%).

Speaking with *Forbes* magazine, Gerrit Blöss, CEO of Study.EU,



Humboldt University, Berlin



highlighted two factors he sees influencing the direction of international higher education for years to come. "First, there is the Donald Trump Presidency driving international students away from the US to other countries – in many cases, Europe. And then there is the upcoming Brexit, of which neither the timeline nor the consequences are foreseeable."

Clearly, the biggest gainers in this scenario are countries like Germany and other European nations.

DAAD STRATEGY 2020

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR THE BEST
Providing scholarships remains the DAAD's 'core business'

STRUCTURES FOR INTERNATIONALISATION
Creating and maintaining the structures that make academic exchange and mobility possible

EXPERTISE FOR ACADEMIC COLLABORATIONS
Providing information and advisory services to institutions of higher education and other academic exchange stakeholders, both in Germany and abroad

DAAD SCHOLARSHIPS AND FUNDING SCHEMES

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR INDIVIDUALS
Students
Research scholars
Academicians and scientists
Alumni

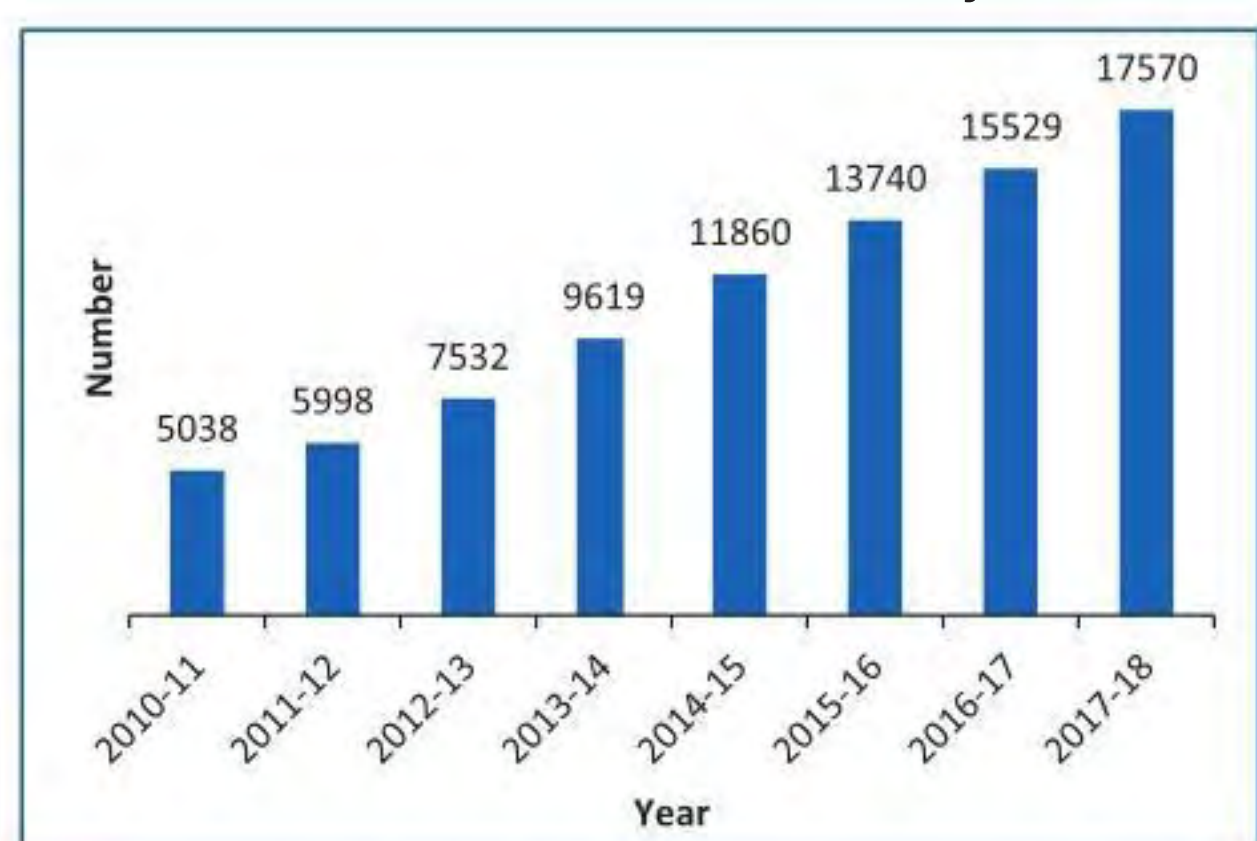
PROJECT & COOPERATION BASED PROGRAMMES
Higher education institutions
Research institutions

International students in Germany*

Year	Total Students	International Students	% International Students
2010-11	2 217 604	252 032	11.40%
2011-12	2 380 974	265 292	11.10%
2012-13	2 499 409	282 201	11.30%
2013-14	2 613 168	300 909	11.50%
2014-15	2 698 910	321 569	11.91%
2015-16	2 757 799	340 305	12.34%
2016-17	2 807 010	358 895	12.78%
2017-18	2 844 978	374 583	13.17%

* Germany is the third most popular country for international students**
** International students constitute 13.17% of the total number of students in Germany*

Indian Students in Germany*



* The number of Indian students in Germany has increased threefold in the past seven years
** Indians form the 2nd largest group of international students enrolled at German universities

DAAD

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) is a joint organisation of German institutions of higher education and student bodies. The aim of DAAD is to promote academic cooperation worldwide, especially through the exchange of students, scholars, academics, and scientists.

In developing countries, the DAAD is actively engaged in promoting academic cooperation. Being a renowned and long established institution in the realm of high-level education on an international basis it features an impressive network of alumni. Established in 1960, it promotes academic exchange between Germany and India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. It supports academicians and scientists in fulfilling their academic and scientific pursuits by providing financial assistance. It grants scholarships to students, invites scientists to Germany from these countries, as well as those from Germany to these countries, and supports bilateral research projects.

DAAD is funded by the Federal Republic of Germany and is functioning as an official agency in accordance with the Cultural Agreement between Germany and India of March 1969.

The Regional Office of the DAAD in India is based in New Delhi and has Information Centres in Bengaluru, Chennai, Mumbai and Pune.



APOORV MAHENDRU
Deputy Director & Head, Marketing DAAD

DWIH

In line with the strategic initiative of the Federal Foreign Office to internationalise science and research, The German Centre for Research and Innovation (DWIH) has established its centres in Brazil, Japan, Russia, USA and India.

Acting as an innovation hotspot, DWIH plays an important catalytic role in establishing and cultivating scientific partnerships by providing a forum to German research organisations, universities and research-based companies to develop groundbreaking solutions for current and future challenges through new joint projects. These centres work incessantly on a wide range of topics, set-up networks between business and research, advise and support researchers, and connect German innovators to their international counterparts.

The DWIH in New Delhi serves as a 'one-stop' shop for interested students, researchers and potential partner institutions, and disseminates information about higher education in Germany, research landscape and funding sources. It promotes and facilitates bilateral projects in higher education, language, science, research and innovation.

The DWIH is funded by the Federal Foreign Office and managed by DAAD.

STUDENT TESTIMONIALS DAAD's Young Ambassadors for the year 2019-20 look forward to a bright future

I am a Mechanical Engineer by training. I came to Germany in 2013 to pursue my specialisation in Power Engineering from the TUM - Technical University of Munich. I graduated with a Masters in Science in December 2015. From mid-2016 I have been working at a German automotive tier 1 supplier. I have worked in various functions within the organisation. To enhance my business knowledge and skills, I have decided to pursue my studies in management from WHU - Otto Beisheim School of Management in Düsseldorf and am pursuing a Part Time-MBA, which started in September 2019. My stay in Germany has really been an incredible and enriching experience in my life, both for professional and personal development. As a newcomer, there are many things which you must take from German culture. Some of the things, which I always admire about them, are their work ethics, punctuality, and their attitude towards maintaining a good balance between professional and personal life.



— **David Furtado**
Masters - Management
WHU - Otto Beisheim School of Management, Düsseldorf
paper.indianexpress.com

I did an International Research Fellowship at Charité-Universitätsmedizin, Berlin. It is an institute of excellence in Germany for research. I worked in the areas of oncology and tuberculosis. Germany is a great place for research and studies. It provides an excellent platform for researchers and students to learn new skills, engage in stimulating discussions, and promote healthy exchange of ideas. Germany is a technological leader with most advanced scientific equipment and state-of-the-art research facilities. There are great opportunities in Germany to gain expertise in both clinical medicine and basic sciences research. During my stay in Germany, I enjoyed working on exciting problems in cancer research. The professors and fellow researchers were extremely kind and cooperative and assisted me in familiarising myself with the German research methodologies.



— **Abhishek Mittal**
Masters - Life Sciences/Medicine
Charité-Universitätsmedizin, Berlin

I am currently pursuing my Master's in Mathematics at the Freie Universität, Berlin. I am interested in mathematical modelling and numerical simulations and its applicability in solving complex problems in various fields. I am also working as a student research assistant at the Max Planck Institute for Human Development in a group that primarily deals in statistical modelling applied to various problems in lifespan psychology. My primary role in the group is to assist in developing new mathematical modelling and to further improve the existing ones. I was also fortunate to receive the German scholarship, Deutschlandstipendium. My dream is to pursue a career in research and development. I personally feel Germany is one of the best places to pursue higher education because of its wide range of practice-oriented options, its rich culture and some wonderful people.



— **Maria Mathew**
Masters - Mathematics, Freie Universität, Berlin

I am currently pursuing Masters from RWTH Aachen in CAME - Computer Aided Conception and Production in Mechanical Engineering. Also, I am working as a student research assistant at IAM Aachen. I feel studying in Germany is an overall learning experience which will bring the best out of you. Students get opportunities like working with renowned researchers & observing their ways of working. Apart from technical advancement, Germany has also provided me the opportunity to practise human values which are indeed essential in life. It was wonderful meeting new and excited people from different countries having various cultural backgrounds, trying different cuisines and of course, exploring Europe during weekends. Germany is the best decision I've ever made for its plethora of opportunities to thrive, one that's enriched me intellectually and culturally.



— **Amandeep Singh**
Masters - Mechanical Engineering
RWTH Aachen

DEUTSCHE SCHULE BOMBAY

The Oldest International School In Mumbai

DSB is the oldest truly international school in Mumbai with students and teachers from about 40 countries, creating an environment that fosters diversity. Set up in 1961 to serve the large German community in the city in those days, the school later expanded to offer an international section taught in English, making it relevant to a larger audience. German DNA combined with the rigour of the British school curriculum, set in the local ethos of Indian culture makes DSB a unique choice for today's global citizens. The multi-lingual and multi-cultural environment has inclusiveness at its heart.



care to each child's needs. State of the art equipment and flexible and tailored curricula enable teaching and learning in an adaptive and creative fashion and helps get the best out of every child. Strong partnerships with the German Consulate General, as well as German institutions and companies in Mumbai offer great entry points to German culture and language – probably even for later studies in Germany.

International, Inclusive & Individualised Education

Many aspects of the school are consistent with what teachers in Germany aspire to. The deliberate choice of staying a small school, allows a high degree of personalised

A Community School For Dynamic Learning

DSB's Garden Campus, which is home to the kindergarten and primary school, is located close to the sea in the historic quarter of Mumbai and offers a beautiful garden area where toddlers play. The second location of the school for Secondary High School students, Aurum House is located about two kilometres away in the green south of the city. Developed in 2014, it represents iconic modern school design with largely open and flexible teaching areas over five floors that can be moulded and changed depending on the requirement - transforming from a history classroom to a drama space in a matter of minutes. Moving forward into 2020, DSB has exciting plans to open in August at a new campus shared with the French school, the vision being to become a beacon of excellence, reflecting the best of European educational traditions and values.

INDO-GERMAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Empowering Indian Professionals



Germany isn't only a popular study hub; it has recently emerged as a leading career destination for Indian professionals. With its continuing economic growth, employment opportunities at German companies are always on the rise. Simultaneously, the powerhouse of the European economy faces a dearth of qualified professionals. According to data from the German Research Unit on Securing Skilled Labour (KOFA), about 79% of all registered vacancies in Germany in 2018 were in so-called shortage occupations and, thus, considered difficult to fill up. Only five years prior, in 2014, this ratio still stood at 48%. While this shortage does not span across all professional areas, it opens up opportunities for Indian STEM professionals both on an academic as well as vocational/technician level – provided that their qualification is recognised in Germany.

authorities vary depending on factors such as profession, targeted work location and purpose of recognition.

Free Advisory Service

To assist Indian professionals with the recognition of their qualifications, the Indo-German Chamber of Commerce (IGCC) launched the advisory service ProRecognition in 2015. Sponsored by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, this project informs individuals interested in working in Germany about the demand for their area of expertise, provides guidance on recognition procedures and outcomes; provides assistance through the recognition process and answers all questions related to job search and employment in Germany. Till date, the team, which works out of the IGCC Pune office, has consulted more than 1,300 individuals from various professional backgrounds.

The recognition of qualifications brings with it an increased level of transparency, which enables German employers to understand foreign qualifications better and provide more suitable employment opportunities. It is therefore an important prerequisite for obtaining a work visa for Germany. This is also mandatory for candidates in regulated professions, i.e. whose occupation requires a professional permit, or those wishing to use a protected professional title. However, recognition procedures and competent

In addition to its information service, ProRecognition conducts workshops on German application culture at various locations across India. Covering the foundations of self-presentation, vacancy search, application documents and interview preparation, the interactive, full-day programme prepares Indian job seekers to overcome inter-cultural barriers and leave behind the right impression for German employers. Best of all, it provides all its advisory services free of charge.

GOETHE INSTITUT / MAX MUELLER BHAVAN

50 Years Of Great Achievements

The Goethe Institut/Max Mueller Bhavan Mumbai will celebrate its Golden Jubilee with a three-day festival beginning on October 18.

1968: On December 2, 1968, the Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan Mumbai began German language classes in Malabar Hill.

1969: Officially inaugurated in 1969, the Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan, Mumbai, was originally situated in the ground floor of philanthropist Bapsy Sabavala's bungalow. Along with language classes, the institute offered a taste of German culture with intimate concerts at the bungalow.

1972: The Institut became too large for the quaint Malabar Hill bungalow, and moved to its current location in the CSMVS Museum annexe, where it spread out over three floors.

1976: Director Joachim Buehler, also a pianist and orchestra conductor, used his

expertise to bolster an interest in classical music in Mumbai. He began working with the recently founded Bombay Chamber Orchestra (then called the Bombay Philharmonia).

1978: Nobel Prize-winning novelist, poet, playwright, graphic artist, sculptor and wearer of many more hats, Günter Grass spent ten days in Mumbai and agreed to a public conversation at the Max Mueller Bhavan Mumbai. Grass returned to India again in 2005.

1983-86: Dr. Georg Lechner initiated the 'East West Encounters' during his term as Director. The project included a series of East-West dialogues about art, music, theatre, dance, philosophy and science.

1986: Sculptor Meera Mukherjee's relationship with Germany began in the 1950s with a scholarship to the Akademie der Bildenden Künste in Munich. Dr. Lechner, who appreciated her work greatly, called



her 'an Indian artist of Expressionism' and invited her to hold the first of what would be a number of exhibitions across the Goethe Instituts in India.

1992-93: Dr. Anna Winterberg initiated an HIV/AIDS awareness programme with seminars for medical professionals, social workers and the scientific community to discuss the issue. This programme led to the first national conference on AIDS with medical professionals from India and Germany.

Nov 93: In the winter of 1993, Heiner Müller's play Medeamaterial, was performed at the Stuttgart Hall as a collaboration between visual artist Nalini Malani and theatre-person Alaknanda Samarth.



Berlin Wall was more than just a physical barrier that surrounded West Berlin and prevented access to it from East Berlin and adjacent areas of East Germany during the period from 1961 to 1989



People from East and West Germany congregate at the Berlin Wall on November 10, 1989, one day after it was officially opened

THE WALL IS NOW OPEN

It has been 30 years since the Berlin Wall opened, but the memories still remain fresh. German Diplomats share their reactions when they first heard the words, 'The Wall is Open'

When you stand together you can achieve great things

The 'Fall of the Wall' signifies the victory of the people. It is testimony to the fact that when you stand together you can achieve great things.



It was a result of the resolve and courage of many people who fought risking their lives and wellbeing. It marked not only the end of the Cold War, but also the end of being asked, "Which part of Germany are you from?"

I was studying BSc. in London at the time. My flat-mates and I were watching the news and we simply could not believe our eyes. The Wall had opened! It was a moment of mixed emotions. I was relieved that the fight had finally come to an end, and I was anxious to reach people back home. I immediately ran to the phone booth and tried calling my sister who was in Berlin. I could not reach her because – as she told me later – she was out celebrating the fall of the Berlin Wall.

'The Fall of the Wall' meant the change of the future of the two Germans. We, as citizens, had two things to do – one, to set things right, and two, to ensure that this mistake is never repeated.

Berlin, a city that used to be grey, is now a brighter place to be. You should visit it sometime.

Our children wouldn't be here if it hadn't happened

I was twelve years old when it happened. The Wall opened. I remember watching it on television with my mother. We just couldn't believe what we were seeing. It was utter joy and relief for the German people on both sides of the Wall!



Who knew that years later, this historic event would also have a personal effect on my life. My wife was born in Bernau, which is in Brandenburg, outside of East Berlin. I was born and raised in West Berlin, but used

to travel often to the East side, as my father's family was from there.

So when my wife and I got married, it was (literally) the union of an East and a West German. Similar incidents have happened with my friends – many of them have spouses who are from East Germany. And our wonderful children wouldn't be here, if it weren't for the 'Fall of the Wall'.

— Jean-Marc Medem, Consular Attaché

The first word that came to mind was... Finally!

The first word that came to mind when I got the news that the wall was opened was 'Finally!' I was in Prague at the time, and it was my first posting as a Foreign Diplomat. It was a sensitive place to be at the time, as Prague was treated as a meeting point for the East and West Germans. Because of the Communist regime, East Germany and Czechoslovakia were considered 'brothers'. East Germans didn't require a visa to enter Czech territory, and West Germans were required to only pay a fee of 30 DM a day. As a German Mission, our doors were always open to both – East and West Germans. There were 5,000 to 7,000 East Germans at the German



Embassy who wouldn't leave because they were afraid they would be jailed if they stepped out. They lived there! We set up bunk beds, put up tents on the courtyard, set up an area where the children could be taught and therefore wouldn't miss out on their education. Twice a week, I drove a truck to an army fort in Germany to organise supplies – food, books, clothes, medicines, and literally everything else. The German diplomats posted in Prague worked 24x7 for two months. And so, when the Wall came down, we all said, "Finally!" Finally, what we never thought would happen, happened!

— Juergen Schlug, Consular Attaché

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A piece of the Wall at Potsdamer Platz



Fernsehturm, Berlin's famous TV tower



Hackesche Höfe

BERLIN, THE BEAUTY THAT IT IS

AARYA PHALTANKAR, WHO RECEIVED A GRANT TO PURSUE A LANGUAGE COURSE IN BERLIN FROM THE GOETHE INSTITUT AND MAX MUELLER BHAVAN IN MUMBAI, WRITES ABOUT HER TRAVELS



Brandenburg Gate



Remains of the Berlin Wall today



A watchtower in Berlin erected in 1971



Berlin Cathedral

BERLIN IS GERMANY'S CULTURAL MELTING POT. This modern city has a hipster cool vibe to it and mesmerises with its vibrant culture, diverse food, avant-garde architecture and portentous history. The city, which was bombed and destroyed in World War II, has bounced back and resurrected itself with much resilience.

Travel Tip: The best way to explore a city is on foot, and that's how I went about exploring most of Berlin.

I headed to the Goethe Institut – an institution that promotes the study of the German language and encourages international, cultural exchange. I found that the sky-scraping 'Fernsehturm' or Berlin's TV Tower accompanied me everywhere I went. The 368-metre-tall structure was constructed by the government of the German Democratic Republic (GDR) or East Germany. It was inaugurated on 3rd October 1969, and considered to be a symbol of Communist power. Many were in favour of demolishing the tower with the Fall of the Wall. The Federal Republic of Germany, however, chose to keep the building and overhaul its broadcasting facilities. The edifice now adds much

colour to the city, especially during the Festival of Lights.

Berlin has a lot to offer to people intrigued by history. As you walk down 'Unter den Linden' and 'Pariser Platz', beautifully lined with trees on both sides, one is stunned by the magnitude of the Brandenburg Gate – an important central landmark of Berlin. When Germany was divided, the gate was inaccessible to both, the East and West Germans. However, when the wall opened, people gathered at the gate and rejoiced. Since then, this stately monument has come to symbolise unity and freedom. It is the preferred choice of venue for silent rallies, peaceful protests and demonstrations. The other monuments like the Reichstag, Berliner Dom, and the Synagogue on the Oranienburger Strasse, remind you of Berlin's tumultuous past.

After a long but fruitful day, I found myself on a tram headed home. My home in Berlin was a gorgeous, rustic flat owned by an equally

gorgeous host, 'Frau Waaser', whom I now call a friend. Frau Waaser was warm and a constant source of information.

Travel Tip: The best part of staying with a local is the different perspective with which you look at a new place. You are fed first-hand experiences; it's also an opportunity to be introduced to a new culture; you shed your prejudices and widen your horizons.

Berlin's rather modern architecture is punctuated here and there with remnants of the Wall that once divided it into East and West. The Wall, not only physically but ideologically, divided Berlin from 1961 to 1989. It drew a line between communism and capitalism, repression and freedom. The Wall seems to have seen it all: families separated, friends waving at each other from opposite sides, lovers secretly meeting, people trying to jump over it, some digging a tunnel under it – everybody chasing their freedom.

One can only imagine the relief that the people felt on the night of 9th November 1989. They marched towards the Wall, hammer and chisel in hand, to bring down the monstrosity.

Walk along the East Side Gallery, and you see the Wall adorned with murals and graffiti. The Berlin Wall was one of the largest canvases in the world. It was used by people to express their ideas of freedom. Some of the works at the East Side Gallery such as Dmitri Vrubel's 'Fraternal Kiss' and Birgit Kinders' 'Trabant Breaking Through the Wall' are particularly popular. The gallery walls along Friedrichstraße and Zimmerstraße give you information about the various escape attempts of the people from East to West Berlin.

Check point Charlie still remains a busy area in Berlin. Once a prominent crossing point between the two Germans, tourists swarm there for pictures before entering the 'The Wall Museum'.

Berliners have transformed the originally dreary East Berlin into a place of cafes and restaurants with a bohemian chic vibe.

As I devoured ice cream on a warm sunny day by the Spree river, that runs through the heart of Berlin, it was heartening to observe how the Berliners have at last embraced the good times: sun-bathing, relaxing or picnicking on the banks of the Spree.

This November, the country will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall. There will be art installations, open-air exhibits, and a 7-day, city-wide festival that will commemorate the reunification of Berlin.

At the Goethe Institut where I was learning German, I made friends from all over the world: Sweden, Russia, Bucharest, Paris, and Brazil. Our long conversations over German beer, Döner kebabs and Currywurst is something I shall cherish forever, but most of all I shall cherish Berlin, the beauty that it is.



KICK OFF YOUR BLUES... IN GERMAN STYLE

With 'Football As It's Meant To Be' unleashed at the Oktoberfest in Mumbai, courtesy Bundesliga, football fans are in for a delectable treat this year

THE BUNDESLIGA – GERMANY'S PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL LEAGUE, with the highest average stadium attendance in world football, and highest average goals per game ratio compared to other top European leagues – has partnered with the Indo German Chamber of Commerce (IGCC) in Mumbai to be a part of the German Days 2019 in Mumbai. The league will bring its famous Football As It's Meant To Be mantra to the Mumbai Oktoberfest between October 11-13.

Over the course of the three-day event, the Bundesliga will reach out to and engage with fans in India. The Bundesliga Hut and Bundesliga Goal Challenge are two prominent activities of the Bundesliga setup that will be open to visitors at the event staged at the Mahalaxmi Racecourse.



Klaus Augenthaler in national colours during the FIFA World Cup 1990 which West Germany won

'AUGE' KLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN!

Klaus Augenthaler pursued and harvested honours like no other player, making him at one point the most successful individual in Bundesliga history. At Bayern, 'Auge' won the championship seven times (1980, 1981, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1989, 1990), the DFB German Cup three times (1982, 1984, 1986), and was twice a European Champions Cup losing finalist (1982, 1987).

However, the year 1990 was to prove the most glorious in an already illustrious playing career. Augenthaler added spine to the Germany side which doggedly stuck to the task and sealed a 1-0 victory over Argentina in the World Cup final in Rome, just a few weeks after he had hoisted the Bundesliga shield into the Bavarian sky for a record seventh time.

'Auge' made 404 appearances for Bayern and 27 for Germany, scoring 52 top flight goals.

With the Bundesliga Hut, fans will be invited to participate in the fun and frolic that comes with the Oktoberfest. The traditional German hut forms the perfect space for visitors to unwind and relax with a glass of beer. There's more on offer though at the Bundesliga Hut, with Playstations featuring EA Sports' FIFA 20 game available for the visitors to play.

While guests may relax at the Bundesliga Hut, the Bundesliga Goal Challenge is a test of skills for visitors, with official Bundesliga merchandise including club jerseys, T-shirts and mini footballs up for grabs for those who ace it. Also in attendance at the Oktoberfest will be Borussia Dortmund's popular mascot 'Emma', along with her FC Bayern counterpart 'Berni'.

FC Bayern München legend Klaus Augenthaler (who represented the German national team, winning the FIFA World Cup in 1990) will be a part of the Oktoberfest, while representing one of FC Bayern's regional partners. Bundesliga fans have a lot to look forward to with Augenthaler set to bring the much-

coveted Bundesliga 'Meisterschale' trophy to India. That presents an exciting opportunity for fans to get photos with German football's number one prize.

In order to heed to the demand for German football in India, the Bundesliga announced an exclusive long-term partnership with IMG Reliance last year, and is looking forward to showcasing what they mean by 'Football As It's Meant To Be' with fans at this year's Mumbai Oktoberfest.

Come, India... Meet Germany!

It's bigger, it's better, and it's back! German Days 3.0 in Mumbai promises non-stop entertainment with lots of frills, spills and thrills!

AFTER GARNERING TREMENDOUS RESPONSE LAST YEAR, the German Consulate in Mumbai, together with the Indo-German Chamber of Commerce (IGCC), is back with German Days 3.0 in Mumbai, a mega-carnival that will offer Mumbaiikars all things German.

The third edition of German Days in Mumbai promises not only thrice the fun and excitement but also sustainable enrichment. It has something great for everyone – be it businessmen, entrepreneurs, students, children, and the public at large.

German Days 3.0 will kick off with the lavish closed-door event, the German National Day reception on the evening of October 10. The German community in India, along with friends and partners of Germany, will celebrate 30 years of the 'Fall of the Wall' and the completion of a noteworthy 50 years of the Goethe Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan, in Mumbai.

The much-loved Mumbai Christmas Fest just got a new flavour, and will be presented as the Family Fun Carnival Weekend during the German Days.

Scheduled on October 12 and 13, the event will open with activities and workshops for children. There'll be a petting zoo, a football zone, a science corner and shopping stalls of various products and handicrafts. As this year's celebrations revolve around the Fall of the Berlin Wall, students, children and visitors will be able to participate in Wall-painting activities, where they can express their ideas through colours and have a splash of fun.

Football cannot be missed at German Days 3.0. The Indo-German Football Cooperation, in association with Hafele, brings you the chance to hit it off with legend Klaus Augenthaler, former player of the FC Bayern and a member of Germany's 1990 FIFA World Cup winning heroes. Augenthaler will conduct short training sessions, hold motivational talks and interact with children and visitors on October 12.

Any German fest is incomplete without a dash of the German engineering experience. For auto and car lovers, Audi India will host the annual Audi weekender driving experience on October 12 and 13.

There's business on the agenda too. Increased economic activity and

rising global trade are increasingly affecting our environment and reshaping the way we live. Understanding and managing these complex relationships are major challenges of our times. To this effect, German Days 3.0 will host 'Fridays for a Sustainable Future' on October 11. A conference on Sustainability & CSR will bring together companies, NGOs, and foundations.

German Days 3.0 in Mumbai will culminate into the well-renowned Mumbai Oktoberfest on the evenings of October 11, 12 and 13. Everyone's invited to enjoy German culture with German food and drink in a typical German tent, with the Munich-based German band 'Die Kirchofer' playing live.

Whether you want to network with top Indo-German business representatives, get to know Germany better, or just let your hair down and surrender to the best German experience in town, German Days 3.0 is where you need to be.

*Entry to all conferences are by pre-registration.

**Free Entry for children below 12 years at the Family Fun Carnival; Adults: ₹ 250

***Tickets for Oktoberfest: www.insider.in

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THE INTERNATIONAL TECHNOLOGY GROUP SCHOTT, one of the world's leading suppliers of specialty glass and glass-ceramics, has been active in India since 1998. Schott's pharmaceutical tubing manufacturing operation started in India in 1998 in Jambusar near Vadodra. High quality FIOLAX® glass tubing from Schott is used as a preferred primary packaging material by almost all leading pharmaceuticals companies in India. Schott is investing a significant amount to build new melting tanks to expand its pharmaceutical tubing manufacturing operations in India. Schott's Tubing India factory is developing as a hub for pharmaceutical tubing to the Asian market.

In 2008, the company formed the joint venture Schott Kaisha, based in Mumbai which produces and markets

glass ampoules, vials, syringes and cartridges for the pharmaceutical industry.

Today, besides the pharmaceutical industry, Schott serves many important growth markets, such as home appliances, automotive lightning, fire-resistant glass, dental glass powders and consumer electronics.

Several Indian brands avail of Schott's expertise. TTK Prestige uses Schott Special Flat Glass in its award winning glass cooktops. Schott also supply Xensation® cover glass for the protection of today's advanced cellphone displays, fire-resistant glass PYRAN S through a processor, FG Glass in Mumbai. Schott also maintains a close partnership with Vivo, the company that designs and manufactures smartphones.

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THE MITTELSTAND

German SMEs & Their Hidden Champions

Germany's SMEs are the backbone of its phenomenal economic growth and are largely responsible for making the country the powerhouse it is today, says **Manoj Barve**, India Head of BVMW (German Federal Association of SMEs)



GERMANY HAS BEEN THE LOCOMOTIVE OF THE PHENOMENAL EUROPEAN GROWTH in the post-World War II era. One often wonders what the main reason for Germany's economic strength is. Perhaps its automotive giants like Mercedes, BMW, Volkswagen, and Audi... Or its chemical multinationals like Bayer and BASF... Maybe its electrical and automation conglomerates like Siemens and Bosch... Or possibly its service providers like SAP and Lufthansa...

Well, the real reason for Germany becoming a powerhouse has been its backbone – the SMEs – popularly known globally as – the Mittelstand. These are the 3.6 million publicity-shy small and medium-sized enterprises – spread all across Germany – primarily in small

towns and the countryside, mostly family-owned, mainly in industrial production – often manufacturing capital equipment, tools and components.

These SMEs have set a benchmark for all the industrialised and industrialising nations of the world to follow. The Mittelstand accounts for 36% of German Industrial sales, but 58% of its value addition, 60% of its industrial employment, and 83% of its young apprentices. No wonder, the German Government and society listens when the Mittelstand speaks!

There are certain characteristics of the Mittelstand which are interesting to note.

- The Mittelstand companies are extremely focused on niche markets. Within that niche, they attempt global leadership. They set ambitious goals for themselves. They prefer to grow

deeper (within that product group) than wider (unrelated diversifications). Since those companies do not drift into uncharted waters, they are able to concentrate their resources on R&D and innovation in the niche areas.

- The Mittelstand companies are very quality-driven. Anything worth doing is worth doing it right, they say.
- The Mittelstand companies are passionate and proud about what they do – even a simple looking product. Hence they strive to achieve excellence in their products and services. They follow the principle: 'Excellence is doing ordinary things extraordinarily well'. Owners, employees, and suppliers collaborate to make the customer happy.
- Closeness to customer is

another typical characteristic of the Mittelstand companies. Customer relationship is its core competency – not to be delegated, but to be taken seriously by everyone in the organisation. Therefore they are able to provide solutions which the customer really needs. They are value, not price-oriented. Their development efforts are, thus, better directed towards practical solutions. This helps them cement long-term relationship with the customer.

- Skill Development is another responsibility undertaken by the Mittelstand. Germany's world-famous dual-education system lets youth get trained, lets factories have local employees at reasonable costs, lets industry build world-class products, and offers German society a stable, strong and sustainable structure.

- The Mittelstand is famous for its incremental improvements. They strive every day to make their product safer, more productive, and more efficient. They are highly focused on R&D and innovation. R&D is often carried out in collaboration with local universities and Fraunhofer Institutes.

- The Mittelstand is also known for its employee participation. Often 3-4 generations of employees work shoulder-to-shoulder with 3-4 generations of owner families in the same town. A bond is built. Flat structures allow them more participation not only in operational but also in strategic decisions. Employees feel valued and respected. Not surprising then that employee satisfaction is high and turnover is low.
- Last but not least, long-termism

is a distinct trait of the Mittelstand. Being primarily owner-driven, these companies measure their success not in quarters but in generations – in continuity, in steady growth, in moderate profitability, in job security and in community development. Hence even during economic downturns, they continue to train, innovate and consolidate.

Today, as India aspires to use her demographic dividend, increase manufacturing share in the GDP, enhance exports, implement Industry 4.0 solutions, develop skills, strive for inclusive growth with reduction in regional disparities and equitable distribution of income and adopt environmentally sustainable solutions of growth – Germany, and especially its SME sector can guide us on this path.

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For more information, log on to www.bmw.in/3 or to book a test drive, visit bmw-navnitmotors-mumbai.in/testdrive. Terms and conditions apply. *Ex-Showroom price for the BMW 320d Sport. The model, equipment and possible vehicle configurations illustrated in this advertisement may differ from the vehicles supplied in the Indian market.