

When pure performance is the criteria, I've noticed women naturally excel

I can, therefore I am

DECCAN Chronicle

21 OCTOBER 2019

Politics whiff to Hindu leader's murder probe

Those responsible for the murder of Kamlesh Tiwari, who headed a minor Hindu Mahasabha offshoot, at his residence-cum-office in Lucknow on Friday, must be caught at the earliest after careful investigation and put on trial. But due diligence hasn't been the strong suit of the UP police for a long time. Under chief minister Yogi Adityanath, one of whose first acts as CM of the nation's most populous state in early 2017, was to have all criminal cases against himself dropped, the idea of justice and of dependable police work, an important aspect of judicial administration, have become conspicuous by their absence. The law and order machinery has been both politicised and communalised.

In the present case, the police acted swiftly, booking culprits from not only UP but also Gujarat, with tracking of suspects also being done in Nagpur in Maharashtra. This is possibly because those booked are from the Muslim community.

This would be in keeping with the record of the Adityanath administration whether we document the fake encounters, the so-called "love jihad" cases that were overly communalised and shown to be fabricated, or of the innocent medical professional Dr Kafel, who appears to have been framed on account of his faith. The poorer communities among Hindus have also been at the receiving end, as in a high profile case in Mirzapur showed recently, where upper caste men attacked a dalit village and the CM and the police gave no succour to the latter, choosing instead to attack political opponents for highlighting the government's proclivity for one-sided actions.

In the matter of the murder of Kamlesh Tiwari, members of the Muslim community may indeed have committed the crime. The deceased appears to have been a religious fanatic and had bad-mouthed the Prophet Muhammad in 2015, and distributed pamphlets carrying that dubious message, in the process attracting the ire of most of Muslim society. To track Muslim suspects may, therefore, be legitimate if there is the smallest suspicion. But the UP police and the CM himself have gone to the media in a way that suggests they have solved the case, and some Muslim youth are at the centre of it.

This single-track approach is apt to raise doubts in light of the assertion by the mother of the deceased that a UP BJP leader should be investigated over her son's killing. Her contention is that there was a dispute between this politico and her son over temple land in a village. It is surprising that the police has not commented on this matter, though the UP police chief himself has chosen to make statements in this case, rather than leave it to the spokesman. This too suggests his readiness to remain in tandem with the CM's thinking in the case, rather than direct his force to investigate the matter in a fair and impartial manner.

Smooth Brexit is in peril

In thwarting a Brexit vote, British MPs were seeking additional insurance against an abrupt October 31 exit from the European Union that would hurt Britain. Prime Minister Boris Johnson retaliated in a truculent way as he usually does by sending an unsigned letter to the EU on the need to postpone Britain's exit. "I am Boris, trust me," he may say, and have the last laugh as Parliament may vote positively later this week on the new divorce deal he brought back from Brussels. The deal may not be the best, and even signals a betrayal of what the PM promised over the backstop and Northern Ireland. Brexit may be too complicated now for anyone in Britain to be satisfied, including those who voted for it in the referendum. But is Boris the only one knows how to get it done?

The PM's attitude, his brazen defiance of the British system's norms and culture — of an unwritten Constitution, but bound by traditions going back to the Magna Carta — and his devil-may-care approach to Brexit by October 31 should make the democratic world sit up. The PM has mocked parliamentary colleagues, sacked some of his own Tories and is cocking a snook at MPs by, quite preposterously, sending an unsigned letter among three to the EU. He is defying the Supreme Court that felt compelled to rule his proroguing of Parliament invalid. In short, Boris is showing all signs of "strongmanship", which is a term in the making for the present era, dominated by the likes of Donald Trump, Xi Jinping, Vladimir Putin, Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Jair Bolsonaro. A proclivity to believe they're always right and that they needn't consult anyone on their decisions is a credo of this club.

DECCAN CHRONICLE

ADITYA SINHA
Editor

T. VENKATESWARLU
Printer & Publisher

DECCAN CHRONICLE offices are located at:

Hyderabad: 36, Sarojini Devi Road, Secunderabad - 500 003, Ph: 040-27803930-4; Fax: 040-27805256
Vijayawada: No.C-3 & 4 Patamata, Industrial Estate, Auto Nagar, Vijayawada (A.P.), Ph: 0866-255284/255287; Telefax: 0866-255234

Visakhapatnam: Survey No.1/3A Beach Road, Near Kailasagiri Ropeway, Sector-9 MVP Colony, Visakhapatnam - 530 017 (A.P.), Ph: 0891-2552333/2552334; Fax: 0891-2755285

Rajahmundry: Vemagiri, Dhawaleswaram Rd, Rajahmundry, Ph: 0883-2417618/2417208; Telefax: 0883-2417208

Anantapur: Thapovan colony, Bangalore By-Pass Road, Anantapur - 515004, Ph: 08554-276903; Fax: 08554-276904

Karimnagar: Survey No.1341, Vavilapally Colony, Jagityala Road, Karimnagar - 505 001, Ph: 0878-2228908; Telefax: 0878-2220433

Nellore: Survey No.527/2, Burranpur Village, Venkatchalam (M), Chennudugunta Panchayat, Nellore, Ph: 0861-2348581/82; Telefax: 0861-2348580

Chennai: SP-3 Developed Plot, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032, Ph: 044-22254747/48/50/51; Advt Fax: 22254765/22254766/42305325

Bengaluru: 5th Floor, BMTCC Commercial Complex, 80 Feet Road, Koramangala, Bengaluru-560 095 Ph: 080-43460500; Fax: 080-22960552

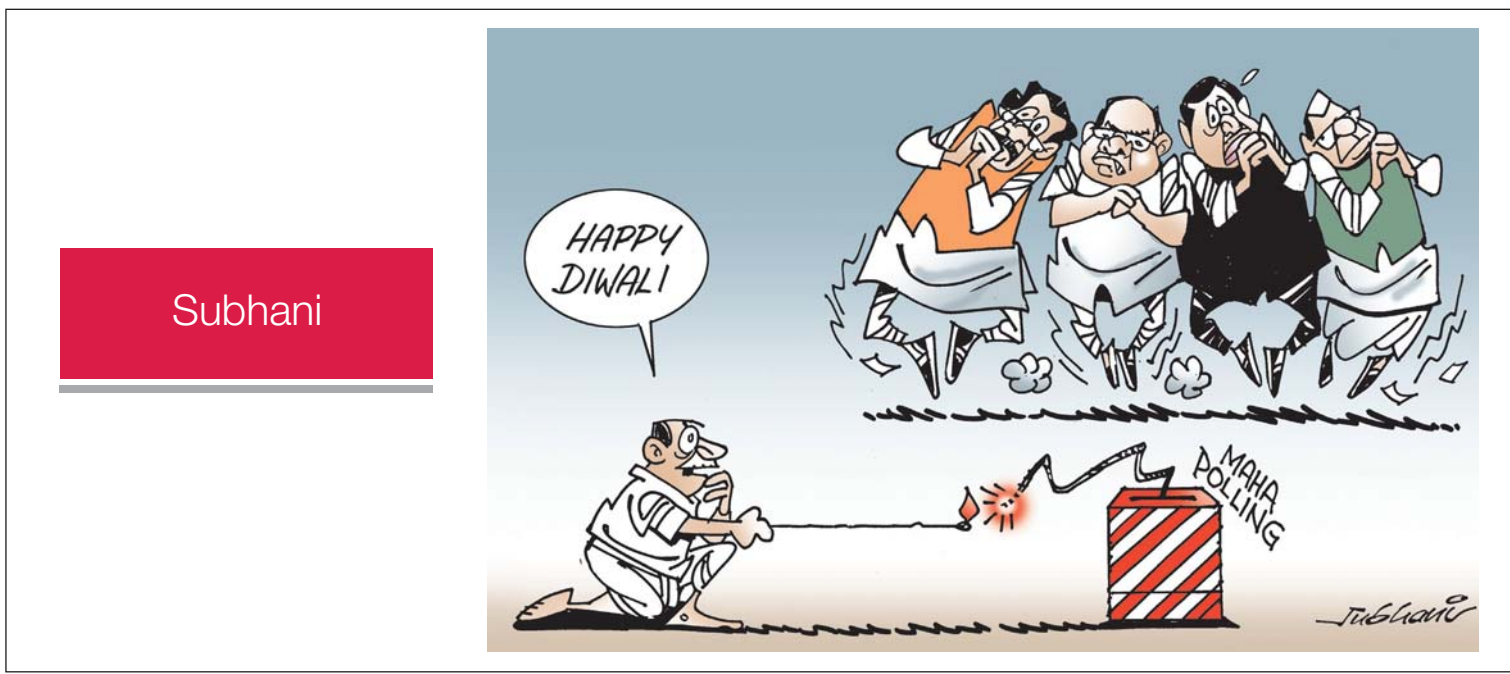
Coimbatore: 77, Vivekananda Road, Ramnagar, Coimbatore - 641 009, Ph: 0422 2231255

Kochi: No.3-B, 3rd Floor of DDD TRADE TOWER, Kaloor-Kadavanthara Road, Emakulam, Ph: 0484-4039408

Thiruvananthapuram: St Joseph's Press, TC 15/1040, Cotton Hill, Thycud (PO), Thiruvananthapuram 695 014

Kozhikode: Door No 6/1002 E, First Floor of City Mall, Opp. YMCA, Kannur Road, Kozhikode - 673 001, Fax: 0495 4019 018

Gram: CHRONICLE Postal registration no: HS. NUD-348/2006-08



Humiliation for Cong writ large in this ballot



Sanjay Kumar

The people of Maharashtra and Haryana would cast their vote to elect a new state government today. This would be the second time within a span of six months that they would be exercising their franchise, the first being the 2019 Lok Sabha elections held in the month of May earlier this year.

Past electoral trends suggest if the Assembly elections are held shortly after the Lok Sabha elections, as is the case with Maharashtra and Haryana, there is a great possibility of voters electing the same party they had voted in during the preceding ballot. In eight of ten such instances, they voted for the same party. The Delhi and Bihar Assembly elections of 2015 and Odisha in 2019 were among the few exceptions.

Theoretically, therefore, there are possibilities of both kinds. In today's Assembly elections, voters could exercise an electoral choice different from how they had voted during the 2019 Lok Sabha polls or they could go the way they did a few months back. The mood on the ground in both states suggests the verdict would be in conformity with the broadly established pattern. For, there is hardly any likelihood of any of these states bucking the trend. The BJP seems to be on a very strong wicket and the inability of the Opposition to put its house in order has played its part.

While the popular vote share of political parties remains the most important indicator of the mood of the voters, the movement of leaders

from one party to another (defection) is another sign of which way the wind is blowing. During the last couple of months in Haryana and Maharashtra, there was movement of 43 political leaders from one party to another. Of these, there were 19 leaders of the Congress Party (nine in Haryana, 10 in Maharashtra) who left their parent party to join other parties, mainly the BJP. The BJP itself did not suffer on this account but welcomed 31 leaders during the last few months.

There was also an exodus from the NCP; as the count suggests, 11 NCP leaders left the party of whom five joined the Shiv Sena and six switched over to the BJP. Charanjeet Singh Rori is the only leader to have joined the Congress, leaving his parent party, the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) in Haryana. These defections do suggest that the Congress, which began on a weak wicket when elections were announced, kept slipping and instead of consolidating its position seems to have lost more ground to the BJP during the last two-three weeks of the election campaign.

Even if we treat these defections as politics of opportunism and believe that this does not depict the right picture, the past performances of the political parties also favour the BJP. During the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the BJP registered a stunning victory in both Maharashtra and Haryana. The BJP in alliance with Shiv Sena polled more than 51 per cent votes and won 41 Lok Sabha seats in Maharashtra. In Haryana, it polled 58 per cent votes and won all

the 10 Lok Sabha seats. If seen in terms of Assembly segments in Maharashtra, the BJP-Shiv Sena combine led in 225 of the 288 Assembly constituencies, while in Haryana it led in 79 Assembly seats, the Congress being virtually decimated - it led only in 22 Assembly seats in Maharashtra, while its alliance partner NCP led in 23 Assembly seats. The story of the Congress in Haryana remained the same, with the party leading only in 10 Assembly seats in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

The ground reports suggest though some sections of the population share some concerns about growing unemployment, rural distress and the agricultural crisis, the popular mood has not changed significantly. The issues of national identity, national pride and the abrogation of Article 370 by the Narendra Modi government have overshadowed local issues. These are likely to loom large on the minds of the voters when they cast their vote today. There were concerns about unemployment, joblessness, farmer distress and rural distress even during the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, but the national issue of that moment — the Pulwama terror attack and the Balakot air strikes — overshadowed them. While these issues were often referred to as the "real issues of livelihood" during campaigns, a sizeable section voted on the "national issue". What have also strengthened

Though some sections of the population share some concerns about growing unemployment, rural distress and the agricultural crisis, the mood has not changed significantly

the position of the BJP is the popularity of Prime Minister Modi and the absence of any credible face among the Opposition parties. The Congress, which is the main Opposition in both these states, looks very weak when voters compare the two parties on the parameters of its leadership. Prime Minister Modi has been a vote catcher for the BJP and it should not surprise us if large numbers of people in these two states vote for the BJP solely in his name.

Though voters have not always voted in the Assembly elections the same way that they vote during the Lok Sabha elections even if held after a short interval, they exercise different voting choices only if there is a viable alternative as was the case in Bihar (*Mahagathbandhan* in 2015), Delhi (the Aam Aadmi Party under Arvind Kejriwal) and most recently in Odisha (Naveen Patnaik's BJD). The Congress, which performed badly both in Haryana and Maharashtra during the 2014 Assembly elections and in the most recent 2019 Lok Sabha elections, has failed to show any sign of revival. On the contrary, it has got further weakened by rebellions and defections from within the party. For me, it is difficult to imagine that the Congress was ever in a winning position in today's election, but a united Congress could have gone down fighting bravely and won seats in some pockets with Dalit and Jat predominance in Haryana and Maratha, Muslim and Dalit combinations in Maharashtra. Today's political reality is at a great distance from that scenario.

The writer is a professor and currently director of the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies. The views expressed are personal.

LETTERS CITY'S LEGACY

It is very painful to read about the negligence of the government, GHMC and the archaeological department, which are responsible for maintenance of heritage buildings in and around the city (*Part of Nampally Sarai collapses, one injured, DC, Oct. 20*). Authorities come into picture only after some damage is done. We can see that historical buildings are in a dilapidated condition. In some, plaster on walls is peeling off and weeds are growing on damaged walls, making them weaker. The government claims they are spending crores of rupees from public exchequer for maintaining and beautifying heritage buildings, but reality is different.

Mohammad Ayub Mujahid
Hyderabad

INTEGRITY FOR COPS

The job of a policeman requires high level of personal integrity to enforce the law (*No cop job for acquitted man, DC, Oct. 20*). However, we do elect public representatives to make laws though they face serious criminal charges. Is it not a mockery of our law and democracy?

S. Anoop Kumar
Secunderabad

DEPLORABLE ACT

This shocking news has upset a senior citizen like me (*Man stamps sis' Pom to death, DC Oct. 20*). I am astonished that the man, under the influence of alcohol, had gone to such extreme level. Such mentality reveals that morals have come down, even amongst educated persons.

Dr Shankar Chatterjee
Hyderabad

It was painful to read the news of an eight-year-old Pomeranian dog being mercilessly stamped to death by a man at Lalapat following a quarrel with his sibling. Police, having booked a case under the prevention of cruelty to animals act against him, must ensure that he is punished for this horrible act, so that it acts as a deterrent.

M. Dikshant
Secunderabad

Every Monday the best letter of the week wins ₹300. Email your letters to info@deccanmail.com, editor@deccanmail.com, or fax them to 27805256. You can also send them to Editor, Deccan Chronicle, 36, Sarojini Devi Road, Secunderabad-500 003.



Anita Katyal
Political Gup-Shup

Rejig buzz starts guessing game; Priyanka's team attracts envy

Though the Narendra Modi government was sworn in only five months ago, there is already talk in the corridors of power that the Prime Minister may go in for a Cabinet expansion/reshuffle in the near future. In fact, insiders in the Bharatiya Janata Party say it could even happen before the winter session of Parliament slated to commence in the third week of November. There are many ministers who are holding more than one portfolio and the proposed exercise is meant to lighten their burden. The new inductions will most likely be of a minister of state rank. Sulking allies like the Janata Dal (United) may also be accommodated. Anil Baluni, who heads the BJP's media department, is being mentioned as a strong contender for a ministerial post. Baluni is learned to have befriended Modi and BJP president Amit Shah when he was attached to Sunder Singh Bhandari during the latter's tenure as Gujarat governor. Suresh Prabhu was excluded in

the first round but the possibility of his induction cannot be ruled out. There is also a strong buzz that Mr Modi could bring in a domain expert in the agriculture or finance sectors as he did by appointing former foreign secretary S. Jaishankar as the external affairs minister. There is no certainty in this regard but several names are being bandied around. The guessing game is on.

It is only a by-election to an Assembly seat but the October 21 poll for the Jhabua constituency in Madhya Pradesh but it has become a prestige battle for both the ruling Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party. The BJP is obviously keen to retain the seat as a victory will not only improve the party's tally of MLAs but also embolden it further to topple the Congress government which has a wafer-thin majority in the Assembly. On the other hand, chief minister Kamal Nath and senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh are putting their best foot forward in this election. For them,

this bypoll is not just about consolidating Kamal Nath's position as chief minister but it also has a bearing on the internal dynamics in the Congress Party's Madhya Pradesh unit. Nath and Singh, who have joined forces to sideline former minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, are working overtime for the victory of their loyalist, Kantilal Bhuria, as it would then strengthen their campaign for the appointment of the tribal leader as president of Madhya Pradesh Congress. It is no secret that Scindia has also been lobbying for this post in an effort to retain his hold in state politics which has been weakening since his defeat in the Lok Sabha election. Only time will tell if Scindia will succeed in outsmarting his senior colleagues.

As was to be expected, the announcement of a new team of the Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee has led to rumblings in the party with the senior leaders complaining that it is packed with outsiders and juniors. In an attempt to placate

the dissenters, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's loyalists have made it known that the new members are on what is being described as probation for three months. According to them, the fresh incumbents have been told by the Congress general secretary's office that their work will be monitored closely and that they will be shown the door if they fail to deliver. For instance, the absence of the members from a party meeting or their failure to hold regular programmes in their areas will not be taken lightly. This has, to some extent, reassured the veterans who find themselves marginalised in the new set-up. A senior leader from Uttar Pradesh was recently heard exulting that the tenure of the fresh entrants will not last long. "Wait and see... most of the newcomers will not survive the test. We should be prepared for further changes in a couple of months," he added happily.

chief Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi a few weeks ago. Apparently, Sonia Gandhi wanted to appoint senior leader Sushil Kumar Shinde as party general secretary in charge of organisation in place of K.C. Venugopal who is a Rahul Gandhi favourite. The Nehru-Gandhi scion did not take kindly to this suggestion though Sonia Gandhi made a strong case for Shinde's rehabilitation in the party by citing his years of experience and the fact that it would send out a positive signal before the Maharashtra Assembly polls. Rahul Gandhi, it is said, remained unmoved and argued that younger leaders should not be cast aside merely to accommodate seniors. Rahul Gandhi won this round but the episode only shows that there is no end to the tussle between the old guard or Sonia loyalists and Rahul Gandhi's supporters.

The writer is a Delhi-based journalist

A person who supplements a vegetarian diet with fish | A car equipped with an extremely powerful stereo system being played with the volume and bass levels turned up

DECCAN CHRONICLE

MONDAY | 21 OCTOBER 2019 | HYDERABAD

Threat to turn off water to Pakistan is unworkable



Mohan Guruswamy

After the Uri terrorist attack, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said: "Blood and water cannot flow together." By implication, he was suggesting that India could retaliate by turning off the spigot of the three western rivers of the Indus basin that flow unhindered into Pakistan and sustain most of its agriculture. Now, possibly having realised that the western river waters can't be stopped, Mr Modi, while campaigning in Haryana, raised the question of the water of the eastern rivers flowing into Pakistan. The truth is that the flow of blood can be stopped, but water will continue to flow.

structured a complex canal system to irrigate the Punjab region of Pakistan. Partition left a large part of this infrastructure in Pakistan, but the headwork dams remained in India, fuelling much insecurity among the Punjabi landowning elite in that country. The World Bank brokered the Indus Water Treaty (IWT) between India and Pakistan after many years of intense negotiations to allocate the waters of the Indus river basin. Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and President Ayub Khan signed the treaty in Karachi on September 19, 1960. Under the IWT, control over the three "eastern" rivers — the Beas, Ravi and Sutlej — was given to India, while control over the three "western" rivers — the Indus, Chenab and Jhelum — to Pakistan. Since Pakistan's three rivers flow through India first, the treaty allowed India to use them for irrigation, transport and power generation, while laying down precise regulations for Indian building pro-

jects along the way. Since the ratification of the treaty in 1960, India and Pakistan have fought three wars, but the flow of water as per the treaty was not hampered even for a single day.

The three eastern rivers allocated to India by the IWT are the Beas, Ravi and Sutlej. These waters sustain agriculture in Punjab and to some extent Haryana, and are substantially used. What enters Pakistan is usually just enough to keep the stream flushed. But nevertheless, Pakistan has from time to time blamed India for its floods, saying these are caused by the sudden and deliberate release of storage gates. Despite this, the IWT worked exceedingly well for both countries, and both are loathe disturbing it. Even when India and Pakistan went to war in 1965, 1971 and over Kargil in 1999, the waters flowed without interruption. The fact is that the IWT works because it suits both countries by making a virtue of their geography.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi rode to power promising to deter Pakistani-origin terrorism in India by threatening retribution, and is now hard pressed to deliver. The terrorist attacks continue, even without Article 370. Mr Modi is discovering that there is a wide, yawning gap between promise and reality. The Modi govern-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi rode to power promising to deter Pakistani-origin terrorism in India by threatening retribution, and is now hard pressed to deliver. The terrorist attacks continue, even without Article 370.

ment is flailing for options, short of the use of the military option. After the Uri incident, Mr Modi threatened to withdraw from the IWT. Nothing happened. Instead, Pulwama happened. Even the raid on Balakot has not had quite the effect on Pakistan as most of his followers claim it did.

Now campaigning in Haryana, Mr Modi has once again begun to somewhat obliquely raise the issue of the Indus waters. He now tells Haryana's farmers we are giving away much of the Ravi, Sutlej and Beas waters to Pakistan. This is just not true. Out of 33 million acre-feet (MAF) that is by right India's, only about two MAF utilisable from the Ravi and Beas flows into Pakistan. Yet Mr Modi threatens Pakistan, saying: "The water which belongs to India was allowed to flow to Pakistan for 70 years... This will not happen now. We will

divert the water which belongs to India, it will be given to the farmers of Haryana, and water should be given to the farmers of Rajasthan." But the main reason why Haryana, Rajasthan and even Delhi are being denied the Indus basin waters is because Punjab refuses to permit the completion of the Sutlej-Yamuna Link Canal (SYL) from just below the Nangal Dam to join the Yamuna canal near Karnal in Haryana.

Of the three western rivers "given" to Pakistan, the Indus, which debouches from Indian territory near Kargil, then flows entirely in Pakistan-controlled territory. The Jhelum originates near Verinag near Anantnag and meanders for over 200 km in the Kashmir Valley before it enters Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. After flowing through Srinagar, it fills up the Wular Lake and then traverses past Baramulla and Uri. The hydel projects constructed on it supply most of the electricity to the Valley.

The Chenab, also known as the Chandrabhaga, originates in Lahaul Spiti in Himachal Pradesh and flows through the Jammu region into the plains of Pakistan's Punjab. The catchment area of the Chenab is elongated and narrow. The catchment area of the Chenab is mostly in India. But the Chenab runs through deep val-

leys and the river drops by as much as 24 meters per km, imposing physical constraints and huge economic costs on harnessing it.

Besides, as Dr Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, head of earth sciences at the geology and geophysics department of the University of Kashmir, recently put it: "Let us assume we stop the water supply for the sake of argument. Where would the water go? We do not have the infrastructure to store this water. We have not built dams in J&K where we can store the water. And being a mountainous state, unlike Tamil Nadu or Karnataka, you cannot move the water to another state. So, you cannot stop the water technically."

But even if it can be done, climate change is upon us with severe implicit consequences for both countries, but mostly for Pakistan. The Indus river basin is fed mostly by melting glaciers, unlike the Ganga and the Brahmaputra basins, which are fed mostly by the monsoons. Since climate change is now affecting the Himalayan glaciers, the water patterns in the Indus river basin are already showing changes. This is why Pakistan constantly keeps up a drumbeat of false charges about the non-adherence to the IWT by India.

Widely referenced estimates indicate a troubling long-term

trend for the flow of the Indus river basin. River water provides 80 per cent of all irrigation water for Pakistan's critical agriculture sector. These water sources are already near their limits, with most water diverted to northern Pakistan's agricultural regions at the expense of the south. In fact, so much water is diverted from the Indus before it reaches the ocean that seawater has invaded the river channel miles inland.

Based on current projections, the Indus river system is expected to fall below 2000 flow levels between 2030 and 2050. The drop-off is estimated to be most serious between 2030 and 2040, with a new equilibrium flow of 20 per cent below that of 2000, reached after 2060.

Not only is Pakistan running out of water, it seems to be soon running out of time as well. As its founding father-poet Allama Iqbal wrote: "Watan Ki Fikar Kar Nadan! Musibat Ane Wali Hai/ Teri Barbadiyon Ke Mashware Hain Asmanon Mein. (Think of the homeland, O ignorant one! Hard times are coming/ Conspiracies for your destruction are afoot in the heavens.)"

The writer, a policy analyst studying economic and security issues, held senior positions in government and industry. He also specialises in the Chinese economy.

It's down to the wire... and Boris has only one chance to survive



Rod Liddle

Here is my ideal scenario. Having failed to push through a deal to leave the European Union, either in the House of Commons or with the EU, Boris Johnson abides by the terms of the Benn Act and drafts a letter requesting an extension to the 31 October deadline. That extension would be eight minutes and 21 seconds, approximately the time it takes light to travel from the sun to earth — depending slightly, of course, on where we are in our orbit at the time.

The Prime Minister could claim this would respect the letter of the Benn Act, if not, um, entirely the spirit. Having done this, Boris should then proceed to a no-deal Brexit — or what the BBC refers to as a "crash-out-and-burn-in-the-ferriest-pit-of-hell Brexit" — with a brutality that would have made Marshal Zhukov blanch. It is just about the only way I can see of a) getting a clean Brexit and b) minimising the risk of the scenario I still think is easily the most likely denouement to this whole charade — to wake up one dank morning in late November, with sudden leaven and a sun the colour of stale egg yolk, to find that Old Man Steptoe and his retinue of imbeciles are now governing the country, propped up by the jabbering, dwarfish, thin-lipped Picts and the Liberal 'Democrats' (sic).

You have the advantage over me, in that you know, or are

about to know, what happened on our exciting deadline day. My deadline came a little earlier. It may be that by the time you read this, the entire country will have dropped its affection for Brexit given the profusion of no-deal scare stories doing the rounds. The latest, and most chilling perhaps, is that the large quantities of sperm we import from the EU will immediately dry up, so to speak, if we have no deal. This is a country that fought and won two world wars. I had no idea we were now dependent for our existence on gallons of imported cut-price Danish spunk, nor why we should be. Whatever, events move more quickly than time itself these days — but no matter what happens this weekend, only the above scenario would prevent a weak Brexit or no Brexit at all, a second referendum and very quickly a government of none of the talents. Here's why.

If Boris somehow succeeds in getting his deal through, it will meet with the implacable opposition of Nigel Farage's Brexit party and probably a large handful of Conservative MPs. This is because the deal is scarcely any better — and in some ways worse — than the one that Theresa May failed to get through the House of Commons. In which case the Prime Minister will have to rely on the hope that the entire Leave vote becomes so sick of the whole corrosive process that they swing behind the deal and thus the Conservative party. Some undoubtedly will think precisely that, following Tom Harris's dictum that 'I've got about half of what I voted for in the referendum, so I'll be happy with that.' However, many will not and Boris, remember, needs to gain more than 40 seats. The

If Boris succeeds in getting his deal through, it will meet with the implacable opposition of Nigel Farage's Brexit party and a large handful of Conservative MPs. The deal is scarcely any better than the one that May failed to get through the House of Commons.

Brexit party in this scenario will field candidates in pretty much every constituency, sapping — largely — the Tory vote.

The polls at the moment have given cheer to the Conservatives, but to my mind false cheer. The latest put the party on about 34 per cent and Labour eight points behind on 26 per cent. The psephologist Sir John Curtice suggests that this could give Boris a majority in the House of Commons by the slenderest of margins. But that is to ignore geographical factors, the role of the Brexit party and the volatility of the electorate. The Tories may indeed be shoring up their vote in seats they already possess, but there is no evidence whatsoever that they have the ability to gain seats in the north-east and north-west of England. The Brexit party is still well into double figures in the polls; for its threat to the Tories to be largely redundant this figure needs to fall to 5-6 per cent, and it shows no signs of doing that. Furthermore, those voters who do decamp from the Brexit party will return to the Tories only in those areas where they don't need them. Following the pattern of the decamped Ukip vote in 2017, former Brexit party voters in areas away from the south-east of England will more likely return

to their habitual Labour (or even Lib Dem, paradoxically) berths.

But even in the south-east the Tories will not have it all their own way — certainly not in London. The party currently holds 21 seats in our fervently Remain-minded and increasingly woke capital. My suspicion is that it will lose eight to ten of them — in places such as Putney, Cities of London and Westminster, Harrow East and Wimbledon, where the swing required by Labour or the Lib Dems is around or below (very much below in some cases) 5 per cent. It is perfectly possible, if not probable, that should the Lib Dems and Labour reach some sort of electoral pact in Uxbridge and South Ruislip, where the swing needed is only 5.39 per cent, the Prime Minister himself could be out of a seat.

In 2017 the Conservative party won 13 seats in Scotland, its best performance since 1983. There is scant hope that it can add to that figure and the far greater probability is that it will lose about half of them. In the south-west the Tories face the resurgent Lib Dems and again will lose more seats than they gain, half a dozen or so by my reckoning. Add all that stuff together and Boris falls well short of an overall majority — and by my conservative calculation will lose at least 20 in the regions mentioned above. That leaves him about 65 seats short of a majority. There is hope for Boris in the Midlands and parts of East Anglia. Many of the Tory targets, however, are in the north — and yet it seems to me highly unlikely that Boris will carry with him the likes of say, Bishop Auckland, Hartlepool and Stockton South. It seems more likely that the sole Conservative gain from Labour

in the north-east in 2017 will return to the Labour party.

In the north, the Brexit party vote will remain strong in those areas most dispossessed, where the Tories are disliked both tribally and viscerally and also for 'austerity'. The Queen's Speech and spending plans directed specifically at these areas are too recent to have properly bedded down in the minds of the electors — nor does Boris play very well on the stump in such regions. The Tories will maintain their grasp of rural northern seats, but will struggle in the cities to win either the increasingly cosmopolitan vote, or the votes of the truly poor. My guess is that Labour could end up the largest party of a ruling coalition by making only the most modest gains, coasting to power on the back of revivals for the Lib Dems and the SNP.

This scenario is predicated upon Boris getting another bugger's muddle of a deal through. But it applies even more so if that deal does not go through. If that happens, he will be tied in the minds of the electorate to a Brexit deal which was unattractive and which in any case failed once again. The Brexit party will stand against him in every seat, the Leave vote will be split. Only by championing no deal will our PM be able to nullify the threat of Nigel Farage and present the election as being a reformist, One Nation Tory party against a liberal elite which has betrayed the electorate. I'm sorry if all this depresses you. Perhaps I'm wrong and Boris will be swept home to victory by a grateful public who recognise that he did the best he could. You cleave to that belief if you want to.

By arrangement with the Spectator

US act of treachery shouldn't surprise Kurds, given the past



Irfan Husain

Fans of the iconic 'Peanuts' cartoon strip will recall how time after time, Lucy persuades the hapless Charlie Brown to kick the football she is staiding with a finger.

When Charlie Brown asks for an assurance, he receives a promise that she won't pull the ball away this time. He then comes running in, and of course, Lucy pulls the ball away at the last instant, leaving Charlie sprawling on his back. It never changes, and yet he never loses his innocence, just as Lucy never loses her mean streak.

This is what has happened to the Kurds over hundreds of years. According to an old Kurdish saying, the mountains are the Kurds' only friends. Although they are the world's largest ethnic group without a state, they have been used and abused time and again by cynical regional powers, as well as by global powers. Today, there are anywhere between 20 million and 40m Kurds, depending on whom figures you trust. At 15m, they constitute around 18 per cent of the Turkish population. There are also about 8m in Iran; 2m in Syria, and 5m in Iraq. Sadly, they have been unable to unite and present a joint front.

For decades, it was a crime to broadcast in Kurdish in Turkey, or use other expressions of identity like singing or publishing works written in Kurdish. This pushed the Kurds into demanding greater autonomy, and when the Turkish state responded with violence, the conflict escalated into a full-blown civil war. Spearheading this fight was the PKK, or the Kurdistan Workers' Party, a secular, left-wing group that espoused independence.

To his credit, Erdogan, the Turkish president, lifted the ban on many of the draconian bans on the display of Kurdish identity. Schools can now teach in Kurdish, and Kurds can take part in elections. However, this thaw ended when terrorist attacks in Turkey took scores of lives. Although the PKK denied responsibility, Erdogan unleashed a fierce anti-Kurd campaign in south-eastern Turkey that has levelled entire city blocks and killed thousands.

The YPG, or Peoples' Protection Units, is a Syrian group close to the PKK's ideology. Women have fought shoulder to shoulder with men in the war against the militant Islamic State (IS) group, and

have won the admiration of many around the world for their courage and skill.

For the Americans, the YPG were a godsend, as no other regional force was willing to take on the bloodthirsty jihadists of the IS. Writing a cheque in Riyadh is one thing; risking life and limb in the desert quite another. In any case, the fighting capabilities of the Saudi army have been thoroughly exposed in the war against the Houthis in Yemen.

Nor did the Americans wish to send more troops to Syria and risk vote-losing casualties. But with American air and artillery support, the YPG defeated the IS in a series of bloody battles. Trump could thus declare victory, and pull out the small number of troops who served as a trip-wire to prevent Turkish attacks on the Kurds. But after they had served American interests, Trump has abruptly stabbed his Kurdish allies in the back, continuing a long and dishonourable tradition.

Over the last century, America has betrayed the Kurds exactly eight times, so Trump's latest (and ninth) act of treachery should not surprise us, or the Kurds. When the Ottoman Empire collapsed after its defeat in the First World War, Kurds who had lived for centuries under Istanbul's yoke thought their time had come. But despite earlier promises, they were betrayed by the Americans, and denied statehood under the Treaty of Lausanne of 1923 that redrew regional maps to reflect the carve-up of the Ottoman Empire.

After the Second World War, the Americans armed the Kurds to bleed the government of Abdul Karim Kassem. However, when the (initially) pro-West Saddam Hussein staged a coup, arms to the Kurds were abruptly halted. The next chapter in betrayal came when the Iraqi Kurds were armed by Nixon against Saddam at the behest of the Shah of Iran, but were abandoned to the tender mercies of the murderous Iraqi dictator following the revolution in Iran. When he was asked to explain this act of treachery, Kissinger cynically replied: "One should not confuse covert acts with missionary work." When Saddam used poison gas to massacre thousands of Kurds, an American reporter handed in a story about the incident, his editor asked: "Who will care?"

When the elder Bush halted the American advance during the first Gulf War, he encouraged Iraqis to fight Saddam. But when the Shias in the south and the Kurds in the north did rise up, they were butchered by the dictator without the Americans lifting a finger to help.

The litany of betrayal goes on.

By arrangement with Dawn

On feasting and fasting: Eating with awareness



Amrit Sadhana

Accept it or not, much of the attraction of a festival depends on the irresistible delicacies you are going to binge on. All the fun and excitement will be gone if you are put on a calorie diet during the festivity. And the real fun of binging is when you don't have to think about what you are eating, right?

Wrong! Actually you can have real fun when you are eating with awareness. Indian ayurveda and yoga have given tremendous importance to eating — it was called a sacrifice,

a *havan* to the body. Eating is not only done through the mouth, but it is also a deeply sensuous way of relating to a sort of life energy called food. You may not have thought about it but you enjoy food through all your senses. One-fourth of the food is eaten through the eyes, the other one-fourth is enjoyed through the smell, and the remaining is relished through the taste. There is a sort of meditation in tantra which says, "While tasting, the food becomes the taste". Do not just go on swallowing things. Taste them unhurriedly and become the taste. When you feel sweetness, become that sweetness. And then it can be felt all over the body — not just in the mouth, not just on the tongue — it can be felt all over the body, spreading its ripples!



With no taste, your senses will be deadened. They will become less and less perceptive. And with less sensitivity, you will not be able to feel your body, your feelings. The food reaches every cell, at different levels of your being and creates life. Without sensitivity, you will remain in your head and will be disconnected from your body. Tantra says, do not create any division within yourself. It is beautiful to taste; it is beautiful to be sensitive.

So, what you eat is important enough but how you eat it is equally important. Dieticians can give you a very healthy diet but you are the one who is going to absorb it and assimilate it all over the body. It is your body that is going to digest and send it to every cell and build up

your sensitivity. This is why Osho says: I don't teach you dieting; I teach you only awareness. Eat with full awareness, eat meditatively, and then you will never eat more, and you will never eat less. More is as bad as less. Too much eating is bad, just like too much fasting; these are extremes. To go to the extreme is to be neurotic. There are two types of neurotics about food: those who go on eating, not listening to the body — the body goes on crying and screaming, "Stop!" and they go on eating.

A religious person is one who is balanced: in whatsoever he is doing, he is always in the middle. He never goes to the extreme.

Amrit Sadhana is editor of Osho Times International. She facilitates meditation workshops based on Osho insights around the country and abroad.

50 YEARS AGO IN
DECCAN
Chronicle
India may export aluminium

By a staff reporter
HYDERABAD, OCT. 20
EFFECTIVE exploitation of copper and lead at Agniundala in Guntur district is expected to commence in 1971.

This was stated here today by the Union Minister of State for Mines and Metals, Mr. R. Jagannatha Rao.

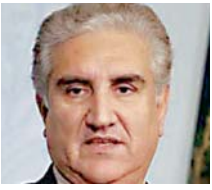
In the Agniundala area exploration work has been completed. Samples of deposits would be sent for examination shortly.

Mr Jagannatha Rao disclosed that the Centre has approved a Rs 5.66-crore scheme to set up a plant at Bondalamattu.



Popular president

Joko Widodo was sworn in as the Indonesian President for a second term in office in Jakarta



Pakistan will achieve all FATF targets on time

— Shah Mahmood Qureshi
Pakistan foreign minister

IN BRIEF

Qantas completes longest flight

Sydney: Australia's Qantas on Sunday completed the first non-stop commercial flight from New York to Sydney, which was used to run a series of tests to assess the effects of ultra long-haul flights on crew fatigue and passenger jetlag. The Boeing 787 Dreamliner touched down in Sydney after a flight of 19 hours and 16 minutes, the world's longest. Qantas said tests ranged from monitoring pilot brain waves, melatonin levels and alertness to exercise classes for passengers. A total of 49 people were on board, in order to minimize weight. "Overall, we're really happy with how the flight went and it's great to have some of the data we need to help assess turning this into a regular service," said Capt. Sean Golding, who led the four pilots.

Syrian forces must leave border areas: Erdogan

Turkish Prez mulls resettlement of 2 million refugees

Istanbul, Oct. 20: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan wants Syrian government forces to move out of areas near the Turkish border so he can resettle up to 2 million refugees there, his spokesman told The Associated Press on Saturday.

The request will top Erdogan's talks next week with Syria's ally, Russian President Vladimir Putin. Arrangements along the Syrian-Turkish border were thrown into disarray after the US pulled its troops out of the area, opening the door to Turkey's invasion aiming to drive out Kurdish-led fighters it considers terrorists.

Abandoned by their American allies, the Kurds, with Russia's mediation, invited Damascus to send troops into northeastern Syria as protection from Turkish forces. That has complicated Turkey's plan to create a "safe zone" along the border, where it can resettle Syrian refugees now in Turkey.

Erdogan's spokesman, Ibrahim Kalin, said Ankara does not want either Syrian forces or Kurdish fighters in the border area because

US troops leave Syria, to fight IS from Western Iraq

Washington, Oct. 20: Defense Secretary Mark Esper says that under the current plan all US troops leaving Syria will go to western Iraq and the military will continue to conduct operations against the Islamic State group to prevent its resurgence.

Esper did not rule out the idea that US forces would conduct counterterrorism missions from Iraq into Syria. But he said those details will be worked out over time.

His comments were the first to specifically lay out where American troops will go as they leave Syria and what the counter-IS fight could look like. Esper said he has spoken to his Iraqi



Mark Esper

counterpart about the plan to shift the more than 700 troops leaving Syria into western Iraq.

The developments made clear that one of President Donald Trump's rationales for withdrawing troops from Syria was not going to come to pass any time

soon. "It's time to bring our soldiers back home," he said. But they are not coming home.

As Esper left Washington, US troops were continuing to pull out of northern Syria after Turkey's invasion into the border region. Sporadic clashes continued between Turkish-backed fighters and the US-allied Syria Kurdish forces despite a five-day cease-fire deal between US and Turkish leaders.

Trump ordered the bulk of the approximately 1,000 US troops in Syria to withdraw after Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan made it clear in a phone call that his forces were about to invade Syria. — AP

refugees would not go back to areas under their control. Turkey has said it wants to oversee that area. "This is one of the topics that we will discuss with

the Russians, because, again, we are not going to force any refugees to go to anywhere they don't want to go," he said. "We want to create conditions that will

be suitable for them to return where they feel safe." Turkey has taken in about 3.6 million Syrians fleeing the conflict in their homeland. — AP

Boris sends unsigned letter for Brexit delay

London, Oct. 20: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson reluctantly wrote to Brussels late Saturday asking for a Brexit extension after MPs voted to force him into seeking a delay beyond October 31.

But Johnson, who has pinned his premiership on getting Britain out of the European Union on time, refused to sign the letter he sent to European Council President Donald Tusk.

The Conservative leader also sent a second signed letter insisting he was not seeking an extension to the Brexit deadline, which has already been postponed twice.

In a day of high drama in the House of Commons, MPs declined to give their backing to the revised withdrawal agreement Johnson struck with the EU this week until the legislation needed to ratify it has passed.

Having failed to back a divorce deal, they triggered a law requiring Johnson to write to EU leaders by the end of the day asking to delay Brexit, to avoid the risk that Britain crashes out in less than a fortnight.

Johnson sent a photocopy of the letter that was



REGRETTABLY, Parliament missed the opportunity to inject momentum into the ratification process

BORIS JOHNSON, British Prime Minister

contained in the law requiring him to ask for the delay, but did not sign it, showed a copy released by his Downing Street office. "Regrettably, parliament missed the opportunity to inject momentum into the ratification process," Johnson wrote in the signed letter, regretting that EU leaders would now have to spend yet more time on Brexit.

He expressed "confidence" of completing the ratification process by October 31. — AFP

EU CONSIDERING JOHNSON'S RELUCTANT PLEA

London, Oct. 20: EU leaders were on Sunday considering a request by Prime Minister Boris Johnson to delay Britain's departure from the bloc, which he was forced to make after MPs refused to back his Brexit deal.

Tusk said he would begin consulting EU leaders "on how to react" — a process one diplomat said could take a few days.

Johnson has already spoken to the leaders of France, Germany and the Netherlands to press his case — and Paris warned that a Brexit delay was "in nobody's interest".

Johnson's government is seeking a new vote on its deal on Monday, although this may fall foul of parliamentary procedure.

If it introduces the treaty implementation bill on Monday, however, MPs could be called to vote as early as Tuesday.

Johnson wrote to Tusk that he was "confident" he could get it through before the of the month. — AFP



Trudeau could lose Canada polls

Toronto: Polls show Trudeau could lose to his Conservative Party rival in national elections on Monday or fail to win a majority of seats in Parliament and have to rely on an opposition party to remain in power. Not since 1935 has a first-term Canadian prime minister with a parliamentary majority lost a bid for re-election. A combination of scandal and high expectations has damaged his prospects. Trudeau's opponent, Andrew Scheer, is a career politician described by those in his own party as bland, a possible antidote for those tired of Trudeau's flash. Scheer, 40, is promising to scrap the national carbon tax and cut government spending, including foreign aid, by 25 percent.

G7 SUMMIT NOT AT MY RESORT, SAYS TRUMP

Washington, Oct. 20: US President Donald Trump said the next G7 summit will not be at one of his own Florida golf clubs, reversing a decision that had sparked corruption accusations.

Acting White House Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney had revealed the venue for the summit, causing a firestorm among Trump's Democratic opponents in Congress, who called the move "among the most brazen examples yet of the president's corruption."

"Based on both Media & Democrat Crazed and Irrational Hostility, we will no longer consider Trump National Doral, Miami, as the Host Site for the G-7 in 2020," he tweeted. "We will begin the search for another site, including the possibility of Camp David, immediately." Mulvaney had said in his announcement that the south Florida venue was "the best place" among a dozen US locations considered for the June 10-12 gathering next year.

Critics, including ethic campaigners, said holding the event at Doral would violate both the foreign and domestic emoluments clauses that are designed to shield a US leader from outside influence.

"He is exploiting his office and making official US government decisions for his personal financial gain," Jerry Nadler, the chairman of the powerful House Judiciary Committee, said. Even before the Doral announcement, lawmakers were probing Trump's suggestion at the G7 in France that the next one could be at one of his resorts. — AFP

Protesters vent fury amid vandalism



BARCELONA



HONG KONG



1. Chile: A burnt metro station and train after protests in Santiago over hike in price of metro tickets. — AFP
2. Barcelona: Protesters stage a street protest in Barcelona, after nearly 200 people were hurt in another night of violent clashes in Catalonia. — AFP
3. Hong Kong: Protesters attack a man who was trying to stop them from vandalizing near the Tsim She Tsui police station during a rally on Sunday. — AP

THREE DEAD IN CHILE PROTEST VIOLENCE

Santiago, Oct. 20: Three people died in a fire at a supermarket being ransacked in the Chilean capital early Sunday, as protests sparked by anger over social and economic conditions rocked one of Latin America's most stable countries.

Santiago's Mayor Karla Rubilar told reporters two people burned to death in the blaze and another later died in hospital, after the huge store controlled by US retail chain Walmart was looted.

They were the first deaths in two days of violent unrest in which protesters have set buses on fire, burned metro stations and clashed with riot police in the city of seven million, despite a curfew imposed overnight.

Soldiers were deployed in the streets for the first time since Chile returned to democracy in 1990. The protests were triggered by an unpopular hike in metro fares, which President Sebastian Pinera later suspended following riot-like situation.

Pinera appealed to people taking to the streets, saying "there are good reasons to do so," but calling on them "to demonstrate peacefully." Pinera acknowledged that those in the streets had "good reasons" to protest but called on them "to demonstrate peacefully." Nobody has the right to act with brutal criminal violence, he said. Dozens of protesters torched a building belonging to Chile's oldest newspaper El Mercurio in Valparaiso, while elsewhere in the port city a metro station, supermarkets and other stores were burned. — AFP

Hillary draws flak for jibe at Tulsi

Washington, Oct. 20: Hillary Clinton has gone crazy, US President Donald Trump has said as he slammed the former secretary of state for calling Democratic presidential aspirant Tulsi Gabbard and former Green Party candidate Jill Stein as Russian assets.

During a podcast interview, Clinton said Russia had groomed Stein to be a spoiler third-party candidate in 2016 and implied that the Kremlin is doing the same with Gabbard in order to take votes away from the 2020 Democratic ticket and secure Trump's reelection.

"Hillary's gone Crazy! Trump said in a tweet on Saturday night. "So now Crooked Hillary is at it again! She is calling Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard 'a Russian favorite', and Jill Stein 'a Russian asset'. As you may have heard, I was called a big Russia lover also (actually, I do like Russian people. I like all people!)," he said.

Gabbard, 38, the first Hindu member of the US Congress, declared her presidential bid last year. She is a favourite among Indian-Americans. Gabbard, a fourth-term Democratic Congresswoman from Hawaii, fired back at Clinton. "Great! Thank you @HillaryClinton. You, the queen of warmongers, embodiment of corruption, and personification of the rot that has sickened the Democratic Party for so long, have finally come out from behind the curtain."

DESPERATE | MOVE ■ Rights groups have warned the island might not be able to withstand violent storms

Rohingya agree to move to Bangla flood-prone region

Cox's Bazar, Oct. 20: Thousands of Rohingya living in Bangladesh refugee camps have agreed to move to an island in the Bay of Bengal, officials said on Sunday, despite fears the site is prone to flooding.

Dhaka has long wanted to move 1,00,000 refugees to the muddy silt islet, saying it would take pressure off the overcrowded border camps where almost a million Rohingya live.

Some 7,40,000 Rohingya fled Myanmar in August 2017 in the face of a mili-

■ CURRENTLY, more than a lakh Rohingya refugees live at the over-crowded border camps

■ SOME 7,40,000 Rohingya fled Myanmar in August 2017 in the face of a military crackdown

■ BANGLADESH had been planning to relocate Rohingya to the desolate flood-prone site which is an hour by boat from the mainland

tary crackdown, joining 2,00,000 refugees already in makeshift tent settle-

ments at Cox's Bazar. Bangladesh's refugee commissioner, Mahbub

Alam, said officials overseeing the relocation would be posted to Bhashan Char island in the next few days.

"Approximately 6,000-7,000 refugees have already expressed their willingness to be relocated to Bhashan Char," Alam told AFP from Cox's Bazar, adding that "the number is rising".

He did not say when the refugees would be moved, but a senior Navy officer involved in building facilities on the island said it could start by December,

with some 500 refugees sent daily.

Bangladesh had been planning since last year to relocate Rohingya to the desolate flood-prone site, which is an hour by boat from the mainland.

Rights groups have warned the island, which emerged from the sea only about two decades ago, might not be able to withstand violent storms during the annual monsoon season.

In the past half a century, powerful cyclones have killed hundreds of thou-

sands of people in the Meghna river estuary where the island is located.

Rohingya leaders would be taken to Bhashan Char to view the facilities and living conditions, Alam said.

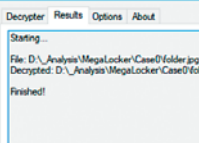
Safety facilities built on the island include a nine-foot high embankment along its perimeter to keep out tidal surges during cyclones, and a warehouse to store months-worth of rations, he added.

Rohingya father-of-four Nur Hossain, 50, said he

and his family agreed to relocate to Bhashan Char after they were shown video footage of the shelters.

"I have agreed to go. The camp here (at Leda) is very overcrowded. There are food and housing problems," the 50-year-old told AFP.

There was no immediate comment from the UN, although Bangladeshi officials said they expect a delegation would visit the island in the next few weeks. — AFP



Antivirus maker Emsisoft has published a free decryption utility for the STOP ransomware strain

SHORT TAKES

HONOR WILL ROLL OUT ANDROID PHONES

New Delhi, Oct. 20: Chinese smartphone brand Honor is planning to launch Android-based handset in India by the end of this year, despite a ban on its parent firm Huawei for purchase of software and hardware components from US companies.

Besides, the Huawei's sub-brand is focussing on deployment of internet of things (IoT) technology.

"We are going to launch Honor 9X by the end of this year in India. It will be on Android. Any android phone can be mirrored with Honor smart screen. We have always been thankful to our US partners for their support," Honor India President Charles Peng told PTI in an interview.

Honor has come with its operating system HarmonyOS after the US government announced a ban on supplies of components and software by American companies to Huawei. It recently unveiled world's first HarmonyOS based product Honor Vision.

The company also has plans to officially launch and start selling Honor Vision smart television in India from the first quarter of 2020. It can be connected to Android-based Honor smartphones to access content on the television.

The company is also in talks with leading video entertainment companies to support Honor Vision before it is launched in India.

Peng said the company is now going to expand offering in India with focus on deployment of internet of things (IoT) technology.

"Honor has developed an IoT product strategy for all its subsequent product launches called 1+8+N where '1' signifies smartphones, '8' signifies Honor products such as Honor Vision, Honor Watch, Honor laptops, Honor bands, Honor glasses and so on. 'N' signifies the ecosystem partner products covering mobile offices, smart homes, sports and health, audio-visual entertainment, and smart travel products," Peng said.

He said that all the products will be made available in India gradually and all the devices will be controlled by one device that is smartphone.

When asked about the operating system the company will use in laptops, Peng said it will be based on consumer's choice and the firm will also push for open source operating system when it is launched. — PTI



5G DEPLOYMENT COSTS WON'T FALL: ERICSSON

New Delhi, Oct. 20: Swedish telecom gear maker Ericsson has junked the argument that the cost of 5G network rollout in India will increase if some companies are barred from doing business in the country.

Chinese telecom gear major Huawei and some third party industry reports have claimed that rolling out 5G technology will become expensive if the Chinese company is blocked from any country as the remaining firms will jack up prices.

"We have launched 5G in four continents in the last twelve months and we are first in those four continents. The four continents are America, Europe, Asia and Australia. In some of those continents we are alone... and it is working very well. So I mean, in practice it is not true right? We can make it work everywhere," Ericsson's Head South East Asia, Oceania and India, Nunzio Mirtillo told PTI in an interview.

He also said the cost of data produced in 5G network will be around 10 times cheaper than in the 4G network.

The US has been lobbying to block Huawei from rolling out telecom networks in various countries and alleged it poses a cyber espionage threat. The US, however, has not been able to establish the same with technical evidence.

Mirtillo said it is a country's decision on how they want to protect their 5G network from cyber espionage. — PTI

China aims to become a 'great power' in Internet

Due to US-China tensions, the event lacks any US figures

Wuzhen (China), Oct. 20: China on Sunday said it aims to become a "great power" in the online world and took a swipe at Washington on trade, kicking off its annual conference promoting the Communist Party's controlled and censored version of the internet.

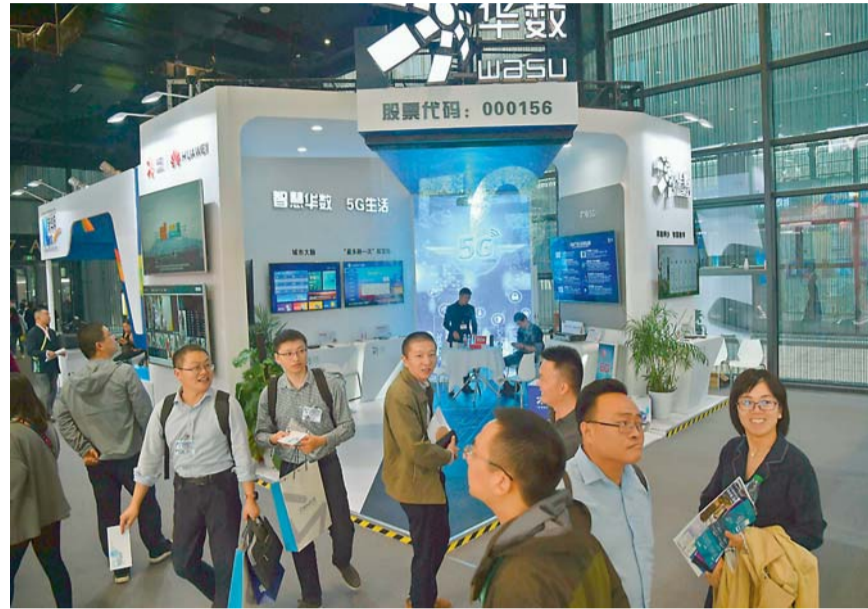
US-China rivalry is increasingly playing out in the digital sphere, as Beijing pursues dominance in next-generation technology while Washington takes measures to cripple Chinese tech firms like Huawei.

China heavily monitors and censors its internet, with US titans Facebook, Twitter and Google all hidden behind a so-called "Great Firewall" that also blocks politically sensitive content.

At the yearly World Internet Conference, held in the picturesque ancient canal town of Wuzhen since 2014, Chinese officials talked up the country's tech prowess. "We have become a cyberspace power of 800 million netizens," the head of the Communist Party's propaganda department, Huang Kunming, said in a keynote address.

Huang added that in the future, China "will unceasingly expand the fruits of internet development and forge ahead from a cyberspace 'big power' to a cyberspace 'great power'".

The propaganda chief also denounced "cyber-hegemony and bullying" by other countries — using language typically reserved for the United States — which he said



People visit booths of exhibitors during the 6th World Internet Conference in Wuzhen in Zhejiang province on Sunday. — AFP

were behind confrontation in the high-tech world.

'INTERNET SOVEREIGNTY'

The US is threatening crippling sanctions on Huawei, which is expected to be a leading player in the advent of ultra-fast 5G communications that will make many new technologies possible.

"Some countries have placed restrictions on and suppressed other countries and companies, escalating uncertainty and even antagonism in cyberspace," Huang said, without naming the US directly.

The US commerce department also earlier this month said it will blacklist 28 Chinese enti-

ties it says are implicated in rights violations and abuses in China's Xinjiang region, where an estimated one million mostly Muslim minorities are held in internment camps.

President Xi Jinping has previously sketched out plans for China to gain dominance — with heavy assistance from the government — in key future technologies by 2025, a strategy that has caused US alarm.

The conference has faced foreign criticism as an attempt to whitewash the Communist Party's cyberspace controls in the name of "internet sovereignty" rather than viewing the web as an open global resource. In the past, the

event has drawn leading US tech CEOs such as Apple's Tim Cook and Google's Sundar Pichai.

But with the US-China tensions simmering, this year's conference lacks any high-profile US figures. Silicon Valley has also been embroiled in recent efforts by Beijing to step up pressure on foreign companies deemed to be in support of Hong Kong's pro-democracy movement.

Earlier this month Apple removed an app criticised by mainland China for allowing Hong Kong protesters to track police, a move which sparked fierce criticism and accusations of bowing to China. — AFP

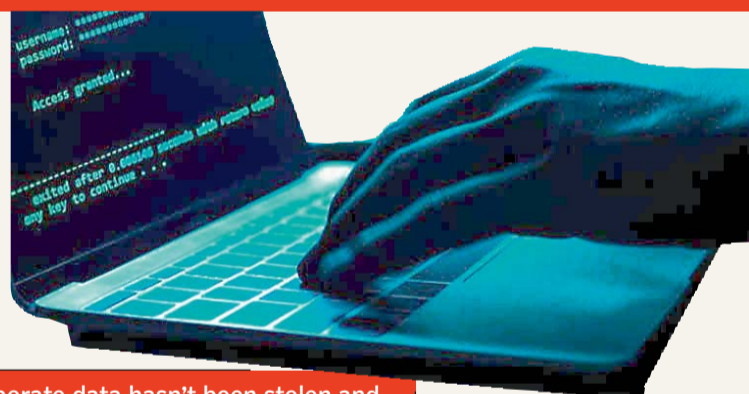
STOLEN STAFF DATA COULD BE COMPANY'S BIGGEST SECURITY WEAKNESS

■ According to its Underrated Risks of Data Exposure report, just 11% of those surveyed believe corporate email addresses could be at high risk of exposure on the internet and even fewer believed social security numbers, names, bank accounts and payroll records of employees are the sorts of data which cyber criminals are interested in.

■ Organisations are aware about the damage customer data being hacked can do — but a new report suggests they underestimate the risks associated with business data being compromised.

■ It isn't as if corporate data hasn't been stolen and leaked before — remote desktop logins can be purchased for just a few dollars — so this is an area which provides a great amount of risk to organisations. But for some reason it isn't high on the radar when it comes to analysing potential cyber risks.

■ Companies are more worried about customer data being exposed by hackers — and while that does create loss of revenue and reputation, ignoring the potential cost of corporate data being stolen could make falling victim to an attack which exposes customer data much more likely.



○ If you have employee email addresses then you engage in phishing and business email compromise. It's a broad entry point into a company's systems and having access to employee data gives you the run of the place

— EMILY WILSON
VP (research), Terbium Labs

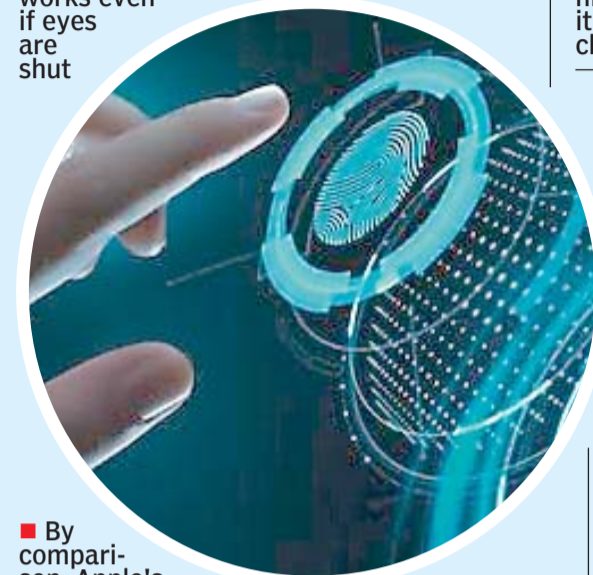
NOT SO SECURE REALLY

■ Well, biometrics are touted to be the best available method to encrypt or secure personal data. However, over the weekend, two incidents once again reminded how flaws can easily allow bad actors to bypass biometrics to access personal data.

■ First, Samsung acknowledged that anyone's thumbprint can unlock a Galaxy S10 phone. It was followed by Google which admitted that the Pixel 4 Face Unlock works even if eyes are shut

■ When the S10 was launched, in March, Samsung described the fingerprint authentication system as "revolutionary".

■ Samsung promised that a software patch that would fix the problem that was first spotted by a British woman whose husband was able to unlock her phone with his thumbprint when it was stored in a cheap case.



■ By comparison, Apple's Face ID system checks the user is "alert" and looking at the phone before unlocking.

■ Speaking before the launch, Pixel product manager Sherry Lin said: "There are actually only two face [authentication] solutions that meet the bar for being super-secure. So, you know, for payments, that level — it's ours and Apple's."

■ In case of Pixel 4, Google confirmed the smartphone's Face Unlock system can allow access to a person's device even if they have their eyes closed.

■ Images of the Pixel 4 leaked before launch showed a setting labelled: "Require eyes to be open," in the facial-recognition menu. Google told BBC News it would not feature on the Pixel 4 when it went on sale, on 24 October.

■ The scanner sends ultrasounds to detect 3D ridges of fingerprints in order to recognise users.

■ Google says concerned customers can switch on "lockdown" mode — which deactivates facial recognition — when they want enhanced security.

Researchers decode how memories are formed

Paris, Oct. 20: Researchers have shown that delta waves — a pattern of high amplitude electrical activity in the brain emitted during sleep — are not silent resting periods for the brain's cortex, but play an essential role in long-term memory formation.

The study, published in the journal Science, noted that when humans sleep, the seahorse shaped brain region called hippocampus reactivated itself spontaneously to a state similar to its activity during wakefulness.

According to the researchers from Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS) in France, during sleep, the hippocampus sends information to the cortex, which reacts in turn.

The study noted that this exchange is often followed by a period of silence called a "delta wave," then by rhythmic activity called a "sleep spindle".

This is when the cortical circuits reorganize to form stable memories, the researchers said. However, they added

that the role of delta waves in the formation of new memories is still a puzzle. "Why does a period of silence interrupt the sequence of information exchanges between the hippocampus and the cortex, and the functional reorganisation of the cortex," the researchers asked.

When the researchers looked more closely at what happens during delta waves, they discovered that the cortex was not entirely silent, but that a few neurons remained active and formed small, coactive sets that coded information.

They suggested that the small number of neurons that remain active when all the others stay quiet can carry out important calculations while being protected from possible disturbances.

According to the study, spontaneous reactivation of the hippocampus determined which neurons in the cortex remained active during the delta waves, and revealed the transmission of information between the two

brain regions. The neuron sets activated during the delta waves are formed of cells that participated in learning a spatial memory task during the day, the researchers said.

Putting these observations together, the researchers suggested that these processes are involved in memory consolidation.

To prove this, the scientists caused artificial delta waves in rats to isolate either neurons associated with reactivation in the hippocampus, or random neurons.

When the right neurons were isolated, the study noted that the rats managed to stabilise their memories and succeeded at the spatial test the next day. Delta waves, the researchers said, are a means of specifically isolating assemblies of chosen neurons that sent crucial information between the hippocampus and cortical brain regions, and contributed to the reorganisation of brain circuits to form long-term memories. — PTI

ZenBook Pro duo is a performance beast

ARCHAK SENGUPTA | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 20

Unlike smartphones which over the years saw multiple form factors, laptop makers, for sometime now, have played it safe with a tried and tested basic design formula. Back in May, Taiwanese electronics major Asus, however, became the topic of conversation after the company unveiled a dual-screen laptop at Computex. While the idea of dual-screen laptops aren't new, the laptop — ZenBook Pro Duo — boasts of a 15.6-inch 4K OLED HDR touchscreen, and a 14.1-inch 4K panel ScreenPad Plus below it.

The laptop, which is built like a tank and is the company's flagship product, was launched in India alongside a host of other laptops on Thursday.

I was among the lucky few who got to play around with this pricey device (₹2,09,990) for a month ahead of its launch.

Initially, I had expected the second screen to be a gimmick and would be quite a painful experience. Sadly, on both counts, the laptop has proven me wrong.

Once adjusted to the second screen or ScreenPad+, I found using the second screen more often than expected. Moreover,

the wedge on the primary screen, which makes using the device on the lap a painful experience, made sure that I didn't have to make adjustment in my posture to use the secondary screen. But then, having the second 4K screen meant that the keyboard is set at the front of the laptop and despite the additional wrist rest, the last line of letters on the keyboard was a bit strenuous to use.

BRILLIANT LAPTOP

Powered by a Intel Core i9-9980HK processor 2.4GHz octa-core with Turbo Boost (up to

5.0GHz) and 16MB cache, this 'laptop of tomorrow' is surely a beast. Now, add a 6GB GDDR6 Nvidia GeForce RTX 2060 graphics card and 32GB 2666MHz DDR4 RAM to this and you would understand why rendering edited videos on Vegas Pro felt like a breeze. Even gaming at highest resolution proved to be much of a challenge.

The laptop, which weighs nearly 2.5 kilos, as expected, dissipates a lot of heat despite measures such as the prominent fan grills on the sides and even a pad at the bottom. However, thanks to its beefy specs, the laptop, on normal

usage, gave around four hours of battery life before it needed recharging.

Among the two other negative things that I noticed is that brightness at 40 per cent while working on battery is too dim and needed to be cranked up to 100 per cent. Secondly, the lack of an ethernet port. However, the device supports the latest Wi-Fi standard or Wi-Fi 6 with Gig+ performance (802.11ax).

In conclusion, this beast of a laptop is aimed at creators and gamers only. However, everyone should think twice before spending a fortune.



Asus ZenBook Pro Duo
PRICE: ₹2,09,990
RATING: ★★★★★★



Gloom won't
stop India's
growth; Don't
exit SIPPersonal loan or car loan
for buying a car?

Money

quick
BITES

INDICATORS	%
Sensex	39,298.38 +0.63
Nifty 50	11,661.85 +0.65
S&P 500	2,986.20 -0.39
Dollar (₹)	71.14 -0.03
Pound Sterling (₹)	91.66 +0.01
Euro (₹)	79.30 +0.25
Gold (10gm) (₹)	38,925.07 145
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	59.42 -0.82
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.692 -0.008
US 10-Yr T-bill yield	1.747 -0.008

* As of Saturday

Govt may float
bids for Air India
sale next month

The government plans to invite preliminary bids for 100 per cent stake sale in Air India next month and already some entities have expressed interest in the national carrier, sources said, adding that the Expression of Interest (EoI) document is being given the final touches. EoI inviting bids for stake sale are likely to be floated either this month-end or next month, they added.

FPIs put ₹4,970 cr
in stocks, ₹102 cr
in debt in Oct

Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have infused a net sum of Rs 5,072 crore into the capital markets in October so far. As per the latest depositories data, foreign investors put in a net sum of Rs 4,970 crore in equities and a net Rs 102 crore in the debt market during October 1-18. In September, FPIs had invested a net Rs 6,557.8 crore in the capital markets in both equity and debt.

Oberoi Realty
net profit drops
35% to ₹138 cr

Oberoi Realty on Sunday said it posted a 35.4 per cent decline in consolidated net profit at Rs 138.07 crore for the September quarter. The company had reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 213.83 crore in the year-ago period. In a filing to the BSE, the company said total income during the July-September period declined to Rs 505.09 crore from Rs 619.78 crore a year ago.

MFs invest ₹9K cr
in Reits, InvITs
this year

Emerging investment instruments Reits and InvITs seem to be finally catching on with investors as mutual funds have invested nearly Rs 9,000 crore in such units in the first nine months of the year. Fund managers have infused Rs 451 crore in real estate investment trusts (Reits) and Rs 8,528 crore in infrastructure investment trusts (InvITs) during January-September Sebi data shows.

Printed & Published by T Venkateswarlu on behalf of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited, Printed at Deccan Chronicle Press at Deccan Chronicle Holdings Ltd. #563/9/D&9/E, Behind Andhra Bank Pet Basheerbagh, Kompally, Ranga Reddy Dist. Editor: T.Venkateswarlu, RNI Reg No.APENG/2008/24282. © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission of The Editor, Financial Chronicle is prohibited.

Estimates show by 2024 India will be No. 2 after China India set to overtake US in global growth share

ALEXANDRE TANZI
OCT. 20

The global economy, weighed down by tensions that have stalled international trade and elevated uncertainty, is expected to see slower growth in the next half decade across a wide swathe of economies. China's growth rate is expected to continue to slow, and will be a smaller driver to global GDP growth in the near term. China's share of global GDP growth is expected to fall from 32.7 per cent in 2018-2019 to 28.3 per cent by 2024 — a relatively steep 4.4 percentage point reduction. Weaker global growth—expected to fall to 3 per cent this year and the slowest since the global financial crisis—will affect 90 per cent of the world, according to estimates released by the International Monetary Fund.

Which economies are the key players now and where will global growth come from in five years? Bloomberg used International Monetary Fund projections, adjusted for purchasing power parity, to identify these growth engines.

Where does growth
come from in 2019

20 economies forecast to account for 85.8% of the 2019 world GDP growth	
China	32.7
United States	13.8
India	13.5
Indonesia	3.9
Japan	2.4
Russia	2.0
Germany	1.6
France	1.5
Egypt	1.5
UK	1.5
Brazil	1.4
All other economies combined	14.1

Note: Economy's 2018-2019 growth of the GDP as a share of world GDP growth. Growth contribution shown for No. 1-10 contributors. Purchasing power parity-based. Source: Bloomberg

Where will growth
come from in 2024

20 economies forecast to account for 78.5% of the 2024 world GDP growth	
China	28.3
India	15.5
United States	9.2
Indonesia	3.7
Russia	2.0
Brazil	1.8
Turkey	1.6
Japan	1.6
Egypt	1.5
Germany	1.5
All other economies combined	21.5

Note: Economy's 2023-2024 growth of the GDP as a share of world GDP growth. Growth contribution shown for No. 1-10 contributors. Purchasing power parity-based. Source: Bloomberg

The US, while still expected to contribute a sizeable

portion to world growth, is projected to fall to third place, after India. America's share of global growth

is expected to slip from 13.8 per cent to 9.2 per cent by 2024, while India's share is projected to rise to 15.5 per cent and eclipse the US over this five-year period.

Indonesia will remain in the fourth spot as its economy is expected to have a 3.7 per cent growth share in 2024, a slight downward adjustment from 3.9 per cent in 2019.

The UK will see its importance wane amid Brexit as its economy drops from ninth as a share of world growth in 2019, to 13th.

Although world GDP growth attributable to Russia is at 2 per cent now and expected to stay there in five years, the country is likely to displace Japan as the number five growth contributor. Japan will fall to the ninth spot by 2024. Brazil is projected to move up from No. 11 to No. 6. Germany's share of growth is expected to remain at 1.6 per cent and 7th on the list.

The IMF said new growth engines among the top 20 countries in five years will include Turkey, Mexico, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, while Spain, Poland, Canada and Vietnam drop out of the first 20.

— Bloomberg

Railway Board
to be pruned
by 25% in
right sizingANANYA SENGUPTA
NEW DELHI, OCT. 20

The Railways has decided to prune the Railway Board by 25 per cent, cutting down its strength from 200 to 150 by transferring director-level officials and above to zonal railways in a long pending move to enhance efficiency, sources said on Sunday.

The plan was first mooted in 2000 by the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government, which recommended right sizing of the apex decision making body of the national transporter. "Currently, there are 200 officials in the Board. It will be reduced to 150 with 50 officers of director and above level being transferred to the zonal railways. This was long overdue as it was felt that too many people were doing similar jobs and senior officials were needed in zones to increase efficiency," said a source. The plan would be implemented shortly, he said.

The move was part of Railway Minister Piyush Goyal's 100-day agenda and a top priority for present Railway Board Chairman V. K. Yadav.

Restructuring of the Railway Board was also recommended by the Bibek Debroy Committee on Indian Railways in 2015. The panel said in its report that the Indian Railways' centralised structure and departmentalisation was adversely affecting the railways' work culture and narrowing its approach to department-specific goals.

"It has always been seen that the railways, including the Railway Board, was overstuffed. This was adversely affecting the efficiency of the organisation," a senior official said.

He added that there had been no serious attempts to review the exact number of staff actually required by the railways for efficient functioning as well as financial viability.

— PTI

India, Taiwan natural
partners: Envoy TienAPRAMEYA RAO
MUMBAI, OCT. 20

Pitching Taiwan as a 'natural partner' for India, Ambassador Chung-Kwan Tien, representative of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Centre in India, has said that his country is eager to expand trade ties with the Asia's third-largest economy. Tien spoke to Aprameya Rao on the sidelines of Smart Asia 2019, a 'smart city' solutions expo, organised by the Taiwan External Trade Development Council (Taitra), with Ficci. Edited Excerpts:

■ **Trade between the two countries has crossed \$7.5 bn. Are we seeing a major upswing in trade ties?**

Yes, bilateral ties between the two countries have got an impetus since 2014. I feel India became more pro-business. This gave us the opportunity our companies to do more business. In fact, my Indian friends told me in 2014 that the Taiwanese should not miss the bus. We are now adding more passengers to it!

■ **Why is India an attractive destination for Taiwanese businesses?**

India is one of the largest markets. It has a booming



Chung-Kwan Tien

middle class and a largely young population. More importantly, we value political stability, which is very important for companies investing in a country.

■ **But experts argue that trade volume between India and Taiwan is still quite low.**

Firstly, India is not a very familiar territory for Taiwanese businesses. We tend to have a much deeper and closer trade relationship with Asean countries. These countries also have Chinese communities which help our companies. These are missing in India so it is a new territory. However, trade volumes have increased six times since 2000. In the future, it is only going to rise.

■ **The New Southbound Policy aims to enhance ties with countries in South-east Asia, South Asia and Australasia.**

Where does India stand in your policy?

As a strategically located country, India stands first in our policy. Among the various benefits, India provides our businesses with east-west connectivity. It allows our companies to explore greener pastures in the global market.

We can complement each other. Taiwan's expertise in hardware together with India's software industry can do a lot of good!

We are natural partners, since there are no border issues or any serious imbalance in the bilateral trade. There is no maritime dispute or terror-related problem between us.

■ **An FTA has been in the offing for some time. But there has been no major development though.**

An FTA-like deal will be a milestone in our trade ties. In the long-run, it will not only improve product quality and competitiveness in both countries, but also help create a level playing field for our companies vis-a-vis Korea or Japan. But Indian government has generally been reluctant to sign FTAs. The government thinks signing them will lead to a loss in revenue. I urge them to set up a task force and think of the long-term benefits.

Diwali pick: Brokers go for quality, consumption

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD
MUMBAI, OCT. 20

Customary Diwali stock pick of brokerages this year reveal a preference for quality companies with steady businesses and consumer focus. They have largely overlooked IT, infra-focused, power, metal, telecom, healthcare and real estate companies in their stock selection for the next one year.

Various government measures to boost the economy and consumption, a sharp recovery in monsoon with 10 per cent above normal rainfall, and lower interest rates have led to brokerages focusing relatively more on consumption-focused companies.

Commenting on the stock selection, Dharmesh Kant, Head-Retail Research, India Nivesh, said, "In the present environment of global trade wars, macro-economic uncertainty, and slowing domestic economy, we tried to discover investment ideas that can not only withstand this turbulence but will also likely be first movers when the tide turns."

"A stable government, aggressive policy reforms of far-reaching consequences, lower interest rate trajectory, good monsoons, stable rupee and range-bound crude oil prices are seeds for economic revival. We expect

Diwali pick by brokerages

Brokerage House	Diwali pick
HDFC SECURITIES	Affle India, Amber Enterprises, Apollo Hospitals, Bajaj Auto, BEML, Deepak Nitrite, Fairchem Speciality, GRSE, Muthoot Finance, SBI Life Insurance, Sudarshan Chemical and Ultratech Cement.
INDIA NIVESH	Hero MotoCorp, JK Paper, Escorts, Godrej Consumer Products, LIC Housing Finance.
ANAND RATHI	Reliance Nippon Life Asset Management, Reliance Industries, ICICI Pru Life Insurance, Bharat Electronics, Hindustan Unilever, Indraprastha Gas.
SHAREKHAN BY BNP PARIBAS	Atul, Bata India, Colgate Palmolive, HCL Technologies, ICICI Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Larsen & Toubro, Mahanagar Gas, Polycab India, Reliance Industries, Spandana Spoorthy and UltraTech Cement
RELIGARE BROKING	Havells, M&M, Marico, Maruti Suzuki, Reliance Nippon Asset Management and Voltas
K R CHOKESEY	HDFC Life Insurance, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Bajaj Finserv, Tata Elxsi, Reliance Industries, Mahanagar Gas, Ashok Leyland, Sundaram Fasteners, Minda Corp and Sterilite Technologies
CHOICE BROKING	HDFC, ACC, Mahindra & Mahindra, Adani Port and Godrej Consumer Products

Source: FC Research

the economy to be back on track from FY21 onwards as benefits of the recent tax reforms will play out in full throttle," Kant added.

Sharekhan By BNP Paribas, on its Diwali pick, said, "In troubled times, it is the quality companies with a reputed management, strong balance sheet and healthy growth trend that perform well. On the other hand, it is once again proven that chasing momentum stocks could be quite a risky proposition."

So essentially it means sticking to basics; invest in quality companies with a

healthy growth outlook and reasonable valuations. Moreover, building a portfolio is all about understanding the macroeconomic conditions, according to Sharekhan.

Religare Broking said, "The Indian markets have witnessed high volatility since last Diwali due to the combination of both global as well as domestic factors and gained around 7 per cent so far... going forward, various government measures, a sharp recovery in monsoon (10 per cent above normal), and lower interest rates augur well for the revival of consumption story in India."

Amazon, Flipkart asked
to name top 5 sellers

New Delhi, Oct. 20: E-commerce giants Amazon and Flipkart have been asked to disclose names of top five sellers on their platform, price list of goods of preferred vendors and the kind of support provided to sellers, according to sources.

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) in separate questionnaires to these companies have also asked them to share their capital structure, business model and inventory management system.

These questions were sent to them after several complaints were made to the department by traders body CAIT that e-commerce companies have been violating the foreign direct investment policy in garb of mega festive sales.

E-mail queries sent to Amazon and Flipkart on the matter did not elicit any response.

The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) have time and again alleged that these companies follow unethical practices by indulging in predatory pricing. The DPIIT has held several meetings separately with these companies and CAIT members.

Commerce and Industry

State Bank
to e-auction
11 accounts

New Delhi, Oct. 20: The State Bank of India (SBI) will conduct an e-auction of 11 bad loan accounts on November 7 to recover dues of Rs 466.49 crore.

In terms of the bank's revised policy on sale of financial assets, in line with the regulatory guidelines, the bank will place 11 accounts for sale to ARCs/banks/NBFCs and FIs, SBI said in an auction notice. The bank said the financial assets were showcased on October 12 and the e-auction will take place on November 7.

The major non-performing asset (NPA) accounts to be auctioned include Bhatia Global Tradin, which has an outstanding of Rs 177.02 crore on the bank, Bhatia Coke & Energy (Rs 104.15 crore), Bhatia Coal Washeries (Rs 12.58 crore) and Asian Natural Resources (India) (Rs 2.18 crore).

Maharashtra Steels (Rs 40.51 crore), Anshul Steel (Rs 37.70 crore) and Vidhata Metals (Rs 36.98 crore) are the other accounts to be auctioned.

—PTI

—PTI

USDA projects strong year for Indian cotton

RITWIK MUKHERJEE
KOLKATA, OCT. 20

The last cotton season (2018-19) was not a good one for India. According to Cotton Association of India (CAI), cotton output had stood at 312 lakh bale, the lowest in the decade.

The top slot, which India had been holding in the global cotton market for long, was also shaken up slightly. However, now, if things go right, India is expected to regain its number one position in global cotton cultivation, going by the latest United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) estimates. For the marketing year 2019-20,

USDA has projected India's cotton output to be 305 lakh bale (each 217.7 kg), which works out to 390 lakh India bale (each of 170 kg).

Indian farmers have already reportedly achieved a record cotton-sowing of over 125 lakh hectare and with sufficient rainfall, the country's cotton crop seems to be good especially during September and mid-October. In fact, by some other estimates, this kharif season, India grew cotton on larger area at 127.67 lakh hectare, about 6 lakh hectare more than last year. And analysts are now hopeful that India may eventually experience an increase of more than

Commodity
Compass

20 per cent in cotton crop during 2019-20, if there are no more damages to excess rainfall or diseases. Although, cotton trade bodies in

the country are yet to come out with their own crop estimate while, the first advance estimate by Centre has projected cotton crop in the country at 322.7 lakh bales.

Meanwhile, the USDA international outlook on cotton crop, suggested,

"Production in India is forecast at 30.5 million bales, 15 per cent above 2018-19, and the second highest on record, as both area and yield in 2019-20 are expected higher. Harvested area in India is projected at a record 12.9 million hectares in 2019-20, as domestic prices and internal support price prospects favour cotton over competing crops. The recent above-average monsoon rainfall will likely provide an extended picking season, which is expected to increase the yield to a 3-year high."

On the pricing front, cotton prices in the domestic market has been weak. The

prices hovered at Rs 41,900 per candy (each of 356 kg) of ginned cotton with 29 mm variety, down from Rs 43,900 two months ago. International cotton prices quoted at 60.83 cents per pound on ICE futures for December 2019. Analysts think that cotton prices continued to reduce in August 2019, mainly due to a fall in international prices. The prices may fall further as global production is likely to be higher than the demand growth, analysts are of the view.

Interestingly, the MSP of cotton for the 2019-20 season is Rs 5,550 per quintal, against Rs 5,450 in the previous year.

Brokers BYTES

Shree Cement's sale volumes rise by 1.5%

Shree Cement's Q2FY20 results surprised positively as it reported EBITDA of ₹840 crore, much better than broking house's estimate of ₹720 crore. Operating profit margins stood at 30.1 per cent compared to its estimate of 25.6 per cent. Subsidy income was ₹39 crore as against ₹45 crore each in Q2FY19/Q1FY20. Key positive surprises: a) Realisation decline of 1.1 per cent quarter-on-quarter; and freight costs down ₹90/tonne qoq and ₹76 a tonne yoy (adjusted for rebate from railways in Q2FY19). The key negative surprise was a 66 per cent yoy drop in power segment EBITDA. Cement sales volumes were up 1.5 per cent yoy in Q2FY20. The broking house believes that sales volumes would have dropped four per cent and 20 per cent yoy in North and East regions. Valuation at 15.6x FY21E EV/EBITDA appears rich. The board has approved the fundraising of up to ₹30bn through the issuance of equity shares. The broking house maintains Hold and underweight position.

Broking firm: Emkay
Rating: Hold
Closing price: ₹18,661.20

Wipro sees weakness in capital markets

Wipro's revenue grew 3.8 per cent year-on-year on constant currency basis as against the broking house's estimate of 4.1 per cent in Q2FY20. IT Services' EBIT margin expanded 3.1 per cent yoy to 18.1 per cent, while profit after tax rose 12 per cent yoy to ₹2560 crore — a 14.4 per cent beat, mainly led by a lower-than-expected ETR. Sequentially, revenue was up 1.1 per cent constant currency, while the margin contracted 0.3 per cent led by lower utilisation and the two-month impact of wage hike. After remaining in double digit for around two years, Wipro's BFSI revenue growth decelerated sharply to 5.9 per cent YoY CC owing to the completion of some large programmes and the weakness in capital markets (in the US and Europe). Macro uncertainty translated into cautious commentary on this vertical. Revenue from the top client declined 11.8 per cent YoY, led by the non-renewal of projects and the delay in ramp-ups. There are no meaningful revisions to the company's margin estimates. Maintain neutral.

Broking firm: Motilal Oswal
Rating: Neutral
Closing price: ₹248.80

Siyaram Silks may see higher profit growth

For Q1FY2020, Siyaram Silk Mills (SSML) posted subdued results, which were below our expectations on both top-line and bottom-line fronts. Revenue grew one per cent yoy. On the margin front, it reported operating margin improvement by 1.09 per cent yoy (positive impact mainly due to change in account policy as per Ind AS-116). On the bottom-line front, SSML reported profit after tax growth of one per cent yoy to ₹10cr due to subdued top-line growth. Going forward, the broking house expects SSML to report net sales CAGR of nine per cent to ₹2,173 crore and adjusted net profit CAGR of 13 per cent to ₹130 crore over FY2019-21E on the back of market leadership in blended fabrics, strong brand building, wide distribution channel and strong presence in tier-2 and tier-3 cities coupled with emphasis on latest designs and affordable pricing points. The broking house maintains buy rating.

Broking firm: Angel Broking
Rating: Buy
Closing price: ₹224.35

Buying A Car?

Should You Take A Personal Loan Or A Car Loan?

Money talk
Adhil Shetty

While the auto industry is going through a slowdown, there are plenty of good deals available, and this is a good time to secure your set of dream wheels with deep discounts and premium add-ons. In recent years, Indians have shown they're no longer content with small hatchbacks, a departure from car ownership being the domain of the Indian elite. They have indicated a preference for bigger, faster cars, for which they will happily take bigger loans.

As per BankBazaar data, in 2018, the average ticket size for car loans was ₹5.72 lakh in metros and ₹5.21 lakh in non-metros. This brings us to the subject at hand: when it comes to car finance, is it better to take a car loan or a personal loan?

LOOK AT THE INTEREST

To cut a long story short, the interest rates on both forms of loans matter a lot. A car loan is a secured loan, which normally extracts a lower interest rate in comparison to an unsecured loan, which is what a personal loan is. A quick scan of car loans from banks reveals the interest rates to be in the range of 9-15 per cent per annum. However, personal loans start from around 11 per cent, going to 25 per cent and beyond. How much does this impact you? Let's say you borrow ₹5 lakh for five years. At 10 per cent, your EMI is ₹10,624 and your total interest is ₹1.37 lakh. But at 15 per cent, your EMI is ₹11,895 and your total interest is ₹2.13 lakh. A car is ultimately a depreciating asset, so you should minimise your spends on it. So a higher interest on your loan leads to a higher cost of ownership. But there's more you need to consider:

LONGER TENURE MEANS LOWER EMIs

The size of one's EMIs is often a major consideration in how much one borrows. Car loan tenures can extend up to seven years in most cases. A typical personal loan will extend up to five. There are exceptions in both loan categories where some bank will provide tenures longer than the norm. However, broadly speaking, your total interest will be likely higher on a personal loan despite a smaller tenure. Let's say you borrowed ₹5 lakh. With a 10 per cent car loan and a seven-year tenure, your EMI is ₹8,301 and interest ₹1.97 lakh. With a 15 per cent personal loan and five-year tenure, your EMI is ₹11,895 and interest ₹2.13 lakh. The actual math will vary from one lender to another, and from one loan product to another, and so you must make these calculations before deciding between the two options.

CAR LOANS MEAN RESTRICTED BORROWING

Banks will not fund 100 per cent of your car purchase cost. They'll only cover a part of it. Most banks will finance up to 100 per cent of the car's showroom price, which leaves you to bridge the gap to the on-road price, which includes registration, taxation, insurance etc. If you have the margin money and would prefer a low rate of interest, you should go for a car loan. But if you are short of cash and if the loan-to-value ratio is proving to be a problem, go for a personal loan, which is an open-ended credit and can be used for any purpose you deem fit—even a car purchase. With a personal loan, you can borrow the amount you're eligible for.

NO HYPOTHECATION WITH PERSONAL LOAN

A car loan can be taken only to fund the purchase of a car and related expenses. When you take a car loan, your car is hypothecated to the lender. Till your car loan is paid off, the lender owns the car as collateral for the debt. If you defaulted on your loan, the car can be repossessed to recover your dues. But once you have paid the loan in full, your lender will remove the lien. Getting the lien removed will involve managing paperwork between your bank and the local RTO. On the other hand, when you take a personal loan, the lender isn't concerned with the end use of the money. You could use it to buy a car, take a holiday, refurbish your home, fund your wedding, or do anything else you need to do. Therefore, with a personal loan, your car is not hypothecated to the lender and hence cannot be repossessed.

YOUR CREDIT SCORE MATTERS

With any kind of borrowing, your credit score matters. With a good credit score (ideally, 750 or more), you have better chances of bagging a low-cost loan with minimum hassles, especially if you're a salaried person. However, with a lower credit score, the personal loan may become your only loan option, and the price you pay for this is a higher interest rate. In summary, a car loan with lower interest rates and longer tenures can be your go-to option. However, personal loans allow you to borrow bigger without the hassles of the loan-to-value ratio or hypothecation of your property, but at a higher interest rate. The choice is yours.

The writer is CEO, BankBazaar.com

HOME LOANS RATES

EMI data table for top 10 banks by market capitalisation

Lender's Name	Floating Rate (%) based on MCLR	EMI (In ₹)
HDFC Bank	8.35-9.25	25,751-27,476
Kotak Bank	8.95*	26,895
ICICI Bank	8.65-9.25	26,320-27,476
Axis Bank	8.85-9.3	26,703-27,573
SBI	8.2-8.55	25,468-26,130
Bank Of Baroda	8.1-9.1	25,280-27,185
Punjab National Bank	7.95-8.45	25,000-25,940
Bank Of India	8.45-8.75	25,940-26,511
Federal Bank	8.55-8.65	26,130-26,320
Canara Bank	8.3-10.3	25,656-29,549

Rates are based on the floating rates system. Interest rate may be subject to revision after a specified tenure. The EMI range is indicative and calculated on the basis of interest rate range as provided in the table.
— Data Compiled By: BankBazaar.com



Tax matters
Kamal Rathi

No 80c sops for grandkids

I purchased a house by taking a loan from a bank in July 2019. However, I will receive the possession of the house at around October 2020? I want to know whether the interest benefit will be available to me for the Assessment Year 2020-21 (FY 2019-20).

NAVEEN GARG
Via email

A) You will not be entitled to claim interest on housing loan for the Assessment Year 2020-21 (FY 2019-20). As per explanations to provision of Section 24 (b) of the Income-Tax Act. "Where the property has been acquired or constructed with borrowed capital, interest, if any, payable on such capital for the period prior to previous year in which the property has been acquired or constructed, as reduced by any part thereof allowed as a deduction under any other provision of this Act, shall be deducted under this clause in five equal annual installments, commencing from the previous year in which the house was acquired or constructed and each of the four immediately succeeding previous years." So the interest pertaining to AY 2020-21 (FY2019-20) shall be deductible in five equal installments beginning with AY 2021-22 (FY 2020-21).

I took voluntary retirement and invested my benefits of ₹12 lakh in a joint account, with my wife being the other account holder. An interest of ₹35,920 on investments is credited to my wife's savings bank account. Her total income is ₹1,78,500. My wife is not an income-tax assessee as her total income is less than the taxable limit as per income-tax rules. As such Form 15H was submitted to the bank asking it not to deduct TDS. I am an income-tax assessee. So, I wanted to know if the interest earned on investments should be shown as a separate income earned by my wife or should it be added to my income. Kindly clarify.

YASH MISHRA
Via email

A) As per the provisions of Section 64(1) (iv), in computing the total income of any individual, there shall be included all such income arising directly or indirectly to the spouse "where an asset is transferred to the spouse by that individual otherwise than for adequate consideration or in connection with an agreement to live apart, the income arising from such asset". Hence, the interest earned on investments made out of the amounts contributed by you shall form part of your income.

I am a senior citizen. I wanted to buy insurance on the life of my grandson, aged 25 years, for ₹45 lakh. Will I get the deduction benefit under Section 80C for the contribution made towards premium of LIC of my grandson?

JEEVAN SINGH
Via email

A) Under Section 80C, following sums paid or deposited by an individual/ a Hindu undivided family, at any time during the previous year, qualifies for deduction:

- Any amount paid by an individual, on his/her life or on life of his/her spouse or, on life of any child; and
 - By a Hindu undivided family, on life of any member of the family.
- Therefore, you will not be eligible to claim the deduction under section 80C for life insurance premium paid for your grandson.

(The writer is a Hyderabad-based chartered accountant. He can be reached at info@rathianmalanis.com)



Gloom won't stop India's growth; Don't exit SIP



Invest talk
R. Balakrishnan

There are reports that the SIP volumes are dropping. This means people are suddenly not buying equities when the prices have fallen. Does it mean that they think the asset class will no longer give them long term returns?

For a moment, let us think that equity as an asset class is dead. It is like saying that all businesses are doomed to closure, that we have stopped earning or spending (or will be in that state soon). We are forecasting that our economy will not grow any more.

If this were to happen, the only thing that would perhaps have some value would be that useless metal named 'gold'. Prices of gold will be driven by fear and panic when other asset classes have given up.

Eventually, it would become a bubble and then blow out. This is because, the gold we consume comes from overseas. And we need hard currency to pay for it. If the economy is in shambles, imagine where the rupee would be? Step back a little and see what you are doing to your investments. You are going by the outcome of

some market conditions that are possibly new to you. We go through this phase of boom, doom and gloom every few years. What I can say is that if I take a ten-year time frame, not more than three will be 'terrible' years. Does not mean that the other seven are great years? But I would think that there are generally more ups than downs in an investment journey.

Also, we have not yet reached that bubble status which Japan was in 1989 or so. The Nikkei Index of 225 Japanese stocks (something like our BSE Sensex) touched a high of near 38916 and then went all the way back to 7,000 odd in 2008 and is now hovering around sub 23,000 levels. Look at that index and long term investing theories go out of the window. This level

of excess in the market and then a sluggish economy (with probably among the highest per capita GDP in the world) has not been seen elsewhere. I do not think we are in that space.

India is still a hungry nation. We are hungry for growth, hungry to have more of everything. All this means that our per capita GDP is still a long way from being at a stage where growth is an issue. Yes, we have income disparities, but it does not mean that our economy will stop growing.

The mistake people make is to start their SIPs at the top of a bull run and then shut it when the markets are at their gloomy worst. What it means is that you are condemned to not getting the best out of your investments. You are missing on opportunities

to keep adding to your portfolio at lower prices. If you bought a stock at ₹500 and the price has fallen to ₹300, with no fundamental change except a cyclical downturn or some issue impacting earnings for a short time, should you be buying more or selling? What will happen is that you will start a fresh SIP once things become very bright and the markets rally a lot from here. Once again, you will find the top.

Choosing a fund house and choosing a product is what you should think about. And today, if you understand the risk in the product, you have the option to invest online, directly.

A direct investment can make a small difference of anything up to one per cent per annum. The one per cent difference can

make a small difference every year, and at the end of 10 years, it can be a reasonable sum. In a ₹5,000 per month SIP, over 10 years, the maturity amount can differ by around ₹60,000 to ₹70,000 if there is a one per cent annualised difference.

Yes, there will be starting times or measuring periods that will either show great returns or very poor returns. This is not easy to forecast.

If we have the courage to start our SIP and keep it going in 'gloomy' periods, the results will show for itself when the market turns around. What one can do is to throw in additional amounts (in addition to our SIP) when the markets are gloomy. Treat it like some expenditure and buy some more units when things are looking bleak. This will help you

also to take off some money (without breaking your SIPs) off the table when things look very expensive and the whole world is chasing stocks. It is like a trade you have made.

Your SIP continues and you made some good money on the side. It can take one to three years to take this gain. Not that you should, but in case you feel worried, this is one way to take some cash off the table and put it back when gloom sets in again.

Investing is a lifetime habit. You do not want to quit good habits. In my next piece, let me talk about 'selling' or getting out of the market.

(The writer is a veteran investment adviser. He can be reached at balakrishnanr@gmail.com)



Game, Set & Match

Rafael Nadal has married Xisca Perello (in pic), his partner of 14 years, at a castle in Mallorca, Spain. Nadal met the 31-year-old through his younger sister Maribel, a childhood friend of Perello

JOHOR | CUP

Indian colts go down fighting

Johor Bahru (Malaysia), Oct. 20: The Indian junior men's hockey team lost to Great Britain 1-2 in the final of the 9th Sultan of Johor Cup here on Saturday.

Right from the hooter it was India forcing the pace, and put Great Britain on the back foot. They were forcing the attacks, creating more circle penetrations but their finishing was letting them down.

The first real opportunity fell to Maninder Singh, who dribbled past three Great Britain players to singlehandedly fashion a shooting chance, which flew just over the crossbar.

Soon enough though James Mazarelo was called into action in Great Britain's goal, first saving a sharp chance off Sudeep before parrying three consecutive penalty corners, to ensure his team went into the break level.

India upped the ante in the second quarter, and this time it was Oliver Payne in goal who was holding the score level.

In the fourth quarter, Great Britain won their first penalty corner of the game. Despite the initial save on the line by Sanjay, the ricochet fell to Stuart Rushmere who slotted home first time to draw his team level.

Then, a ricochet fell to Rushmere, who slotted home to give Great Britain the win and the title.

—PTI

● **India grabbed the lead through Gursahibjit Singh in the 49th minute.**
● **Stuart Rushmere scored a brace to help England win.**



Amit Panghal

Panghal off the blocks in Wuhan

Wuhan, Oct. 20: World Championships silver medalist Amit Panghal won his opening bout in the men's flyweight (52kg) category as the boxers gave India a good start in the 7th CISM World Military Games here on Saturday.

Panghal beat Douglas Andrade of Brazil, while Chirag (56kg) defeated Zambia's Katanga Christopher 5-0.

In the men's light fly category (49kg), Deepak defeated Iran's Abasadeh Ali while Satish Kumar also won his super heavyweight category (+91kg) bout against Brazil's Nascimento Cosme 3-2.

—PTI

City shatter Crystal

Jesus, Silva net goals as Manchester win three crucial points at Palace

London, Oct. 20: Manchester City brushed aside in-form Crystal Palace 2-0 on Saturday to narrow the gap to Premier League leaders Liverpool to five points.

The defending champions travelled to London with questions over their ability to sustain a title challenge after two defeats in four league games but produced some incisive football without applying their usual killer touch in the game.

Pep Guardiola's team were quickly into their stride against Roy Hodgson's men, dominating possession and forcing Palace onto the back foot but they did not break the deadlock until shortly before half-time.

City were rewarded for their dominance in the 39th minute when Bernardo Silva whipped in a left-footed cross. Gabriel Jesus shaped to head the ball but it came off his shoulder and crept into the net off the far post past a rooted Wayne Hennessey.

They doubled their lead just two minutes later following a speedy counter-attack.

When the ball came to Raheem Sterling he produced a delightful chip from just inside the area into the path of David Silva, who watched it drop over his left shoulder before guiding it into the net.

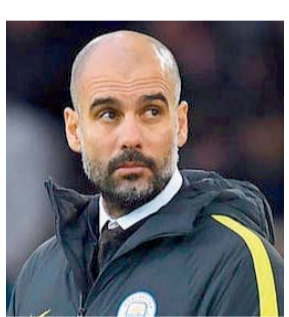
GUARDIOLA CALLS FOR KILLER INSTINCT

Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola called on his side to be more clinical after they brushed aside in-form Crystal Palace 2-0 on Saturday to narrow the gap to Premier League leaders Liverpool to five points.

City had 21 shots but Palace goalkeeper Wayne Hennessey kept his side in the game and the visitors had their own 'keeper, Ederson, to thank for a couple of outstanding saves at the other end.

"We played good, created a lot of chances. They are always so strong for the second ball. Unfortunately, we could not convert the chances we had but it was an important three points after the international break," said City boss Guardiola.

"Hopefully we can start from here and continue our good performance," Manchester city coach added.



They are always so strong for the second ball. Unfortunately, we could not convert the chances we had but it was an important three points after the international break.

— PEP GUARDIOLA Manchester City manager



Manchester City's Gabriel Jesus (centre) vies for the ball with James McArthur (left) as Jeffrey Schlupp (right) of Crystal Palace looks on during their English Premier League match at Selhurst Park, south London, on Saturday. City won 2-0.

—AFP

Ronaldo on target for Juventus

Milan, Oct. 20: Cristiano Ronaldo and Miralem Pjanic sealed a 2-1 win for Juventus over Bologna to consolidate top spot in Serie A.

Ronaldo was presented with a special jersey before kick-off to mark his 700th career goal scored playing for Portugal during the week.

The 34-year-old hit his 701st after 19 minutes, with Pjanic adding a second eight minutes after the break following a blunder by Brazilian defender Danilo, who had earlier pulled Bologna level.

The defending champions are now four points clear of second-placed Inter Milan.

Atalanta stay third after throwing away a three-goal lead to draw 3-3 with Lazio, with fourth-placed Napoli closing the gap to just one point after Arkadiusz Milik's double saw off Verona.

Bologna coach Sinisa Mihajlovic returned to the bench in Turin after his second course of chemotherapy as he battles cancer.

And the visitors were given reason to hope of snatching a rare point against the Turin giants when Danilo responded to Ronaldo's opener with a 29th-minute volley.

But Pjanic sealed victory with his third goal in four games in the 54th minute amid chaos in front of the Bologna goal.

—AFP



Cristiano Ronaldo of Juventus holds a jersey bearing his name with the number 700, after being honoured for having scored 700 goals so far in his career, prior to their Italian league football match against Bologna on Saturday at the Juventus stadium in Turin.

—AFP

Madrid take a Real tumble

Madrid, Oct. 20: Trouble returned to Real Madrid after they endured their first La Liga defeat of the season at newly-promoted Real Mallorca.

Zinedine Zidane, David Beckham and Robinho were in the last Real Madrid team to lose a league game at San Moix in 2006 and 13 years later, Mallorca repeated the trick thanks to a scintillating strike by Junior Lago in the first half.

Alvaro Odriozola allowed Lago too much room to cut inside and was then sent off late on, even if Madrid's attempts at a comeback looked doomed well before they were reduced to 10 as they lost 0-1.

The defeat halts the resurgence of Zidane's side just as Barcelona's appears to be gathering pace, a 3-0 win away at Eibar giving the Catalans their fifth consecutive victory in all competitions. Lionel Messi, Luis Suarez and Antoine Griezmann scored the goals.

In between, Atletico Madrid were pegged back by Valencia as a brilliant Dani Parejo free-kick earned the visitors a hard-

SPANISH | LEAGUE

earned 1-1 draw at the Wanda Metropolitano.

It means Barca will finish the weekend top of the table for the first time this season as the defending champions continue to leave their stumbling start further behind them.

For Real, five games unbeaten and three of them victories had not erased the doubts, but at least seemed to offer evidence Zidane's team were turning a corner.

But Mallorca, who climb to 14th, deserved their triumph in what is their first season back in the top flight since relegation ended 15 consecutive years there in 2014.

Lago collected the ball on the left in the seventh minute, drove at the retreating Odriozola before cutting inside and unleashing a shot.

Madrid lacked purpose and cutting edge, with their hopes all but dashed when Odriozola capped a miserable night by flying in late on Lago in the 74th minute and collecting a second yellow card.

—AFP

SHORT TAKES

Ogbeche diffuses ATK with a brace

Kochi: Two-time champions ATK scored their 100th goal in the Hero Indian Super League but that wasn't enough to provide them with any joy in the opening match of the sixth edition at the Jawaharlal Nehru International Stadium in Kochi on Sunday.

Carl McHugh had put ATK ahead with an absolute stunner in only the sixth minute of the game but the hosts, egged on by a vociferous crowd, hit back with two goals from new signing Bartholomew Ogbeche in the first half for a 2-1 victory. The result sees Kerala get the better of ATK in their ISL opener once again, having recorded a 2-0 win last season in Kolkata.

The game got off to an electrifying start with the visitors stunning the packed crowd early in the game. ATK capitalised on a free-kick given for a foul on Jayesh Rane by Jeakson Singh. The set-piece into the box was cushioned back for McHugh by Agustin Garcia Iniguez at the far post.

— Agencies

Racism stops FA Cup qualifier

London: An FA Cup qualifying match between Haringey Borough and Yeovil Town was abandoned after allegations that players were racially abused and spat on.

The players of seventh-tier outfit Haringey walked off the field on Saturday with about 25 minutes to go, shortly after Yeovil had scored a penalty. The incident during the match in the fourth qualifying round came just five days after England players endured racist abuse during their Euro 2020 qualifier against Bulgaria in Sofia.

Haringey manager Tom Loizou said defender Coby Rowe suffered racial abuse while goalkeeper Douglas Pajetat was also spat at, prompting him to take his players off the pitch.

— AFP

Murray surprises himself, in final

Antwerp, Belgium: Former World No.1 Andy Murray reached his first final in more than two-and-a-half years and admitted it was a "big surprise".

Murray, steadily rebuilding his singles game after career-saving hip surgery in January, defeated France's Ugo Humbert 3-6, 7-5, 6-2 to make the championship match at the European Open. "It's been a big surprise to me. I'm happy to be into the final," he told. It's been a long road to get back to this point. I certainly didn't expect it to come so soon since I started playing again," Murray said.

On Sunday, the 32-year-old Briton will tackle fellow three-time Grand Slam title winner Stan Wawrinka in the final. Murray, ranked 243, last reached a final in Dubai in March 2017 where he won the most recent of his 45 career titles.

— AFP



Players of Bengal Warriors celebrate after defeating Delhi Dabang in the Pro-Kabaddi league final in Ahmedabad on Saturday. Bengal beat Delhi 39-34.

— PTI

Marquez reigns supreme in Japan

DEEPIKA DAS | DC MOTEGI (JAPAN), OCT. 20

Repsol Honda rider and multiple world champion Marc Marquez produced a sublime show to clinch his third Motul Grand Prix of Japan at the Twin Ring Circuit here on a balmy and sunny Sunday afternoon.

Clear skies prevailed after a downpour soaked the track on Saturday, Marquez exploited the condition to the fullest and dictated the terms from the first lap itself as he held the lead through 24 laps. Though Petronas Yamaha SRT's Fabiano Quartararo was hot on his heels, he failed to outpace him in any of the laps as the Honda star rider clinched his fourth title in a row this season.



Marc Marquez poses with Team Honda after winning the Premier Class Constructors Championship on Sunday.

The strong sun was enough to make the track dry and the temperature hovering at around 21 degrees "perfect" for Marquez to conquer the Motegi track again in front of almost-capacity crowd.

pushed further in later stage to win comfortably, "Marquez said with a big smile after the race.

Spain's Marquez finished in 42 minutes and 31.492 seconds, just ahead of 20-year-old rookie Frenchman Quartararo (42 min 42.492sec) with Team Ducati's Andrea Dovizioso coming third on podium as he was 2.6 seconds late.

The Spaniard Marquez had also won the title here in 2016 and 2018.

Marquez is now leading the championship with 350 points. Team Ducati Dovizioso is second with 231 points, while A. Rins of Team Suzuki is third with 176 points.

Despite the lead, Marquez was kept his guard high. Marquez hit the fastest lap

of day in fifth lap. Honda's other rider Jorge Lorenzo, who owns the lap record here with 1:43.79 in 2015, had a disappointing finished as he came in at the 19th spot.

It was another good news in store for Team Honda as they also clinched the MotoGP Constructors' World Championship with 356 points for a record 25th time ahead of Ducati (270) and Yamaha (268).

Though it was a forgettable race for former world champion Valentino Rossi, who had a huge fan following here, of Monster Energy Yamaha team as he met a crash in the 20th lap.

Italy's Luca Marini won the Moto2 while Lorenzo Dalla Porta from Spain grabbed the Moto3 victory.



Mentor

Former middle-order batsman Mike Hussey has been drafted in by Australian coach Justin Langer to help mentor the side during their upcoming Twenty20 series against Sri Lanka and Pakistan

Double Don

Rohit slams maiden double ton, surpasses legendary Bradman for the highest batting average on home soil



Rohit Sharma celebrates after scoring a double century during the second day of third and final Test against South Africa in Ranchi. — AP

Rohit closes in on an astonishing average of 100

Ranchi, Oct. 20: Indian opener Rohit Sharma on Sunday surpassed legendary Sir Don Bradman recording the highest batting average in Test cricket on home soil among those, who have played at least 10 innings. Rohit, who hit 212 in India's first innings in the third and final Test against South Africa, now has an average of 99.84 in 18 innings, which is highest by any player (with minimum 10 innings) in the longest format at home. Rohit has so far scored 1298 runs in the 18 completed innings. The record was previously held by Bradman, who had an average of 98.22 across 50 innings at home. — PTI

Umesh strikes out Kiwi Fleming's 15-year-old record

Ranchi, Oct. 20: Umesh Yadav on Sunday surpassed former New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming's 15-year-old record for the highest strike rate in an innings in Test cricket. He achieved the feat on Day Two of the third Test against South Africa with a 10-ball 31 for a strike rate of 310. Kiwi skipper Fleming had smashed 31 runs in 11 balls against South Africa in 2004. The left-handed batsman had a strike rate of 281.81 in that particular innings. — Agencies

BEST AVERAGES AT HOME (MIN 10 INNINGS)

Batsman	I	Runs	AVG	100
Rohit Sharma (India)	18	1298	99.84	6
Don Bradman (Aus)	50	4322	98.22	18
Adam Voges (Aus)	12	690	86.25	3
Douglas Jardine (Eng)	10	490	81.66	1
George Headley (WI)	18	1241	77.56	5

HIGHEST INDIVIDUAL SCORE BY AN INDIAN AGAINST SA

Score	Batsman	Venue	Season	Result
319	Virender Sehwag	Chennai	2007-08	Drawn
254*	Virat Kohli	Pune	2019-20	Won
215	Mayank Agarwal	Vizag	2019-20	Won
212	Rohit Sharma	Ranchi	2019-20	waited
176	Rohit Sharma	Vizag	2019-20	Won

Stats: Pervez Qaiser

SCORECARD

India (1st innings): Mayank Agarwal c Elgar b Rabada 10, Rohit Sharma c Lungi Ngidi b Rabada 212, Cheteshwar Pujara lbw b Rabada 0, Virat Kohli lbw b Nortje 12, Ajinkya Rahane c Klaasen b George Linde 115, Ravindra Jadeja c Klaasen b George Linde 51, Wriddhiman Saha b George Linde 24, Ravichandran Ashwin st Klaasen b D Piedt 14, Umesh

SECOND DAY OF THE THIRD AND FINAL TEST

Yadav c Klaasen b George Linde 31, Shahbaz Nadeem (not out) 1, Mohammed Shami (not out) 10. Extras (b-10, lb-6, nb-1) 17. Total (for nine wickets in 116.3 overs) 497 decl. FoW: 1-12, 2-16, 3-39, 4-306, 5-370, 6-417, 7-450, 8-464, 9-482. Bowling: Rabada 23-7-85-3, Ngidi 20-5-83-0, Nortje 24-3-5-79-1, Linde 31-2-133-4, Piedt

18-3-101-1. **South Africa (1st innings):** Dean Elgar c Saha b Shami 0, Quinton de Kock c Saha b Umesh 4, Zubayr Hamza (batting) 0, Faf du Plessis (batting) 1. Extras (b-4) 4. Total (for two wickets in five overs) 9. FoW: 1-4, 2-8. Bowling: Shami 1-1-0-1, Umesh 1-0-4-1, Nadeem 2-2-0-0, Jadeja 10-0-1-0.

Make the best of opportunities: Rohit

Ranchi, Oct. 20: Rohit Sharma always knew that he had to make best use of the opportunities in his new role as a Test opener or else "a lot could have happened" as far as his stint in the longest format is concerned. Rohit has had scores of 176, 127 in his first Test as an opener against South Africa and now has hit his maiden double hundred to emulate Sachin Tendulkar and Virender Sehwag as players to score 200 across two formats. "Kafi kuch hone wala tha naahin toh kaafi kuch ap likh dete mere barein Mein (A lot could have happened had I not performed and you guys (media) would have writ-

Communication between me and my team management was on for a long time about opening the batting. So mentally, I was ready for it. — ROHIT SHARMA

ten a lot about me," a satisfied Sharma said at the day end press conference. "So it was about making most of the opportunities I got. I knew I had to make full use of it, otherwise media would have written against me. Now I know everyone will write good things about me," he added. Rohit has amassed 529 runs from four innings thus becoming the only fifth Indian opener to score 500-plus runs in a Test series. "It was a good opportunity for me to open the batting. As I said dur-

ing the Vizag Test, the communication between me and my team management was happening for a long time about opening the batting. So mentally, I was ready for it. I knew it could come at anytime." "Speaking of this particular knock, I would say it was most challenging. I have not played much. I played only 30 Tests. In terms of what was thrown at me, I would definitely say it was probably the most challenging one," the talented Mumbaier said. While he has had a blockbuster start to his career

as a Test opener, Rohit himself acknowledged that he has a long way to go. "In Tests, it has its challenges. Having played only three Tests as an opener, I know I have long way to go. I am not reading too much into these three Tests. Of course, I will take a lot of positives." Talking about the challenge of opening the batting, he said, "Opening the batting is a different challenge to batting at Nos 6-7. It's just about how you prepare yourself, what you talk to yourself in your mind about what do you want to go out there and achieve. "Playing the first ball of the match, compared to facing a delivery after 30-40 overs is a different ball game altogether." — PTI



Sarfaraz is not a selfish captain. He did not deserve this treatment.

— Rashid Latif, former Pakistan skipper defends Sarfaraz who has been sacked as captain of the Test and T20 national sides

SHORT TAKES

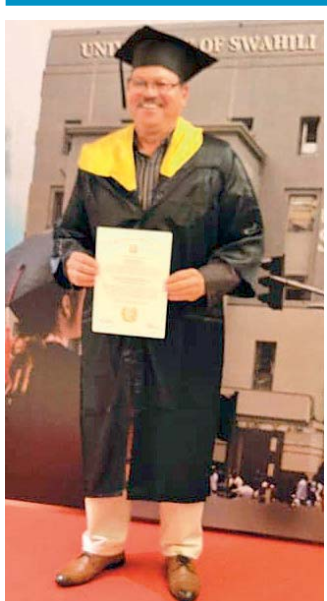


Lessons learnt for debutant Linde

Ranchi: South Africa spinner George Linde on Sunday said he learnt lessons during India's 497 for nine declared as he claimed four wickets on debut in the third Test. Linde returned figures of 4-133 with his left-arm spin, providing some support to paceman Kagiso Rabada who had put the hosts in early trouble at 39 for three on day one. "I didn't expect to play Test cricket. So when I got the call-up I was quite nervous but luckily I had a few days to just settle," the Cape Town-born Linde told reporters. "Today few lessons learnt, especially at the end. But I will take four wickets on a debut." Linde got Rahane caught behind in the morning session and then hurt the middle order with the wickets of Wriddhiman Saha, for 24, and Ravindra Jadeja, for 51. "Obviously consistency is very important (in India). We got it wrong on the leg side yesterday, today I was lot better, bit more on the off side," said Linde. — AFP

State units to get funds post Oct. 23

New Delhi: There is some good news waiting for the Lodha compliant state units of the BCCI, as they will start getting their allocated annual grants once Sourav Ganguly-led new committee takes charge after the Annual General Meeting on October 23. With the full members of the BCCI used to getting an annual grant of Rs 35 crore, the member units have more than Rs 100 crore in arrears over three years as there was no disbursements happening till they amended their constitution as per Lodha recommendations. "The Annual Accounts for multiple financial years will be passed at the AGM and once it is done, the decks will be cleared for all the compliant state units to get their allocated funds," a senior BCCI official said. — PTI



Hyderabad's Maxwell Trevor, former international cyclist and 11-time national champion in the 1980s, poses with the Doctorate of Philosophy in sports with specialisation in cycling awarded by the University of Swahili, Panama. Trevor represented India at two Asian Games, an Asian Cycling Championships and a World Championship. He also served as the coach of the unified Andhra Pradesh cycling team and was the secretary of the state's cycling association.

Regd. No. H/SD/509/2018-20
Printed and Published by T. Venkateswarlu on behalf of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited. Printed at Deccan Chronicle Press, situated at Plot No. 9 Alwal Village, Vallabh Nagar Taluk, Medchal Malkajgiri Dist. Telangana and Published at 36, S.D. Road, Secunderabad-3.
RNI Registration No. 3081/1957.
Editor: Aditya Sinha

Bronze for Priya at Egypt tourney

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD OCT. 20

● The fifth seeded Hyderabad shuttler lost to second seed Jordan Hart of Wales 16-21, 11-21 in the semifinals to settle for the third position at the Egyptian International tournament in Cairo.

Sree Krishna Priya Kudaravalli won the bronze at the Egypt International badminton tournament that concluded in Cairo on Sunday. The fifth seeded Hyderabad shuttler lost to second seed Jordan Hart of Wales 16-21, 11-21 in the semifinals to settle for bronze. She could not cope with the gruelling schedule of playing her second match in two hours, against the second and third seeds, which took a toll on her energy and stamina. The Pallela Gopichand Academy trainee acknowledged she has to work on her stamina and movements so as to withstand the grind of playing consecutive matches even as she vowed to continue with her strict regimen and discipline at rigorous training sessions.

Earlier in the quarterfinals, she made light of third seed Dorias Ajoke Adesokan of Nigeria in straight games with a 21-10, 21-19 scoreline. Krishna Priya had it relatively easy in the previous round. She dominated Yasmin Chibah of Algeria to emerge a 21-10, 21-13 victor. She had got off the blocks at a blistering pace though, a 21-6, 21-6 win in the first round over local girl Sohallaaly Abdelmagid making others in the draw sit up and take notice.



Sri Krishna Priya poses with the Indian flag and her medal after the presentation ceremony of the Egypt International Badminton tournament in Cairo on Sunday.

BHAVAN'S BEAT SKY KINGS FOR CHAMPIONS CUP

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD OCT. 20

Bhavan's defeated Sky Kings Academy to win the U-18 Champions Cup title conducted by Friends Club Bolarum, on the occasion of Hyderabad Football Club getting a place on the Indian Super League. Bhargav of Bhavan's shone through as he scored the winning goal. In the U-16 category, Grass Roots Football Academy defeated Reeds Football Club 2-1. **THE RESULTS**
■ U-18 final: Bhavan's bt Sky Kings Academy Bowenpally 1-0.
■ Boys U-16 final: GRFA bt Reeds FC 2-1 via penalty shootout.
■ Girls U-16 final: Hyderabad All United FC bt Girls United 4-1.
■ U-14 final: United FC bt St Michael's 2-1.
■ U-10 final: GRFA, Bachupally bt St Michael's 2-0.



Mithali Raj (right), captain of the Indian women's ODI cricket team, is felicitated by her coach RSR Murthy at the St John's Sports Coaching Foundation for completing 20 years of international cricket and for 100 wins as Indian captain. Also seen in the picture are John Manoj, vice president of the Hyderabad Cricket Association.

MEDCHAL ATHLETICS TRIALS

Hyderabad, Oct. 20: The Medchal District Athletics Association is conducting the annual athletics meet for boys and girls under 14 and 16 on October 28 at Telangana Sports School, Hakimpet, to select the team for the 17th National Inter-district Junior Athletics meet to be held at Tirupati from November 23 to 25. Competitions will be held in the following events: Boys & Girls U-14 (born between November 26, 2005 and November 25, 2007): 100m, 600m, high jump, long jump & shot put. Boys & Girls U-16 (born between November 26, 2003 and November 25, 2005): 100m, 200m, 400m, 1000m, 100m hurdles, high jump, long jump, shot put, discus throw & javelin throw. For further details, contact Rajasekhara on 9849612733.

BAJAJ ELECTRONICS

S I N C E 1 9 8 3

NOW OPEN AT SR NAGAR METRO PILLAR NO. 1038

₹ **30** LAKHS

DRAW DATE - 4TH NOV, 2019

₹ **50** LAKHS

DRAW DATE - 16TH JAN, 2020



WIN **22** ALTO 800 CARS

DRAW DATE - 16TH JAN, 2020

DIWALI OFFERS

1 PAY JUST ONE **₹RUPEE***

TO TAKE HOME ANY PRODUCT AND PAY THE BALANCE AMOUNT WITHIN 24 MONTHS WITH ZERO INTEREST EMI FOR INSTANT APPROVALS PLEASE WALK-IN WITH YOUR ID PROOF, ADDRESS PROOF & CHEQUE LEAF

BAJAJ FINSERV SHOP ON EASY EMI'S GET **₹16,000*** CASH VOUCHERS

5% CASHBACK

HDB FINANCIAL SERVICES **ICICI Bank Credit Cards** **5% CASHBACK**

HDFC BANK Festive Treats **IDFC FIRST Bank**

LG Life's Good **LG OLED TV AI ThinQ™**

10% CASH BACK ON CREDIT / DEBIT CARDS

0 DOWN PAYMENT & BALANCE IN EASY EMIs

World's Best Selling OLED Brand*

Google Assistant alexa built-in Apple AirPlay

FREE Sound Bar Worth up to ₹49990*

EMI ₹4999* ONWARDS

SAMSUNG QLED SAMSUNG GLOBAL NO.1 TV

80cm (32")	₹990 (Per Month)*
100CM & 1M 08CM (40" & 43")	₹1,490 (Per Month)*
1M 23CM & 1M 25CM (49" & 50")	₹1,990 (Per Month)*
1M 38CM (55" & ABOVE)	₹2,990 (Per Month)*

SPECIAL OFFER 1MM 38CM (55" & ABOVE) **1 EMI FREE** under 15 by Finance scheme

up to **15% Cashback** 3 year Warranty* on Samsung TVs

Exciting Festive Gifts

- FREE*** with QLED Galaxy S10 (1 Unit) worth ₹61,900
- FREE*** with QLED Galaxy A50 (1 Unit) worth ₹21,490
- FREE*** with 4K UHD TV Galaxy M30 (1 Unit) worth ₹17,990
- FREE*** with 4K UHD TV Google Home Mini (1 Unit) worth ₹4,999

A8G OLED **4K HDR** **SONY**

Deep Black, True Expression

X1 Extreme Acoustic Surface **TRILUMINOS DISPLAY**

DOLBY VISION **android tv**

Google Assistant alexa hands free control

164cm (65) • MRP-Rs:-3,69,900/- Best Buy Rs. 2,99,990/-

139cm (55) • MRP-Rs:-2,49,900/- Best Buy Rs. 1,99,990/-

Free Oakter Smart Home & Intelli-Cam Kit Worth Rs. 24,940

SPECIAL FINANCE OFFERS AVAILABLE* **10% ADDITIONAL CASHBACK**

DOUBLE DOOR **SINGLE DOOR**

REFRIGERATORS RANGE STARTS FROM ₹12,790/-*

LG SAMSUNG Whirlpool **Godrej**

FRONT LOAD **TOP LOAD**

WASHING MACHINES **WIDEST RANGE AT BEST PRICE**

Whirlpool **Panasonic** **LG SAMSUNG** **IFB** **BOSCH**

iPhone X R STORAGE 64GB

MRP ₹49,990/-* **₹43,990/-***

5000 CASHBACK DEBIT CREDIT Each Customer Can Buy with 3 iPhone

FREE WIRELESS CHARGER WORTH ₹1,990

HURRY UP | LIMITED STOCKS

No extra cost EMI available on consumer loans

BAJAJ FINSERV **IDFC FIRST Bank** **HDFC BANK**

A. S. RAO NAGAR | ABIDS | ATTAPUR PILLAR NO 138 | BANJARA HILLS | BN REDDY NAGAR | BODUPPAL | CHANDA NAGAR | CHINTAL | DILSUKHNAGAR | ECIL | FORUM MALL | GACHIBOWLI | HABSIGUDA HAYATHNAGAR | JUBILEE HILLS | KARMANGHAT | KOMPALLY | KONDAPUR | KOTHAPET | KUKATPALLY | LAKDI-KA-POOL | M. G. ROAD | MADINAGUDA | MALAKPET | MIYAPUR | NACHARAM | NAGOLE | NALLAKUNTA | NIZAMPET | PUNJAGUTTA | RAJENDRA NAGAR PILLAR NO 215 | RAMANTHAPUR | RC PURAM | RTC 'X' ROAD | SHAH ALI BANDA | SHAMSHABAD | SR NAGAR | SUN CITY | TOLICHOWKI | VANASTHALIPURAM

TELANGANA: MAHABUBNAGAR | KHAMMAM | KARIMNAGAR | WARANGAL | NIZAMABAD
ANDHRA PRADESH: VIZAG | GAJUWAKA | KAKINADA | RAJAHMUNDRY | VIJAYAWADA | GUNTUR | NELLORE | TIRUPATI

Bajaj Electronics - A Trademark of Electronics Mart India Ltd. CIN No: US26D5TG2018PLC126593. Regd. Office: 6-1-91, Shop No. 10, Ground Floor, Next to Telephone Bhawan, Secretariat Road, Safabad, Hyderabad - 500004. Corporate Office: M. No. 6-3-668/A1 to 7, 3rd Floor, Opp. NIMS Hospital, Punjagutta Main Road, Hyderabad - 500082. Email: communications@bajajelectronics.in

*Terms and Conditions Apply: On selected Samsung products only 75 days offer is under the EMI offer. EMI and approval of EMI is at the sole discretion of the finance company and the decision of the finance company management is final. 0% finance is available on selected models and brands only. 0% finance on mobiles and laptops are only for limited period. Finance offer is not valid for products below Rs.10,000/- . Finance offer is not applicable on Samsung & LG Products. Free gifts are not applicable on Laptops, Mobiles, Home Appliances and Kitchen Appliances. Product images shown here are only for demonstration purpose. Please check the products before purchase. Cashback offer is applicable for Bajaj Finance customers. Offer is applicable on True Bajaj Finserv, on select models and brands not applicable on Sony, Samsung and LG products. *Free gift is applicable on select brands and products and is not applicable on mobiles and laptops.

For corporate bookings or bulk orders, please email us at corporatesales@bajajelectronics.in