



**WORDLY WISE**  
THE DAY WE RUN OUT OF PETROL IS THE DAY  
IRAN WILL BE FREE.  
— ABBAS KIAROSTAMI

## The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY  
RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

# For a free and fair game

Conflict of interest controversy is not about individuals, but about rules that must account for rule-benders



SANDEEP DWIVEDI

## CHECK & IMBALANCE

Delaying, not asking questions, on J&K — this doesn't match SC tradition of speaking up for those who cannot

THE CENTRE'S MOVE in Kashmir, a defining one for the Narendra Modi government, is also turning out to be a critical moment for the judiciary. On October 1, responding to a raft of petitions challenging the constitutional validity of the August 5 decision to abrogate the special status of Kashmir, a five-judge constitution bench of the Supreme Court refused to order a stay, and adjourned the hearing to November 14 — that is, until well after the scheduled implementation of the Centre's order has carved up the state into two Union Territories on October 31. Earlier, addressing a separate batch of petitions questioning the restrictions on movement and communication that have accompanied the Centre's decision, another SC bench held that "personal liberty will have to be balanced with national security". The court has deferred such petitions, including one filed by CPM general secretary Sitaram Yechury questioning the detention of his colleague Mohammed Yousuf Tarigami, for hearing on October 16. Something is seriously amiss in the response of the country's apex court, and it is this: The court, which is the centrepiece of the system of checks and balances that keeps the political executive honest and accountable, that ensures due process and is the custodian of individual rights, is showing a striking lack of urgency. In fact, deferring and delaying, not asking questions that need to be asked, giving the government the benefit of the doubt — serious doubt — on the drastic curbs on fundamental freedoms, doesn't quite match the apex court's own stellar tradition of speaking up for those who cannot.

This is especially troubling in habeas corpus cases where delay can have a costly human rights toll. The court's dithering here recalls its most forgettable moment. In the ADM Jabalpur case during the Emergency, four judges out of five, with the honourable exception of Justice H R Khanna, had handed out virtual good conduct certificates to the government, expressing the hope, "diamond bright, diamond hard", that the fears of the detainees would prove to be uncalled for. Of course, it made amends, overruled that embarrassing decision, in 2017. Yet, today, two years later, the judiciary's lack of urgency in pronouncing on the validity of citizens' detentions and the constitutional legitimacy of the government's decision, is made worse by its apparent glibness in imposing gag orders of its own. Last month, the J&K High Court allowed two National Conference MPs to meet Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah, detained in Srinagar, but barred them from speaking to the press about the meeting. Earlier, a CJ-led bench of the SC had allowed Yechury to meet Tarigami after hedging the permission similarly.

On very many occasions, the Supreme Court has protected and expanded citizens' liberties. For its own sake, and that of the people who look up to it, especially those men and women — and in J&K, children, too — who are denied their rights in the name of "national interest", it needs to step up to its role.

## SEIZE THE OPENING

Iran's president indicates that French plan for talks with US is acceptable. Washington mustn't squander the opportunity

ON SEPTEMBER 7, the spokesperson for Iran's nuclear agency announced that the country had the ability to enrich uranium up to 20 per cent and it had launched advanced centrifuge machines, further violating its commitments under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) or the Iran nuclear deal between Tehran and the US, France, Germany, Britain, Russia and the European Union. The move was an escalation of the brinkmanship underway since US President Donald Trump withdrew from the JCPOA in May 2018. This week, President Hassan Rouhani has indicated Tehran is amenable to the plan for talks proposed by French President Emmanuel Macron, with the US. It is a diplomatic opening.

The 2015 JCPOA came into being after arduous negotiations and placed restrictions on Iran's nuclear programme while removing the harsh economic sanctions on the country. Since the US's withdrawal from the deal, the Trump administration has ramped up the sanctions, and its anti-Iran rhetoric, while Tehran has flouted the limits placed on its nuclear programme. The logic behind Washington's plan appears to be that the sanctions would increase disaffection in Iran to such a degree that the government and the Ayatollah would be overthrown. It is, however, more likely that the moderate, democratically-elected Rouhani government has suffered due to the sanctions. Rouhani staked considerable political capital in pushing through the nuclear deal, particularly with the recalcitrant sections of the Islamic state opposed to any accord with the US.

Rouhani has said in a publicly-broadcast cabinet meeting that the deal proposed by Macron entails that Tehran will not pursue nuclear weapons and that sanctions would be lifted, allowing Iran to resume oil sales. The Iranian president has, however, expressed concern over Donald Trump's alleged doublespeak: "The American president on two occasions... said explicitly that we want to intensify sanctions... Should we accept your (European leaders') word that America is ready (for talks)?" The ball is now in Washington's court. New Delhi has thus far managed to walk the diplomatic tightrope between the US and Iran. Given the goodwill that PM Narendra Modi enjoys with President Trump, as well as India's close historical and trade ties with Iran, Delhi could join Paris and other world powers in nudging both countries towards talks. The alternative — the path of calibrated escalation — a slippery slope.

## WRITING ON THE WALL

Banksy, artist of the masses, envy of high art, foe of commercial art, has opened a shop. There's a twist in the tale

THE MARKET ASSIMILATES all, even the most anti-market. British street artist Banksy, who turned anonymity into a virtue and the anti-original stencil into an instrument of high art on par with the palette knife, has opened a shop in Croydon, south London. He has been forced to this step by a greeting card company which is appropriating his name, one of the creative world's most valuable brands, to sell fake Banksy merchandise. Legally, it is a laughable ploy, since it seems to be trying to use a parallel from the world of patents — a patent which is not worked by the owner can be compulsorily licensed to keep a product on the market. But a brand is not a patent, only similar, and the case is likely to collapse.

In the meantime, to retain control over his name, Banksy has opened a shop to put his home products on the market. Some are all heart, like doormats made out of life jackets worn by migrants in the Mediterranean, stitched by other migrants interned in Greece. But the name of the shop, Gross Domestic Product, suggests that many products will be awful by design.

Two decades ago, Banksy had energised the counterculture by putting the Mona Lisa, wearing headphones and armed with an RPG launcher, on a building off Oxford Street, London's retail Mecca. Now, while going commercial with his own retail premises, Banksy is keeping the spirit of protest alive. GDP isn't really a shop. It's actually an installation featuring Banksy's art in a disused carpet shop. Its doors will never open, and it is as transient as a flashmob. Before it dissolves back into the mind of its creator, you could order its wares online, but only through a website which does not yet exist. Perhaps it never will.

IF YOU THINK there is conflict of interest, there probably is. Indian cricket these days is dealing with this brutal, but undeniable, truth.

Sourav Ganguly has been told that he can't sit in the Delhi Capitals dugout and also be in charge at Eden Gardens. Sachin Tendulkar and V V S Laxman, because of their IPL connections, can no longer be on the all-powerful committee that picked Ravi Shastri as coach. Rahul Dravid can't be the vice-president at India Cements — the company that owns Chennai Super Kings — and also be the man in charge at the BCCI's National Cricket Academy.

The downgrade hasn't gone down well with the game's superstars. As always it was Ganguly, the voice of the Golden Generation, who took the lead in expressing the collective disgust of those with more pies on their table than their fingers could fit into. "New fashion in Indian cricket... conflict of interest... Best way to remain in news. god help indian cricket..." he tweeted.

Ganguly's immediate provocation was the BCCI ethics officer's notice to Dravid but his own angst of choosing just one of the four influential positions he then occupied — Cricket Association of Bengal president, BCCI's cricket committee member, Delhi Capitals advisor and television pundit — also seemed to have triggered this apocalyptic outburst. Ganguly's "new fashion in Indian cricket" has been a corporate norm for ages now. While the world was swearing their exclusivity to their employers by signing thick water-tight contracts, on the island that houses cricket's cozy club, "conflict of interest" was still an alien concept. Inside that bubble lived a close-knit community, and it was fashionable to wear more than one hat.

The Committee of Administrators (CoA), assigned by the Supreme Court to dismantle the old cricket edifice, has unwittingly promoted this system by being soft towards the omnipresent legends enacting multiple roles. A couple of years ago, historian Ramachandra Guha, in his resignation letter from the CoA, had, while describing this as cricket's "superstar culture", written: "The more famous the player (former or present) the more leeway he is allowed in violating norms and procedures... One famous former cricketer is con-

tracted by media houses to comment on active players while serving as President of his State Association."

Guha's red flag was ignored, the CoA didn't find anything wrong in Ganguly signing a MoU with the Kolkata Knight Riders as Cricket Bengal president for hosting their home games at Eden Gardens and later getting into a contract with Delhi Capitals as their advisor. In his own backyard, Eden Gardens, the Prince of Kolkata would sit in the away dressing room. The picture of him assessing the Eden pitch wearing a Delhi jersey summed up Indian cricket's conflicted hierarchy.

Ganguly continued to push the envelope. During the IPL, he would be seen giving a bear hug to his team's star player, the young wicket-keeper batsman Rishabh Pant and within days, as a World Cup commentator, questioned M S Dhoni's place in the team. Maybe, it was what Virat Kohli's India desperately needed and a fair call, but Ganguly, after his seamless switch from the Delhi Capitals jersey to the sharp suit of a pundit, didn't sound convincing. He might be the man solely responsible for sweeping regionalism out of the Indian cricket when he was the captain, but as a committed cricket administrator, and an impartial commentator, he had failed.

Casting aspersions on the country's superstars has never been popular. Their glorious cricketing deeds and unblemished life in public have given them a well-deserved squeaky clean image. So, to even think that Dravid would be biased towards the players of CSK, the IPL franchise owned by his employers, India Cements, would amount to blasphemy. That's where the players and fans misunderstand the concept of conflict of interest.

BCCI's ethics officer, former SC Judge D K Jain, in a detailed order that restricts Ganguly to just one BCCI post, has a line that should be read out repeatedly to those who get pained when reminded of the possibility of them availing personal benefits because of their official position.

"Generally speaking, the concept of Conflict of Interest is not necessarily a question about something one does or intends to do but a question of what one could do," Jain writes. It's not about judging an individual, it is about understanding the scope of his

power. So, maybe, Ganguly wouldn't influence the curator at Eden or Dravid would never even think of pushing CSK players but in the days to come, someone in these powerful positions can.

Institutions aren't governed by rules meant for a handful of conscientious individuals, they need to factor in the worst rule-benders. While aspiring to put in place a set of principles that are over-arching, if the constitution is a shade idealistic, so be it. There are lessons to be learnt from the past.

Siding with the players, the CoA has often lamented about the serious dearth of players with stature while explaining why the same set of cricketers end up being on important committees, commentary panels or even in IPL dug outs. It's a flawed idea since this has resulted in the concentration of power in a few hands, which is at the core of Indian cricket's biggest crisis for the last three years.

When Lalit Modi went selling the IPL franchise more than a decade back, there were few takers of this untested format. Modi would rope in family and friends. The BCCI would strike out the "conflict of interest" clause from the constitution, allowing N Srinivasan to have commercial interests in cricket by way of pocketing an IPL team. Again, power vested in a few important hands. This inadvertently laid the foundation of the Indian Parivar League, where there was always an uncle, a father or a father-in-law that could be trusted to bail one out if caught pulling a fast one.

Based on the findings by Justice R M Lodha, the SC called the amendment of the "conflict of interest" clause, the true villain of the piece. That's why Lodha wanted an extensive background check for those wanting to be under the BCCI umbrella. The recent cases of cricket corruption in franchise T20 leagues have shown that the sharks are out there waiting to sneak into the system.

So, however much the players want, the new rule book can't have a conflict of interest clause with an asterisk at the start and a fine print below that reads: Tendulkar, Dravid, Ganguly, Laxman and all others with Test batting averages of 50 and more exempted, since we know they can do no wrong.

sandeep.dwivedi@expressindia.com



MINAKSHI BURAGOHAIN

## ON NRC, ARE WE LISTENING?

Supporters and opposers must engage each other with empathy

IN HIS ARTICLE 'Fakir in the detention camp' (IE, September 9), S Gopalakrishnan argues that an administrative register based on material proof of origin won't be able to record the nuances of the cultural roots of a land and its people. While it is true that an administrative register cannot be the base of identity, his views reflect only on one side of the story.

The National Register of Citizens (NRC) has evoked considerable discussion, and two persistent lines of argument have occupied centrestage: One that opposes the NRC tooth and nail; the other, appeals to look at the history and conditions leading up to the NRC. The first line of argument comes from mainstream civil society members who have criticised it, primarily on three fronts. The first is on the lines of "Hindutva". The NRC came to be seen as a case of "xenophobia" against Assam's Muslims in the light of the Citizenship Amendment Bill of 2016. However, this argument couldn't sustain owing to the fact that the people of Assam have been protesting against "illegal immigration" not because of religion but on grounds of culture and geography. The Hindutva argument has been followed by another line of argument which looks at the global precarity of labour created by globalisation. It is based on the fact that globalisation benefits from the vulnerability of labour. Now, after the release of the final list, around 19 lakh people have

been left out of it and they have to appeal to the Foreigners' Tribunal in order for their case to be reconsidered: The excluded people will be given 120 days to file an appeal before the Tribunal. Finally, there is the issue of the composition of those Foreigners' Tribunals as well as their capacity to solve those issues.

Another argument has surfaced, primarily from the civil society of Assam — who have been making appeals to understand the history and conditions leading to the NRC, conditions over which the Assamese hardly have control. They have also been pointing towards multiple layers of the issue while challenging the "ready made" structures which most of us use. Though there have been attempts at hijacking the process by a few politically motivated groups, yet, when it comes to sharing responsibility, people from the "mainland" can no longer afford to stay aloof from the concerns of scarce resources and land. Hireen Gohain, the renowned scholar, has pointed out that the NRC process was impersonal and its machine-like operation pre-empted the targeting of any particular community. While there may have been errors, he added, the allegations of bias are unfounded. One also needs to understand the colonial roots whereby migration from East Bengal took place in the early decades of the 20th century, and the conditions that led to 1971 being set as the cut-off year to verify citizenship in Assam.

Whose voices are we to listen to? We have to start by acknowledging that there has been an attempt to hijack the entire process by a few politically motivated groups. Yet, the many nuances of the problem need to be understood. Added to these nuances is another complexity: The 19 lakh people who have been excluded from the list. If rumours about detention camps being built are true, we need to not remain silent, and be vocal about it instead — something like a detention camp evokes unpleasant, inhuman images that we have only read about in our history books.

Members of the civil society, instead of clinging to drastically different viewpoints, need to discuss the next concrete steps that need to be taken: The objective should be to solve the issue in a humane way instead of sitting in their respective cocoons and arguing out their cases. It is also important to note that while deportation is not an option, we need to work out viable solutions. If we are looking for a workers' permit, what would be the nature of that permit? If those excluded are to be settled in the country, then let not Assam bear the pressure alone, all the other states should come forward. And before all of these, it is important to frame a few common minimum points of agreement.

The writer is assistant professor, IP College for Women, University of Delhi

## OCTOBER 4, 1979, FORTY YEARS AGO



### JANATA-CONGRESS PACT

THE POSSIBILITY OF a secret electoral understanding between the Janata Party and the Congress (I) is not ruled out at least in one state, Kerala. The possibility will become a certainty once an alliance is forged between the state's ruling alliance and the Marxists. A secretary of the state Janata party said that everyone was of the view that it should try to secure more representation in the Lok Sabha even if it meant an understanding with the Congress (I). Interestingly, he disclosed, this view is held by the members of the erstwhile Jana Sangh more than any other group. Their main objective is to array all possible forces against the CPM, which they regard as a

prime enemy.

### MP FAMINE

FAMINE MAY BE faraway in Madhya Pradesh but vultures have already arrived — vultures in human form, who feed on human misery. The politicians are trying to make political capital out of "the worst drought of the century", which has been officially compared to the great famine of 1896. Labour contractors are exploiting cheap labour. Traders and hoarders, largely responsible for the skyrocketing prices, are making huge profits. In response, some bureaucrats are planning foreign tour to "negotiate" the purchase of drought-fighting equipment.

### ONGC STRIKE

THE THREATENED COUNTRY-WIDE agitation by the officers and workmen of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission, beginning with mass casual leave on October 9 and strike from October 15, was deferred following "negotiations" between the officials' association leaders and the petroleum minister, A Bala Parjanor. President of ONGC Association of Scientific and Technical Officers, A K Dixit, told newsmen that an agreement on their long-standing demands including retaining the existing pattern of dearness allowance and implementation of the newly-revised personnel policy, was reached at their talks with Parjanor.



WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"The prime minister (Boris Johnson) says he wants a deal, but his priority is still whipping up support among hardline Eurosceptics." — THE GUARDIAN

# Gandhi in need

He helped me in a personal crisis — reading him made me understand that the world opens many doors when we watch in silence



PERUMAL MURUGAN

JANUARY, 2015 WAS an important time in my life. I was compelled to take a very important decision. The controversy over *Madhorubhagan* (One Part Woman) had turned my own people against me. A false propaganda had insinuated that my writing had discredited my native village and the women there. There were no takers for my opinion. Instead, my life was in danger; my family was facing a crisis. Circumstances were forcing us to shift out of our home; we were about to be robbed of our livelihood. Those unfamiliar with the ground situation had much advice to offer. I realised that they would not work in my case. Most of them were swayed by ideological considerations. I listened to them, but did not respond. This led to more confusion and I was unsure of my next step.

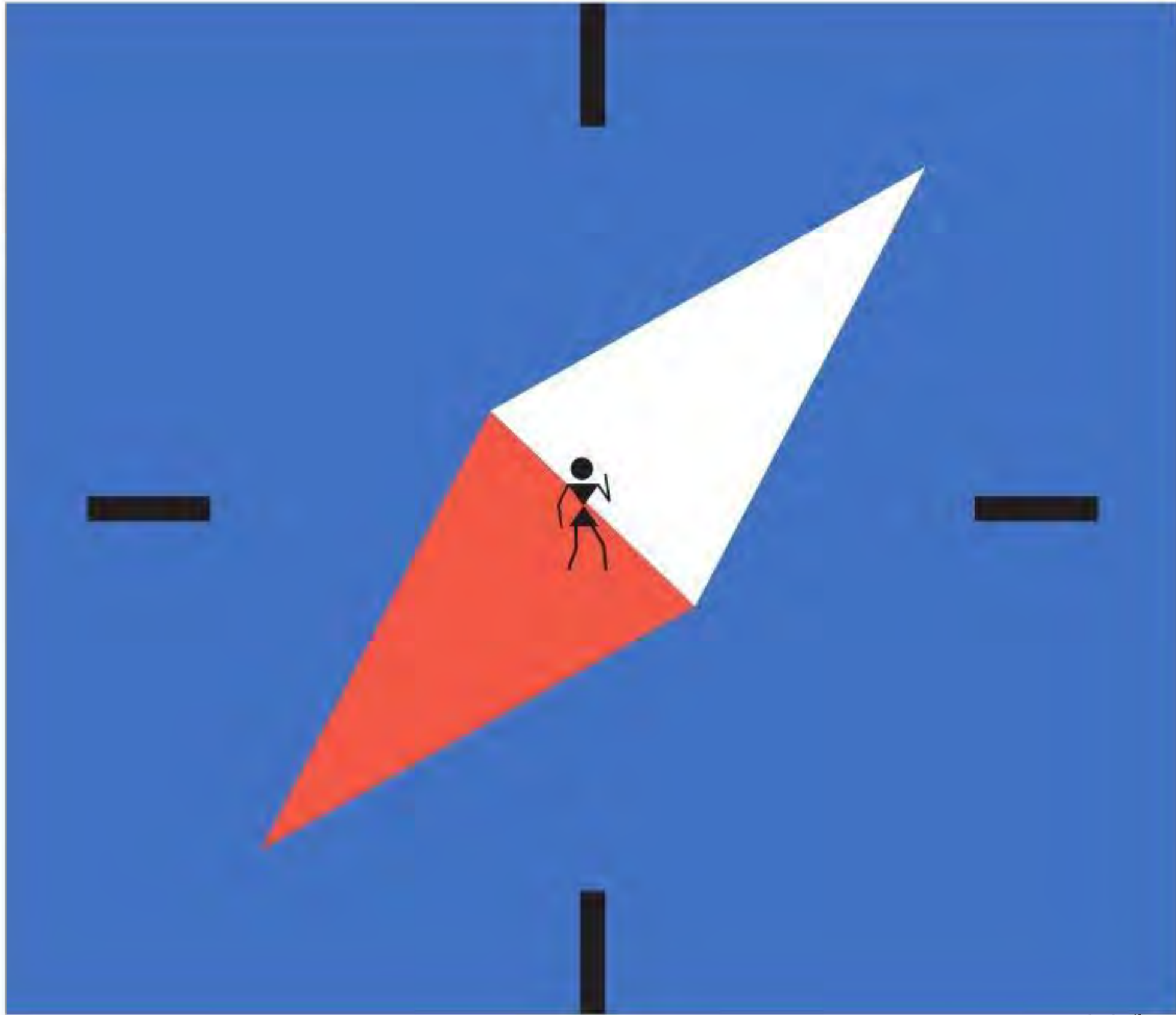
Then, on a night of pristine darkness, after pacing on our terrace for a long time, I visualised a man trapped in a flood. It was impossible to swim, or rise above the flood waters. The only option that seemed feasible was to go with the flow. Then I decided to listen to my heart. It was saying I was not wrong. But my voice was drowning in the cacophony of opposition. I decided not to compromise the value of my voice; I had to save it somehow. So I chose to respect the sentiment of the opposition. Forgiveness is no sin, it is merely an expression of a mellowed-down heart. I wrote a letter seeking forgiveness from those who claimed to be hurt by my book and signed it.

I was now done with respecting the opposition. But I could not erase that part of me which had not committed any mistake: I had to protect the sanctity of my own voice. I arrived at two decisions: To withdraw all my works and to not write in the future. These decisions, however, triggered unexpected consequences. So I chose not to talk in public.

Many questions were raised over my choices. While others argued and debated my discussions, I too was searching for answers within. I scrutinised the different strands of the position I had taken and realised that they were premised on forgiveness, the need to withdraw from the public and the desire for silence. How did these factors that influenced my decisions reach me? I can say with certainty that it was because of Gandhi's words and Gandhian principles. Even as I learned about Gandhi as the "father of the nation" in school textbooks at a young age, I had the opportunity to read his autobiography, *Satya Sodhanai* (My Experiments with Truth).

While in Class 8, I had participated in several poetry competitions as a representative of my school. I got *My Experiments with Truth* as a gift at one such competition. I came from a family that could not afford books. For someone like me, who took great interest in even reading a pamphlet, the book was a source of great joy. Around the same time, I also had the opportunity to read *Vanavasam* (Exile in a Forest) — the autobiography of lyricist Kannadasan. In his foreword, Kannadasan, referring to Gandhi's statement, "my life is my message", would speak about his work thus: "*My Experiments with Truth* is an example of how to live. *Vanavasam* is an example of how not to live." I was more attracted to his views on *My Experiments with Truth* than *Vanavasam*. I read Gandhi's autobiography again, and, several such times thereafter.

Later, I read some of Gandhi's works available in Tamil. I have also understood Gandhi through the interpretations of "Thanthai" Periyar. Periyar has often been critical of Gandhi, and occasionally praised him. When



CR Sasikumar

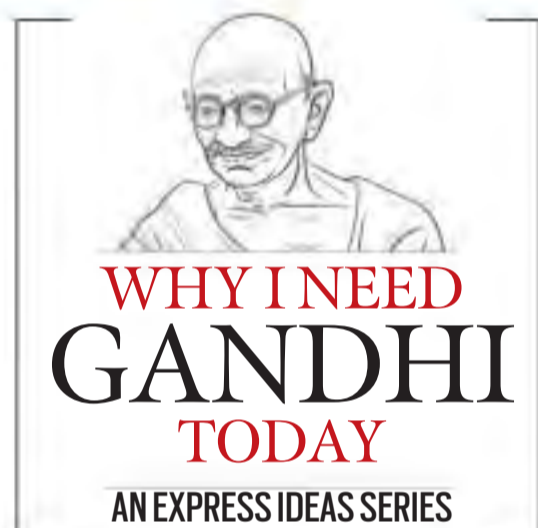
Gandhi passed away, Periyar had several recommendations to memorialise his life. One such was to rename India as Gandhi nation. He said it would have a positive impact.

Even when Periyar differed with Gandhi on many principles, he followed Gandhi in his political struggles. Periyar had learnt of Gandhi's ways while holding positions in the Congress early in his political career. Gandhi preferred legal ways of protest with no space for violence. When evolving his own form of protests, Periyar did not give up on the fundamentals of Ahimsa.

Having absorbed Gandhi in these ways, I believe it was what helped me in my hour of crisis. Gandhi showed me the merits of the path of forgiveness, solitude and silence. Our society as a whole cannot bring itself to seek forgiveness. Caste, age, position and responsibility come in the way. It is in our nature to push back the heart that comes forward to seek forgiveness. The society built on caste hierarchies professes to expect only those lower in the hierarchy to seek forgiveness for no fault. Gandhism is capable of questioning this premise and altering it. In several circumstances, Gandhi has stressed the importance of forgiveness. He believed that seeking forgiveness and granting it were high virtues.

"Distancing" oneself is also a way of Gandhi, at times when protests spiral out of control. Gandhi practised it even in his private life. It could immediately bring a turbulent situation under control. Distancing could put a spoke in the plans that people would devise to use an issue for their convenience. It was not necessary for someone involved in something to go on till the end. Distancing is about realising the gravity of problems that might arise in the process, and take appropriate measures to avoid them. Distancing will render the weapons of the opposition futile. I see my announcement to withdraw from writing as one such act. Not just in personal issues, but this approach also helps to avoid negative consequences in the public arena and redirects the focus.

Silence is the sharpest of Gandhi's



Gandhi showed me the merits of the path of forgiveness, solitude and silence. Our society as a whole cannot bring itself to seek forgiveness. Caste, age, position and responsibility come in between. It is in our nature to push back the heart that comes forward to seek forgiveness. The society built on caste hierarchies professes to expect only those lower in the hierarchy to seek forgiveness for no fault. Gandhism is capable of questioning this premise and altering it. On several circumstances, Gandhi has stressed the importance of forgiveness. He believed that seeking forgiveness and granting it were high virtues.

weapons. He had a deep interest in vows of silence, which bestowed the mind with great strength. He had practised silence on many important occasions. Silence yields benefits in personal as well as public spaces. One cannot be sure if one's words in a public space will always be taken in the intended spirit. Because of tone, background and many external reasons, it could assume other meanings. There were chances of them being grossly misunderstood. It was not possible for a person who uttered those words to always offer explanations. It was important to think things through before uttering a word. It was not possible to take a word back. Silence was not so, it was more an armour that could withstand any kind of attack.

When I decided to not talk in public, I never had such thoughts. Only when I understood the impact of silence, did I realise its armour-like nature. Often, people who want us to speak want to hear their thoughts in our voices. Sometimes, they would want to spin controversies. Silence gave me protection against all this. Even now, I am not so keen to talk in public. The world opens many doors when we watch in silence.

Gandhism had a rare influence on me: It helped an ordinary writer like me find a way to handle a crisis. I can say without doubt that it might have more to offer society as a whole. It has given society and individuals ways to live in harmony and to maintain a sense of self and to not hurt others even when one has been hurt. In a world where forces that use divisiveness to hold on to power continue to dominate, Gandhism, which teaches us to think of others, has much to do. Fasting, sloganeering, rallying and yatras are some forms of protest given to us by Gandhism. We are yet to find more powerful ways to express dissent, protest and take our demands to the authorities. Gandhi and his ideas are still needed in our private lives, our societies and our times.

Murugan has published many works of poetry, fiction and essays. Translated from Tamil by Kavitha Muralidharan

# A taxing time for states

Subdued GST collections and lower tax devolution will impact state finances, pose macro risks



JAYANTA ROY AND ADITI NAYAR

THERE ARE GROWING concerns that the two major sources of tax revenues for state governments, the state goods and services tax (SGST) and central tax devolution, are likely to fall well short of their budget estimates for 2019-20. This may result in large fiscal slippages or cutbacks in expenditure at the state level towards the end of this financial year. The latter is a risk for the economic growth outlook of the country, and for the liquidity position of corporates that are engaged in projects at the state level.

Tax revenues earned by state governments are classified as own tax revenues and devolution of central taxes. Own tax revenues of the states are now dominated by SGST, which is budgeted to account for over 40 per cent of the states' own tax revenues in FY20, while tax devolution to states is governed by the formulae prescribed by successive Finance Commissions, and takes its cue from the actual collections of the central government.

There are multiple concerns building up related to SGST collections. First, there are substantial discrepancies in the data available from the Rajya Sabha questions and the states' own budget on revenues related to SGST and GST compensation received by them in FY19. Our analysis suggests that several states had over-estimated such revenues in their revised estimates for FY19.

This optimistic forecasting of SGST collections seems to have persisted in the budget estimates for FY20. State governments, in aggregate, have estimated their SGST to expand by 11 per cent in FY20 (budget estimates) relative to their FY19 revised estimates. However, the growth in headline GST collections was only 5 per cent in the first half of the financial year. If the pace of growth of GST revenues doesn't pickup in the second half, SGST collections may trail what states had forecast by around Rs 350-400 billion.

Compounding this concern, the GST compensation cess collected in FY20 (April to September) has fallen short of the compensation released to the states this year. Moreover, many states continue to require compensation. This is becoming an acute concern as the five-year compensation period for GST losses will end in 2022. At that point, states will have to reset their expenditures in line with their actual SGST collections, unless the compensation period gets extended. With the axe unlikely to fall on social sector spending, infrastructure creation at the state level may get compressed.

Moving to tax devolution, as per the recommendations of the Fourteenth Finance Commission, 42 per cent of the shareable central taxes of the central government are being devolved to states for the period FY16-FY20. But, shareable tax collections

exclude surcharges and cess collections. Thus, in effect, the taxes devolved to states are closer to 35 per cent of the gross central tax collections.

The "provisional actuals" published by the Controller General of Accounts indicate that the Govt's tax revenues in FY19 stood at Rs 20.8 trillion, a considerable Rs 1.7 trillion lower than the revised estimates for that year. Presumably, the taxes devolved to the states in that year were based on the Centre's estimates of tax collections in revised estimates, which suggests that the devolution of taxes to states year was higher than mandated. We estimate this excess transfer at around Rs 0.6-0.7 trillion. A portion of the adjustment for this excess devolution in FY19 appears to have already been undertaken during April-August 2019, with a year-on-year reduction of 4 per cent or Rs 117 billion in tax devolution to states in these five months.

Moreover, the pace of growth of the Centre's gross tax revenues stood at a subdued 4 per cent in April-August 2019, sharply lower than the target of 18 per cent enshrined in the budget estimates relative to the "provisional actuals". We thus estimate that the gross tax revenues of the Centre would need to expand by a sharp 25 per cent in the remainder of this financial year to meet the budget estimates for FY20. This appears challenging given the subdued economic outlook as of now.

In addition, the recently announced corporate tax cut would result in a revenue loss which the government has pegged at Rs 1.45 trillion. This would be shared by the Centre and states. Thus, in our assessment, based on the shortfalls in central tax collections in FY19 and the estimated gap in FY20, the aggregate tax devolution to states may be as much as Rs 1.5-2 trillion lower in the current year than what was budgeted by the government.

To avoid a substantial fiscal slippage at the state government level, a sizeable expenditure reduction or deferral is likely to be required, given that the borrowing limit set by the central government acts as a soft constraint to the size of the states' fiscal deficits. Some states may resort to cutting productive and capital expenditure towards the end of this year which poses a key risk to the economic growth outlook, in our view. Moreover, such cutbacks or deferral in state government spending could have serious implications for liquidity levels of corporates that are engaged in projects at the state level.

Looking ahead, a key factor that will influence state tax revenues is the percentage of central taxes that the Fifteenth Finance Commission recommends as devolution to the states for the period FY21-25. Will this be the same as the 42 per cent recommended by the Fourteenth Finance Commission? Or will it be higher or lower? Some states seem apprehensive that the terms of reference of the Fifteenth Finance Commission signal that the percentage may be reduced from the prevailing 42 per cent which would constrain their fiscal space over the medium term. The answer will be known in a few months.

Roy is group head corporate sector rating, Nayar is principal economist, ICRA Limited

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### RAIN AND DROUGHT

THIS REFERS TO your editorial, "Writ in water" (IE, October 10). The monsoon is a regular feature of the country's climate. Several governments have come and gone since Independence but none of them has ever taken steps to control the monsoon's recurring fury. Its high time the government takes serious note on this issue and puts in place measures to control floods. Moreover, some areas in North remain dry in the monsoon season resulting in water shortage. The government's need to address this issue as well.

Sanjay Chawla, Amritsar

### FOR SALT WORKERS

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'A legacy, in a salt pan', (IE, October 3). The plight of salt pan workers of Kutch is an example of the poverty trap. The salt traders act as a cartel to trap the salt workers by dictating the terms of business. The merchant class in the salt supply chain make very limited value addition, but they corner sizeable share of the price paid by the consumers. The cooperative model for the salt workers has been a failure to ensure even the minimum wages to them. A different business model based on Gandhian philosophy of trusteeship where salt farmers can go beyond their subsistence level of engagement with the trade is the need of the hour.

Sudip Kumar Dey, Kolkata

### LETTER OF THE WEEK AWARD

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

THE WINNER RECEIVES SELECT EXPRESS PUBLICATIONS

### POLITICKING

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Bypassing Gandhi' (IE, October 2). It was surprising that while writing about the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi, the author could not resist airing his preconceived notions about Jawaharlal Nehru. He forgot that his party has a legislator at the Centre who had described Nathuram Godse as a patriot.

SZA Hussain, Delhi

Compiled by Seema Chishty

## THE Urdu PRESS

### HOUSTON CALLING

ON SEPTEMBER 24, *Siasat* carried an editorial which noted that the Houston event was "synonymous with the political friendship between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump. Trump has tried to secure votes of Indian immigrants for 2020 after attending Howdy Modi. The event was a product of mutual agreement, it was well planned and took months to organise people of Indian-origin people to display Modi's greatness".

The paper believes that this "secures both (Modi and Trump's) futures". It says "there are no two opinions that such grand jamborees are a part of political diplomacy, domestic politics and political recreation (*siyasi tafreeh*). Modi needed to distract people from the criticism he was facing on the economic slowdown within India and took advantage of being on the US's shores. Trump needed this to start his 2020 campaign". The paper believes this was done to demonstrate the "popularity of Trump amongst American-Indians and Modi wanted Trump to believe that they were with him and this support could be turned into reality in 2020".

The AIMIM daily, *Etemad*, on September 26 writes: "It should be a matter of great pride

for any people that their prime minister is being praised worldwide, and is winning awards and accolades. But if all this is like a 'film excerpt', pre-planned and it is being projected that no one else before this got this kind of support then it is wrong." It goes on to say: "There is no doubt that India is receiving praise internationally. But facts are also being suppressed about the downside of decisions like those on demonetisation, GST implementation and now Kashmir." The editorial questions "why did Modi, who had gone to attend the UN General Assembly, feel the need to participate in this event and why did he lower corporate taxes before leaving? Did these corporate houses help organise Howdy Modi?"

*Inquilab* on September 26 focuses on Democratic Congressman Stephen Hoyer's speech in Houston. It terms it as natural justice, the fact that Nehru and Gandhi were mentioned in the Modi-Trump show when they were least expected to be brought up. "In Modi's presence, the Democratic Congressman spoke and praised Gandhi and Nehru". The paper believes that Hoyer's championing of democratic norms and human rights was an act of great courage. "Hoyer went ahead to cite these leaders and pay his tributes to those who made India democratic, secular and guarded its plural fabric," the editorial adds.

### SYSTEM AND SOCIETY

MUNSIF ON SEPTEMBER 27 speaks of the "misuse" of power and investigative agencies. It does a systematic listing of what it sees as the main accused in after political opponents of the BJP. It speaks of the imprisonment of Karnataka Congress leader, DK Shiva Kumar and income tax notices to Election Commissioner Ashok Lavasa's wife, sister and son. On Lavasa, who was in favour of issuing notices to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah during the course of the 2019 general elections, the paper writes, "he will be targeted by Shah and Modi". In a similar vein, it talks of Justice Akil Kureshi's transfer. It says: "A worrisome phase is currently on in India".

*Inquilab's* editorial on September 27 is titled "Celebrations on the release of a murderer". The comments are in the context of the main accused in the murder of UP cop Subodh Singh being granted bail by the Allahabad High Court. It writes: "If murderers are feted then the society will crumble. In a country where innocents don't get justice, society is praising those who inflict pain and injustice. Those who are kind and humane are being looked at as suspects. If those speaking the truth are silenced and the media's voice is stifled, people will start hating

their rulers." The paper rues that the Allahabad High Court's decision to grant bail resulted in celebrations. It notes that "the main accused, Yogesh Raj, a Bajrang Dal leader was arrested with much difficulty. Police had hesitated to take action against him and acted only after being cornered by the media."

### KASHMIR OMISSIONS

ETEMAD ON SEPTEMBER 30 marks 59 days of the shutdown in Kashmir and asks "if Kashmir is being projected as an internal issue, why is the government not taking the state's people into confidence and restoring normal life there?" The editorial rues the lack of any credible proof about "normalcy", assertions about which have been made by the Centre. It asks: "What is being hidden?" All those asking questions are sought to be isolated under the garb of national security and termed pro-Pakistan, the editorial notes. This has been done to Opposition leaders. "The editorial ends by asking: 'The Home Minister is trying to convince people that a historical wrong committed by Nehru is being sought to be corrected. Is this the case or is the government making a historical error?'"





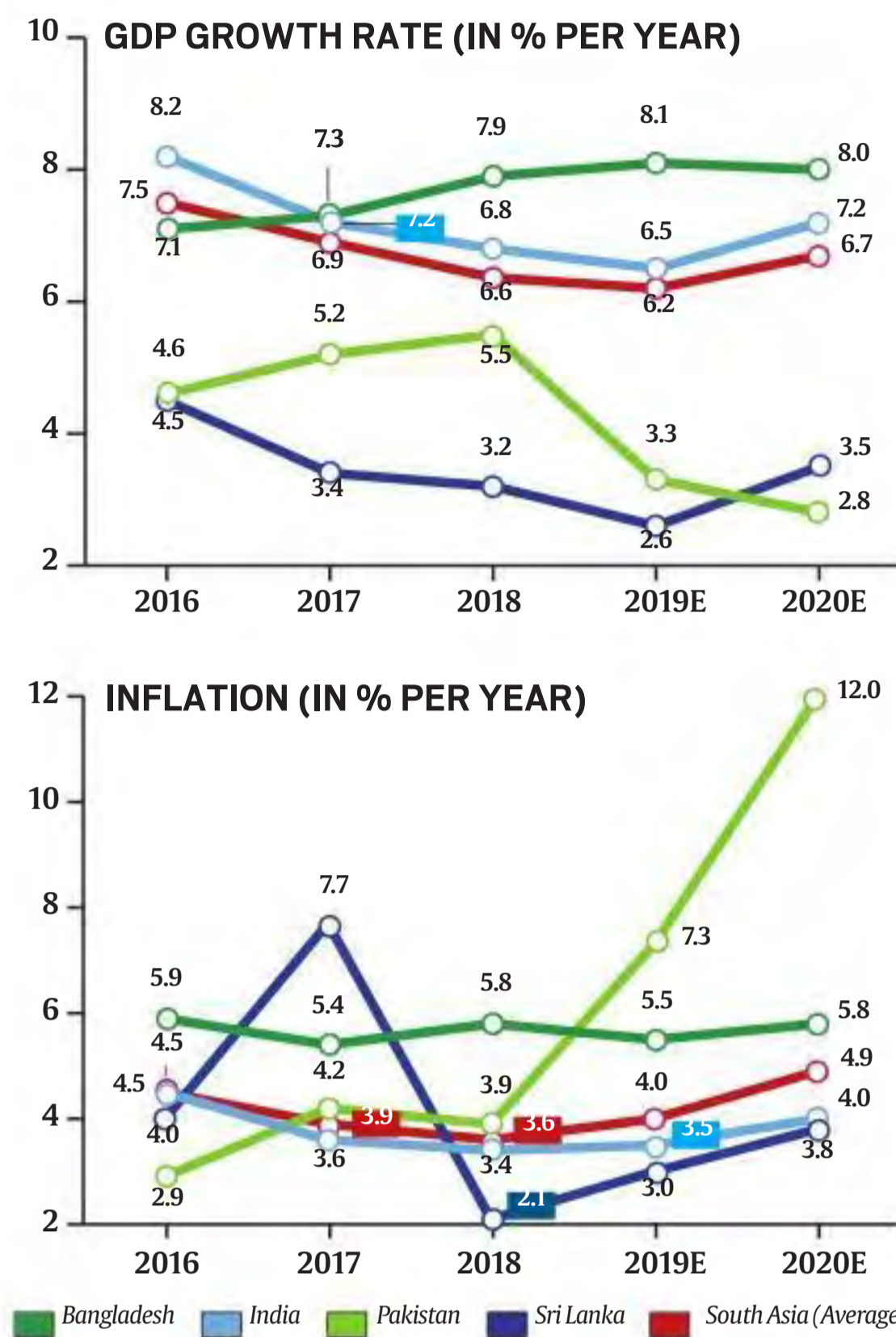
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If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to [explained@indianexpress.com](mailto:explained@indianexpress.com)

## TELLING NUMBERS

## In economic growth, Bangladesh leads S Asian pack, says ADB



BANGLADESH IS currently the stand-out South Asian economy in terms of growth, shows the Asian Development Bank's latest economic outlook update. As the charts show, Bangladesh has been seeing high and consistently rising growth rates, while its levels of inflation have remained stable.

Since 2016, Bangladesh has been growing at 7% plus every year, and its growth is likely to cross the 8% mark both in this and the coming year, according to the report. Over this same period, India has seen a secular decline in growth rates, even though an uptick is expected in the coming year.

Sri Lanka has been the worst performing South Asian economy in terms of growth, according to the report. The South Asia average has been falling since 2016, mainly on account of the poor performance of the Sri

Lankan and Pakistani economies.

The performance of the Bangladeshi economy has been boosted by a booming industrial sector, which leads to significant job creation. This is different from the situation in India, where the bulk of the population is stuck in the agriculture sector (which contributes the least to the GDP), and services is the major growth engine. Bangladesh's robust domestic industry has ensured that the country's exports have grown from 6.7% in 2018 to 10.1% in 2019.

"Growth in garment exports rose from 8.8% to 11.5%, reflecting strong demand from the US and newer markets... like Australia, Canada, India, Japan, the People's Republic of China, and the Republic of Korea," says the ADB report. Garments accounted for 84.2% of exports, the report says.

## ANNUAL GROWTH RATES OF DIFFERENT SECTORS IN BANGLADESH'S ECONOMY

Sector	2016	2017	2018	2019
Agriculture	2.79	2.97	4.19	3.51
Industry	11.09	10.22	12.06	13.02
Services	6.25	6.69	6.39	6.50

\* Provisional

Source: ADB, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics

## SIMPLY PUT

## India, Pakistan and £35 million

Hyderabad Funds Case, finally ruled on by UK court, was not as much about the money as it was about the state of the relationship between India and Pakistan over the 70 years that the case played out

NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN  
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 3

THE RULING on a dispute over a sum of £35 million in a NatWest Bank account in London, known as the Hyderabad Funds Case, removes one contentious issue from the long list of India-Pakistan problems, but one that was only a minor headache in a bilateral relationship with painful migraines.

On Wednesday, the British High Court ruled in favour of India and the heirs of the seventh Nizam of Hyderabad in the dispute over the sum, belonging to the Nizam at the time of Partition.

## How the funds reached bank

The story is well known: on the orders of the Finance Minister of Nizam Osman Ali Khan, a sum of £1,007,490 and nine shillings was transferred to the account of Pakistan's High Commissioner Habib Ibrahim Rahimtoola on September 20, 1948, a day after the Nizam's forces surrendered to Indian troops. The troops had been sent in to bring to an end the long standoff over the princely state's accession to India. In 1954, India sued for the return of the money (and the Nizam himself wanted the money back) but the case went up to the House of Lords, which stayed the case against the bank and granted Pakistan sovereign immunity, which meant that legal proceedings could not be brought against it. The bank said it would keep the funds until an agreement was reached among all three parties — the Nizam, the government of India and the government of Pakistan — on who the money belonged to.

There the matter lay for more than six decades. It was Pakistan that decided to go back to the court in 2013 leading to Wednesday's judgment, but it was really not about the money, which even after its 35-times increase due to accumulation of interest is not a meaningful amount for either country, as about the state of ties between them at the time.

## Attempts at settlement

In fact, through the years, there were several efforts to arrive at an out-of-court settlement, but "Pakistan always backed off



Osman Ali Khan, 7th Nizam of Hyderabad; court ruled in favour of his heirs. Wikipedia

when it came to biting the bullet", said a former Indian diplomat. Indeed, five years earlier, in April 2008, soon after the first democratically elected government took office after 10 years of military rule — it was a Pakistan People's Party-Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) coalition — the government of India announced that it would negotiate an out-of-court settlement with Pakistan on the matter.

An April 11, 2008 press release from the Press Information Bureau said the Union cabinet had given its approval for the government to pursue an out-of-court settlement with Pakistan and the heirs of the Nizam. "The Cabinet also gave its approval to the negotiating strategy. This would release funds lying locked up with a British Bank for the last 60 years and also resolution of one long standing item on the India-Pakistan agenda. The negotiations would be conducted over a period of 18 months," the release said. The negotiations were to decide a three-way division of the money.

But it never took off. Bilateral ties were in crisis management mode by July that year, when the Indian Embassy bombing in Kabul

took place. The plan sank along with the rest of the relationship after the 26/11 attacks in Mumbai that year. Since then India-Pakistan relations have gone from bad to worse.

## Revival and closure

It was against this bilateral background that, just before the elections of 2013, the then Pakistan High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Wajid Shamsul Hassan, a PPP loyalist and confidant of then President Asif Ali Zardari, revived the Hyderabad Funds Case, waiving Pakistan's sovereign immunity to sue for the ownership of the money.

"I as Pakistan High Commissioner filed a case in 2013 seeking English High Court ruling as to the rightful ownership of the money as it was lying in the account of Pakistan High Commissioner since 1948. Before filing the case much correspondence was exchanged between me as PHC and the MoFA. Red tape in the MoFA was responsible for delayed action," Hassan said in a *Twitter* post in June 2016.

Pakistan applied to withdraw the suit months later, but the court dismissed the plea. Hassan said the new Nawaz Sharif-led PML(N) government had "put pressure" on

him to withdraw the case.

"[S]oon after the transfer of power to the new government of Prime Minister Sharif, I was directed to withdraw the case as MoFA (Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs) at that time claimed that it was a 'bilateral issue' between India and Pakistan," said Hassan.

As the case continued, India tried to get Pakistan's "beneficial claim" dismissed as "hopeless". The court ruled against India in June 2016, raising hopes in Pakistan about a victory. After this, Pakistan argued in court that there were documents to prove that the Nizam had asked Pakistan's founder Muhammad Ali Jinnah to procure weapons from and send them to him for defending Hyderabad against India, and that a British pilot, Frederick Sidney Cotton, had made 35 trips from Karachi to Hyderabad to drop off the armaments. The money, Pakistan argued, was payment for these arms.

In 2018, the government of India and the Nizam's grandsons arrived at a settlement to fight the case jointly. Wednesday's ruling that pronounced that "the Nizam VII was beneficially entitled to the Fund and those claiming right of Nizam VII — the Princes and India — are entitled to have the sum paid out to their order" closed a 70-year-long chapter in the complex India-Pakistan saga.

## Why it took so long

Writing about the case in his 2017 book *The People Next Door*, TCA Raghavan, who was posted in the High Commission at Islamabad twice, first as Deputy High Commissioner and later as High Commissioner, noted that the reason the stalemate could not be broken over decades despite efforts "by prime ministers downward at different levels of government" was certainly not because of the money, but perhaps because both sides saw much more at stake.

"For Pakistan, the issue is of Hyderabad's forced accession following a military intervention when its ruling Muslim prince wanted independence and a closer relationship with Pakistan. The fund thus represents that symbolic relationship... For India, equally, the issue is of principle — what possible claim can Pakistan have to the funds of the erstwhile Hyderabad state?"

## THIS WORD MEANS: ELEPHANT ENDOTHELIOTROPIC HERPESVIRUS

## What is the disease that killed 5 elephants in Odisha?

SAMPAD PATNAIK  
BHUBANESWAR, OCTOBER 3

SINCE THE middle of August, a rare disease has killed five elephants in Odisha. Four calves between the ages of six and 10 have died in Nandan Kanan Zoo in Bhubaneswar, followed by the fifth elephant that died in Chandaka forest this week.

The disease is caused by a virus called EEHV, or elephant endotheliotropic herpesvirus. The four deaths in Nandan Kanan Zoo are the first reported cases of EEHV-related deaths in an Indian zoo, state government and Central Zoo Authority (CZA) officials said, while the death in the forest too is the first known such case in the wild in India.

## How the virus works

An EEHV information website, a resource conceived in 2011 at the 7th Annual International EEHV Workshop in Houston, describes EEHVs as a type of herpesvirus that can cause a highly fatal haemorrhagic disease in young Asian elephants.

"Most elephants carry just as most humans carry a cold virus. When EEHV is triggered, the elephant dies of massive internal bleeding and symptoms which are hardly visible," said Dr SP Yadav, CZA member-secretary. Some elephants show symptoms such as reduced appetite, nasal discharge and swollen glands, researchers say.

The disease is usually fatal, with a short course of 28-35 hours.

## No true cure yet

There is no true cure for herpesviruses in animals or in humans, the Washington-based Smithsonian's National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute says on its website. "Because herpes viruses go latent, we won't be able to find a 'cure' but we hope to collaborate in refining effective treatments and help in the development of a vaccine to prevent EEHV."

Because the disease has a short course, "this means we have to take a very quick call on a suspected EEHV case and kick off treatment protocols. This treatment is a combination of anti-viral therapy, aggressive fluid

therapy (to counter haemorrhaging), immuno-stimulant drugs (selenium and Vitamins C, E), anti-pyretics and analgesics (to bring down fever)," said senior veterinarian Alok Kumar Das, who treated the four sick elephants at Nandan Kanan.

The diagnostic detection of active EEHV infections in Nandan Kanan was carried out at the Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI) in Bareilly.

## Why it is a concern

The death of the Chandaka forest elephant has worried officials in Odisha. "If elephants in the wild start falling prey to the virus, then treatment will be very difficult," HS Upadhyay, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden, told *The Indian Express*. It will be extremely hard to track down every wild elephant in the state and test whether they are positive for EEHV, and the state government cannot afford the manpower, he said.

EEHV is lethal for young elephants between the ages of one and 12. If a young elephant dies before reproducing, it affects the

population of the species as a whole in the concerned geography.

## The way forward

An Asian elephant calf's recovery after falling ill due to EEHV in Chester Zoo, UK, has raised new hope. In June, the BBC reported that two-year-old Indali Hi Way's recovery has been hailed as a "momentous step". This was after a treatment regimen including nine anaesthetic procedures, blood plasma transfusions, interferon therapy, anti-viral medications and immune boosting treatments, as well as very large amounts of intravenous fluids. The BBC quoted researchers as saying that the case would help "find answers" to the virus.

In India, the CZA will set up a national committee of scientists from Guwahati, Kerala, IVRI and Nandan Kanan to develop protocols for the country lest an EEHV outbreak occurs elsewhere in the future. "The timeline may be around two months. One of the aims will be to develop a detection centre in Odisha. Currently it can only be done in Guwahati and IVRI," Yadav said.

## The Lord as a juristic person: What legal rights do deities enjoy?

YASHEE  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

AMONG THE parties in the Ayodhya title suit appeals now being heard by the Supreme Court is Lord Ram himself — Ramlalla Virajman — represented by His "next friend", the late Deoki Nandan Agrawal, a former judge of Allahabad High Court.

The other 'Hindu' party in the case is the Nimohi Akhara which, after initially arguing for the dismissal of the Lord's plea, told the court on August 27 that it would not "press the issue of maintainability of Suit Number 5 of 1989 (filed by the deity through Agarwal) provided they (lawyers for Ramlalla) do not dispute the *shebait*' right of the Akhara".

How is Lord Ram a litigant in court — that too against His devotees who are claiming the right to worship Him?

## God as a juristic person

A juristic person, as opposed to a "natural person" (that is, a human being), is an entity whom the law vests with a personality. In *Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee vs Som Nath Dass and Others* (2000), the Supreme Court said: "The very words juristic

Person connote recognition of an entity to be in law a person which otherwise it is not. In other words, it is not an individual natural person but an artificially created person which is to be recognised to be in law as such." Gods, corporations, rivers, and animals, have all been treated as juristic persons by courts.

The treatment of deities as juristic persons started under the British. Temples owned huge land and resources, and British administrators held that the legal owner of the wealth was the deity, with a *shebait* or manager acting as trustee.

In 1887, the Bombay High Court held in the Dakor Temple case: "Hindu idol is a juridical subject and the pious idea that it embodies is given the status of a legal person." This was reinforced in the 1921 order in *Vidya Varuthi Thirtha vs Balusami Ayyar*, where the court said, "under the Hindu law, the image of a deity... (is) a 'juristic entity', vested with the capacity of receiving gifts and holding property".

This idea is now established in Indian law. "A juristic entity or person is one in whom the law reposes rights or duties in its own name. A company is a juristic person, who can hold or deal with property in its own name." Senior Advocate Sanjay Hegde



Ramlalla Virajman, seen in the make-shift temple in Ayodhya on December 8, 1992, is a litigant in the title suit. Express Archive/RK Sharma

said. "While God as an abstract concept is not a juristic entity, deities in Hindu law have been conferred personhood, as capable of being bestowed with property, or leading it out or suing to take back possession."

"Thus, by a legal fiction", Hegde said, "installed deities at Hindu places of worship have been treated like other real persons for the purpose of law."

However, not every deity is a legal person. This status is given to an idol only after its public consecration, or *pran pratishtha*. In *Yogendra Nath Naskar vs Commissioner Of Income-*

*Tax* (1969), the Supreme Court ruled: "It is not all idols that will qualify for being 'juristic person' but only when it is consecrated and installed at a public place for the public at large."

## The rights deities have

Apart from owning property, paying taxes, suing, and being sued, what else do deities as 'legal persons' do?

In the Sabarimala case (*Indian Young Lawyers Association & Ors. vs The State of Kerala & Ors.*, 2018), one of the arguments presented against allowing women of menstruating age entry into the temple was that this would violate the right to privacy of Lord Ayyappa, who is eternally celibate.

Advocate Nehmat Kaur, who worked with Senior Advocate Indira Jaising in the case, said: "Deities have property rights, but not fundamental rights or other constitutional rights." This was upheld by Justice D Y Chandrachud in the *Sabarimala* judgment: "Merely because a deity has been granted limited rights as juristic persons under statutory law does not mean that the deity necessarily has constitutional rights."

## Representative of God

Generally, the *shebait* is the temple priest,

or the trust or individuals managing the temple. In the 2010 Allahabad HC judgment in the Ayodhya title suit, Justice DV Sharma had said: "As in the case of minor a guardian is appointed, so in the case of idol, a *shebait* or manager is appointed to act on its behalf."

What if some parties feel that the *shebait* is not acting in the interest of the deity? In *Bishwanath And Anr vs Shri Thakur Radhaballabhji & Ors* (1967), the Supreme Court allowed a "suit filed by the idol represented by a worshipper" in a case where the *shebait* was found "alienating the idol's property". The court held that if a *shebait* does not discharge their duties properly, a devotee can move court as "friend of the deity".

In the Ayodhya case, the Nimohi Akhara argued against the plea filed by Deoki Nandan Agrawal on the ground that "no one has ever accused them of not discharging their duties as *shebait* properly", advocate Fuzail Ayyubi, who is representing the Sunni Waqf Board, said.

## Other than Hinduism

A mosque has never been held as a juristic person, because it's a place where people gather to worship; it is not an object of worship itself. Neither has a church.

In *Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee vs Som Nath Dass and Others* (2000), the SC ruled that the "Guru Granth Sahib... cannot be equated with other sacred books... Guru Granth Sahib is revered like a Guru... (and) is the very heart and spirit of gurdwara. The reverence of Guru Granth on the one hand and other sacred books on the other hand is based on different conceptual faith, belief and application."

However, the court clarified that "every Guru Granth Sahib cannot be a juristic person unless it takes juristic role through its installation in a gurdwara or at such other recognised public place."

## Not just deities

In May, the Punjab and Haryana High Court held that the "entire animal kingdom" has a "distinct legal persona with corresponding rights, duties, and liabilities of a living person". On March 20, 2017, the Uttarakhand High Court declared that the Ganga and Yamuna would be legally treated as "living people," and enjoy "all corresponding rights, duties and liabilities of a living person". The order was stayed by the Supreme Court in July that year because it "raised several legal questions and administrative issues".



# 17 THE WORLD



MEANWHILE

## 1ST ARAB TO REACH ISS RETURNS TO EARTH

A three-man crew including an Emirati who became the first Arab to reach the International Space Station (ISS) returned to Earth Thursday and were in good shape, the Russian space agency Roscosmos said. Hazzaa al-Mansoori of the UAE touched down in the Kazakh steppes along with NASA astronaut Nick Hague and Roscosmos cosmonaut Alexey Ovchinnikov.

### TOP OF THE WORLD



Former Dallas police officer Amber Guyger is embraced by Bradnt Jean, the brother of Botham Jean, who she shot dead. Brandt said he forgives her. Reuters

### USA

## Ex-cop gets 10 yrs in prison for killing neighbour

Washington: A former Texas police officer was sentenced to 10 years in prison Wednesday for murdering her neighbour in 2018 when she shot him after entering the wrong apartment while off duty. The Dallas jury could have handed down a sentence between five and 99 years to Amber Guyger (31), for killing 26-year-old Botham Jean, who worked for an accounting firm. Guyger, who is white, had claimed she thought Jean, who was black, was an intruder in her own apartment. In fact, she had entered Jean's unlocked apartment, located in the same building but one floor above hers.

### ISRAEL

## New Parliament sworn in amid stalemate over PM

Jerusalem: Israel swore in its newly elected parliament on Thursday for what could be a very short term after the country's second inconclusive election of the year left it with no new government on the horizon. The typically festive event was marked mostly by uncertainty, as the two main candidates for prime minister sniped at each other over who should lead the country. It also came in parallel to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's high-profile pre-indictment hearing on corruption charges, which have threatened to end his political career and contributed to the current paralysis of the country's political system.

### USA

## World War II-era bomber crashes, at least 7 dead

Windsor Locks: A World War II-era plane with 13 people aboard crashed and burned at the Hartford airport in Connecticut after encountering mechanical trouble on takeoff Wednesday, killing seven of them. The four-engine, propeller-driven B-17 bomber struggled to get into the air and slammed into a maintenance building at Bradley International Airport as the pilots circled back for a landing, officials and witnesses said. It had 10 passengers and three crew members, authorities said.

### AFGHAN PEACE PROCESS

# Pak's Qureshi meets top Taliban leaders, urges renewed US talks

Taliban Political Commission leader Baradar among delegation that met Pakistan foreign minister

SAJJAD HUSSAIN  
ISLAMABAD, OCTOBER 3

PAKISTAN ON Thursday asked the Taliban to grasp the opportunity and resume talks with the US for an early and peaceful resolution of the conflict in Afghanistan, saying war is not a solution, as top leaders of the rebel group met Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi here. A high-level Taliban delegation met Qureshi as part of a push to revive the Afghan peace process stalled after US President Donald Trump abruptly declared the talks with the rebel group "dead".

Pakistan's Foreign Office said in a statement that a delegation of the Taliban Political Commission (TPC) called on Qureshi. The delegation was led by the head of TPC, Mulla Abdul Ghani Baradar, and included senior members of the commission. Welcoming the delegation, the foreign minister noted that while the people of both Afghanistan and Pakistan have a shared history, geography and culture, Islam remains the strongest bond between the two brotherly countries. While appreciating Taliban's serious engagement in the peace process, he underscored the need to take these efforts to their logical conclusion.



Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi welcomes Taliban's Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs office in Islamabad. Reuters

Qureshi noted that the existing, broad regional and international consensus for achieving peace in Afghanistan at the earliest provided an unprecedented opportunity that must not be lost. The US and the Taliban had agreed on a draft peace plan, but the process was suspended by Trump following the killing of an American soldier in Kabul last month in a suicide attack claimed by the Taliban.

Trump stunned the world when he suddenly declared that peace talks with the Taliban were "dead". He cancelled a secret meeting with the Taliban and Afghan President Ashraf Ghani at Camp David, near Washington, after the Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack in Kabul.

Qureshi said it was up to the parties to the conflict in Afghanistan to grasp this opportunity. Qureshi also expressed the hope that the currently paused peace process would be restarted at an early date. "Pakistan has maintained for several years that there is no military solution to the complex situation in Afghanistan," Qureshi said. An inclusive peace and reconciliation process, involving all sections of the Afghan society, was the only, practical way forward. "It was time to make all possible efforts for an early and peaceful resolution of the conflict in Afghanistan," he said. Qureshi added that Pakistan would continue to support all efforts to achieve permanent peace in Afghanistan, which was essential for Pakistan's own socio-economic development and progress. PTI

## Indian-origin tech millionaire found dead after being kidnapped from home in US

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 3

TUSHAR ATRE, an Indian-origin tech millionaire, was found dead in his girlfriend's car hours after the owner of a digital marketing company in the US was allegedly kidnapped from his California home, according to media reports. Atre, 50, owner of AtreNet Inc, a web design company that caters to Silicon Valley corporate businesses, was inside his home Tuesday morning with several other people when multiple suspects broke into his house and abducted him in his girlfriend's white BMW, the Los Angeles Times reported.

Hours after authorities began searching for Atre, police reported finding a BMW stolen from his house and a body near the vehicle. The investigation took officials to a property in a mountainous, heavily wooded area where they found the white BMW and Atre's body. Investigators are tracking multiple suspects in connection with the kidnapping of Atre. "We are looking into all aspects of his life," said Sgt Brian Cleveland, a spokesman for the Sheriff's Office. "All doors are open."

Investigators don't know the suspects' relationship with Atre. But authorities "have reason to believe the motive was robbery," according to the Sheriff's Office's Facebook post. According to his social media profiles, Atre was an avid surfer. His Instagram profile depicts an adventurous life. His Twitter profile reads: "Surfer. Mushroom forager. Always on the go."

On Wednesday afternoon, the office confirmed the body found was identified as Atre. "We have reason to believe the motive was robbery," a sheriff's office statement on Facebook said.

Qureshi said it was up to the parties to the conflict in Afghanistan to grasp this opportunity. Qureshi also expressed the hope that the currently paused peace process would be restarted at an early date. "Pakistan has maintained for several years that there is no military solution to the complex situation in Afghanistan," Qureshi said. An inclusive peace and reconciliation process, involving all sections of the Afghan society, was the only, practical way forward. "It was time to make all possible efforts for an early and peaceful resolution of the conflict in Afghanistan," he said. Qureshi added that Pakistan would continue to support all efforts to achieve permanent peace in Afghanistan, which was essential for Pakistan's own socio-economic development and progress. PTI



A demonstrator runs between burning tires during a curfew, two days after the nationwide anti-government protests turned violent, in Baghdad on Thursday. Reuters

## Mass protests for 3rd day in Iraq, 28 dead

Police fire live rounds; curfew imposed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
BAGHDAD, OCTOBER 3

THOUSANDS of protesters clashed with riot police in Iraq's capital and across the south on Thursday, the third day of mass rallies that have left 28 dead. Defying curfews, tear gas and live rounds, they gathered by truckfuls to vent their anger against corruption, unemployment and poor services in the biggest challenge yet to Prime Minister Adel Abdel Mahdi.

As dusk fell in Baghdad, crowds assembled to march to the emblematic Tahrir Square. "We'll keep going until the government falls," pledged 22-year-old Ali, a protester. Riot police fired at the ground with automatic weapons mounted on vehicles, the bullets ricocheting into the crowd. More than half of those killed in the last three days have been in the southern city of Nasiriyah, where six protesters were shot dead and dozens wounded on Thursday alone.

## Teen shot in Hong Kong charged with rioting

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
HONG KONG, OCTOBER 3

THE TEENAGER who was the first victim of police gunfire in Hong Kong's monthslong pro-democracy protests was charged Thursday with rioting and attacking police, as calls grew for the government to ban the wearing of masks to subdue rising violence in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory. The shooting of the 18-year-old Tuesday during widespread clashes marred China's National Day celebration and marked an alarming escalation in violence in the unrest that has rocked one of the world's top financial hubs since June.

Local media reported that Chief Executive Carrie Lam will hold a special Executive Council meeting on Friday to discuss a ban on masks, which have helped protesters conceal their identities, and other tough measures under a colonial-era emergency law. Lam's office said it had no comment. Pro-Beijing legislator Michael Tien confirmed the meeting. Activists and some lawmakers warned that such harsh measures would only further alienate the people and could prompt a more ferocious backlash.

Anger against the government has built up since Tsang Chi-kin was shot at close range after he struck a police officer with a rod.

Facebook sharply criticised the ruling. "This judgment raises critical questions around freedom of expression and the role that internet companies should play in monitoring, interpreting and removing speech that might be illegal in any particular country," the company said in a statement. "It undermines the longstanding principle that one country does not have the right to impose its laws on speech on another country. It also opens the door to obligations being imposed on internet companies to proactively monitor content and then interpret if it is 'equivalent' to content that has been found to be illegal." Glawischnig-Piesczek did not respond to requests for comment. The decision highlights a widening gap between the United States and Europe on regulating the technology industry. Europe has imposed tougher policies on privacy, antitrust, copyright and content moderation, while the United States has traditionally had a more hands-off approach. Yet as Europe has enacted tougher policies, courts are being asked to clarify their reach, including by Facebook, Google and other platforms must apply the rules beyond the borders of the 28-nation European Union. NYT

**EXPLAINED**

## Unemployment, graft anger Iraqis

IRAQ HAS for long suffered under dictatorships, wars and insurgency. However, two years after ISIS was defeated, Iraqis feel that corruption among the political class has led to rising unemployment and lack of infrastructure. Over 15% of Iraqi youth are thought to be unemployed, and this is what has triggered the decentralised, social media-driven protests. Iraqis blame the government for not rebuilding its wrecked infrastructure and for providing abysmal public services despite the country having the fourth-largest oil reserves in the world.



The US President is facing an impeachment probe for asking the Ukrainian President to investigate the Bidens. AP

## Trump publicly urges China to investigate Bidens

JILL COLVIN & ZEKE MILLER  
WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 3

ENSNAILED IN an impeachment investigation over his request for Ukraine to investigate a chief political rival, US President Donald Trump on Thursday called on another nation to probe former vice president Joe Biden: China. "China should start an investigation into the Bidens. Because what happened in China is just about as bad as what happened with Ukraine."

— DONALD TRUMP  
US PRESIDENT

unrelated question about the July 25 Ukraine call and moments after he was asked about trade negotiations with China to end a yearlong trade war that has been a drag on both nation's economies. "I have a lot of options on China, but if they don't do what we want, we have tremendous, tremendous power," Trump said. He later alleged without evidence that China had a "sweetheart deal" on trade with the US because of the Bidens. "You know what they call that," Trump said. "They call that a payoff."

Biden campaign Chairman Cedric Richmond dismissed Trump's lurch into China, saying it is a reprisal of his Ukrainian efforts to taint Biden and a reflection of polling showing Biden leading Trump in a hypothetical head-to-head matchup. "This President is scared, and he's acting out," the Louisiana congressman said. AP

Trump and personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani have also tried to raise suspicions about Hunter Biden's business dealings in China, leaning on the writings of conservative author Peter Schweizer. But there is no evidence that the former vice president benefited financially from his son's business relationships. Trump's requests for Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to dig up dirt on Biden, as well as Giuliani's conduct, are at the center of an intelligence community whistleblower complaint that sparked the House Democratic impeachment probe last week. The President's reference to China came unprompted in an

## 4 police officers killed in Paris knife attack

Assailant, who was an employee of the police headquarters, shot dead

SYLVIE CORBET & LORI HINNANT  
PARIS, OCTOBER 3

AN EMPLOYEE, armed with a knife, attacked officers inside Paris police headquarters Thursday, killing at least four before he was fatally shot, a French police union official said. Police union official Loic Travers told reporters the attack appears to have begun in an office and continued elsewhere in the large police compound across the street from Notre Dame Cathedral. The number of people injured was not immediately known. Travers said the motive is unknown, but that the 20-year-old police employee allegedly responsible for the attack worked as an administrator in the intelligence unit and had not posed known problems until Thursday. He said he could not remember an attack of this magnitude against officers. Emery Siamandi, an employee at police headquarters, said he heard gunshots and immediately saw two officers come outside an office weeping. A third officer, who Siamandi described as the person who shot and killed the assailant, came out on his knees, also in tears. The attack came a day after thousands of officers marched in Paris to protest low wages, long hours and increasing suicides in their ranks. France's Prime Minister, interior minister and the Paris prosecutor were on their way to the scene. The Paris prosecutor's office said no information could be provided at this stage. AP



Armed police gather outside the site of the knife attack in Paris on Thursday. AP

### DECISION LIKELY TO HAVE RIPPLE EFFECTS FOR REGULATING INTERNET CONTENT

# EU court: Individual countries can order FB to globally restrict access to posts

ADAM SATARIANO  
LONDON, OCTOBER 3

EUROPE'S TOP court said Thursday that an individual country can order Facebook to take down posts, photographs and videos and restrict global access to that material, in a ruling that has implications for how countries can expand content bans beyond their borders. The European Court of Justice's decision came after a former Austrian politician sought to have Facebook remove disparaging comments about her that had been posted on an individual's personal page, as well as "equivalent" messages posted by others. The politician, Eva Glawischnig-Piesczek, a former leader of Austria's Green Party, argued that Facebook needed to delete the material in the country and limit worldwide access. The decision is a blow to big internet platforms like Facebook, placing more responsibility on them to patrol their sites for content ruled illegal. The case has been closely watched because of its potential ripple effects for regulating internet content. The enforcement of defamation, libel and privacy laws varies from country to country, with language and behaviour that is allowed in one nation prohibited in another. The court's decision highlights the difficulty of creating uniform standards to govern an inherently borderless web and then enforcing them. Facebook and other critics had warned, before the decision, that letting a single nation force an internet platform to delete material elsewhere would limit free speech. Implementing such a global ban would likely require the use of automated content filters, which civil society groups and others have cautioned could lead to the takedown of legitimate material because filters cannot detect nuances used in satire and some political commentary. Opponents had also argued that allowing the removal of an original post and then expanding that ban to posts considered "equivalent" added some potential for unintended consequences. Supporters counter that defamation laws have not been enforced appropriately in the internet age and are needed to force platforms like Facebook to do more to combat internet trolls, hate speech and other personal attacks that spread on the web. Facebook sharply criticised the ruling. "This judgment raises critical questions around freedom of expression and the role that internet companies should play in monitoring, interpreting and removing speech that might be illegal in any particular country," the company said in a statement. "It undermines the longstanding principle that one country does not have the right to impose its laws on speech on another country. It also opens the door to obligations being imposed on internet companies to proactively monitor content and then interpret if it is 'equivalent' to content that has been found to be illegal." Glawischnig-Piesczek did not respond to requests for comment. The decision highlights a widening gap between the United States and Europe on regulating the technology industry. Europe has imposed tougher policies on privacy, antitrust, copyright and content moderation, while the United States has traditionally had a more hands-off approach. Yet as Europe has enacted tougher policies, courts are being asked to clarify their reach, including by Facebook, Google and other platforms must apply the rules beyond the borders of the 28-nation European Union. NYT

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Facebook had warned, before the decision, that letting a single nation force an internet platform to delete material elsewhere would limit free speech. Reuters



**New Okhla Industrial Development Authority**  
 Main Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida, G.B. Nagar, (U.P.)  
 Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.com

**सार्वजनिक सूचना**  
 सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि निम्नलिखित भूमि नीएषा प्राधिकरण द्वारा संप्रभुता के आधार पर क्रेय किया जाना प्रस्तावित है-

क्रमांक	खसरा संख्या	खसरा (हे. मी.)	नाम कायदाकार	क्रेय करने का उद्देश्य
सौहार्दा जाहदियाद	02 931	3.8700	श्रीमती कालेश्वरी देवी स्व. वेट्याण निवासी ग्राम सौहार्दा जाहदियाद।	डिप्लम पुस्त से नीएषा की तरफ को भूमि एच. एच. जी. के निर्माण हेतु

उपरोक्त भूमि क्रेय किये जाने में यदि किसी जन साधारण को सम्बन्धित भूमि के सक्क में कोई दावा/आपत्ति देनी हो तो सार्वजनिक प्रकाशन के 15 दिन के अन्दर वहासीलदार नीएषा के कार्यालय में प्रस्तुत कर सकता है।  
**तहसीलदार नीएषा।**

**CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA**

**HIMACHAL PRADESH IRRIGATION CUM PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT e-Procurement Notice**

The Executive Engineer IPH Division Sundernagar HP on behalf of Governor or HP invites the item rate/lump sum contract bids from the eligible Contractors/Firms. Bidders should be registered with Central Govt. or State Govt. Departments/ Undertakings. Name of Work: Rejuvenation of LWSS Sundernagar Town, Distt Mandi (H.P.) SH: C/O Civil Works, P/L Rising main and Pumping Machinery, Gravity mains including Operation & maintenance of the Scheme for 5 years.

Estimated Cost : Rs. 15,46,47,094/- only  
 Earnest Money : Rs. 15,78,970/- only  
 Time limit : 24 Months  
 Cost of tender Document : Rs. 2,500/- only

The bids are to be submitted online which are to be encrypted and digitally signed by the Contractor/Firms. The bidders are advised to obtain Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from suitable vendors or any other authorized agency at the earliest. The bidders should register themselves on website: https://hntenders.gov.in and obtain user ID, password before bidding.

**Key Dates:-**

1. Date of online publication.	02.10.2019
2. Documents Download start and End Date.	02.10.2019 10:00 A.M. to 24.10.2019 5:00 P.M.
3. Bid submission Start and End Date.	02.10.2019 10:00 A.M. to 24.10.2019 5:00 P.M.
4. Physical submission of EMD and cost of Tender Document.	upto 25.10.2019 11:30 A.M.
5. Date of pre bid meeting	15.10.2019 11:00 A.M. at O/o Chief Engineer (MZ) Mandi.
6. Opening of Eligibility Information & Technical Bid.	25.10.2019 at 11:30 A.M.

**CONDITIONS:-**

- The Tender Documents shall be upload online in 2 covers.
  - Cover 1:** Cover-1 shall contain scanned copies of all "Technical Documents & Eligibility information".
  - Cover 2:** Financial bid which shall contain "BOQ/ Financial Bids" where contractor will quote his offer for each item.
- Cover-1** shall contain scanned legible copies of following "Eligibility Information & Technical Bid" (Scanned legible copies to be uploaded in pdf file).
  - The Bid security in favor of Executive Engineer, I&PH Division Sundernagar, shall be submitted either through online mode (e-payment) or offline mode in the form of NSC/Time Deposit receipt/ Demand Draft of any Nationalized Bank duly pledged in favor of "Executive Engineer" I&PH Division, Sundernagar. Exemption of Bid security shall not be allowed.
  - The cost of bid form as shown above shall be submitted online in favor of "Executive Engineer" I&PH Division, Sundernagar. Exemption of cost of bid form shall not be allowed.
  - Copy of Certificate of registration with I&PH Department or any other state/central Govt. department or Govt. Undertakings in appropriate class. The successful bidder should get himself registered in appropriate class with HP I&PH Department before award of work.
  - Copy of PAN, Latest Income tax return, GST registration and Certificate of EPF registration.
  - Scanned copy of an affidavit that the information furnished with the bid document is correct in all respects and that I have carefully studied all terms and conditions stipulated in the contract document before quoting the rates.
  - The authorization letter regarding digital signature certificate (DSC) of the person authorized by the registered bidder to upload the bid, be uploaded along with the other documents online.
  - Average Annual financial turn over during the last 3 years ending 31st March of the previous financial year should be at least 30% of the estimated cost.
  - Experience of having successfully completed similar works during last 7 years ending last day of month previous to one in which application are invited should be either of the following;
    - Three completed works of similar nature i.e. costing each not less than 40 % in value each of the estimated cost of work for which the bid is invited.
    - Two completed works of similar nature costing each not less than 50 % in value each of the estimated cost of work for which the bid is invited.
    - One completed work of similar nature costing each not less than 80 % in value of the estimated cost of work for which the bid is invited.

**Note: Similar nature works means Construction of Piped Water Supply scheme involving Providing, Laying and Jointing of Piping Network, C/o WTP/STP and providing and Installation of Pumping Machinery etc.**

(viii) Joint Venture is not allowed.

- Cover-1 shall also contain "Technical bid" as under:**
  - Detailed proposal along with proposed construction programme.
  - Make/ Model of the proposed pumping machinery along with the characteristic curves clearly depicting Pump efficiency, power consumed at duty point and also at +10% and -15% of total head duly signed by authorized person.
- Cover-2 shall contain "Financial Bid" which shall be opened at a later date to be notified separately & shall be opened only of those bidders /Firms whose documents as per "Cover-2" will be found in order. The Financial Bids shall contain only Financial Bid/Offer on departmental Schedule of quantity/BOQ where bidder /firms shall quote his /their offer for each item.
- Rates quoted must be in INR (Indian Rupee) and shall be inclusive of all taxes applicable at the time of opening of bids.
- The bidder shall not be permitted to bid for the work in the HPIPH Circle (responsible for award and execution of the contract) in which his near relative is posted as Divisional Accountant or as an officer in any capacity between the grades of Superintending Engineer & Junior Engineer (both inclusive). He shall also intimate the name of the persons who are working with him in any capacity or are subsequently employed by him who are near relative to any gazetted officer in the I&PH department. Any breach of this condition by the bidder would render him liable to be removed from the approved list of bidders in this department.
- Bid security of L1, L2 and L3 shall be retained till the finalization of the offer of the lowest bidder or 120 days whichever is earlier.
- In case, opening day is a holiday, the bids shall be opened on next working day at the same time.
- The validity of the bid shall be kept open for 120 days or till the finalization of the offer of the lowest bidder.
- Ambiguous/Telegraphic/ Conditional bids or bids by Fax/E-mail shall not be entertained/ considered in any case.
- Conditional bids are liable to be rejected without assigning any reasons.
- The Executive Engineer, reserves the right to reject/cancel any or all the /bids without assigning any reason(s).
- Any enquiry regarding bids can be obtained on e-mail of the divisional officer under e-mail address i.e. eiphnsnr@yahoo.in
- Rates should be quoted both in figure as well as in words in Indian Rupee (INR).

**HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPARK-22323/H.P.**

**STATE BANK OF INDIA**  
 STRESSED ASSETS RECOVERY BRANCH,  
 SCO No. 70, Sector 5, Panchkula-134109,  
 Tel. No. 0172-2573570, Fax No. 0172-2585707,  
 Email : sbi.51519@sbi.co.in

**E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE**

**PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF MOVABLE & IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES**  
 LAST DATE & TIME OF SUBMISSION OF EMD & DOCUMENTS ALONGWITH DEMAND DRAFT (HARD COPY) ON/BEFORE 02.11.2019 UPTO 04:00 PM  
 LAST DATE & TIME OF SUBMISSION OF EMD AND DOCUMENTS (ONLINE) ON/BEFORE 04.11.2019 UPTO 04:00 PM.  
 DATE & TIME OF INSPECTION OF PROPERTY/IES 31.10.2019 FROM 11:00 AM TO 01:00 PM

Sale of immovable property /ies mortgaged to Bank under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002(No.54 of 2002) Whereas, the Authorized Officer of State Bank of India has taken possession of the following property/ies pursuant to the notice issued under Section 13(2) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 in the following loan account with right to sell the same on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS AND AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" for realization of Bank's dues plus interest as detailed hereunder and whereas consequent upon failure to repay the dues, the undersigned in exercise of power conferred under Section 13(4) of the said Act proposes to realize the Bank's dues by sale of the said property/ies. The sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Web Portal <https://www.bankbids.com>

Sr. No.	Name of the Branch	Name of the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)	Details of Property/ies	Amount of demand notice		Reserve Price	EMD	Bid Increase Amount	Date/Time of E-auction
				Date of Demand Notice					
1.	CDC -UKLANA MANDI	Borrower : Mange Ran Rajesh Kumar New Anaj Mandi Uklaana Mandi (Hisar)	One double story house constructed on 0K-02 M being 162/3240 share out of land measuring 02 K -0M comprise in Khasra No. 215 (2-0) situated in Budha Khara, Sub Tehsil Uklaana Mandi, Distt. Hisar in the name of Smt. Bhagwani Devi w/o Sh. Mange Ram Gift Deed No. 1004 dated 01.07.2010	Rs. 15,52,065.00	09.01.2017	Rs. 9.08 Lacs	Rs. 0.91 Lacs	Rs. 10,000/-	05.11.2019 11:00am to 1:00pm
Guarantor : Smt Bhagwani Devi W/o Sh. Mange Ram VPO Budha Khara Near Panchayat Ghar Tehsil Uklaana Mandi.									
2.	Mandi Adampur	Borrower : M/s Neeraj Textiles Pvt. Ltd. Mandi Adampur, Director(s) 1. Sh. Prahlad Rai. 2. Sh. Neeraj Goel S/o Sh. Prahlad Rai.	Lot : 1. Factory land measuring 15 Kanal 06 Marlas comprising in Khasra No. 1647 min. Khatauni No. 2270 min. Khasra No. 447/4/1/2(2-06), 4/4(5-07), 5/2(7-13) vide sale deed no. 58 dated 06.04.2012 at Khairampur Road, Mandi Adampur in the name of M/s Neeraj Textiles Pvt. Limited.	Rs. 4,25,76,273.00	10.11.2017	Rs. 175.00 Lacs	Rs. 17.50 Lacs	Rs. 1,00,000	05.11.2019 11:00am to 1:00pm
Lot : 2. House No. 164 situated in situated in Neeraj Complex, Near Reliance Petrol Pump, Bye Pass, Mandi adampur, in plot no. in Khasra no. 44/19/2 vide sale deed no. 4166 dated 08.11.2011									
Lot : 3. Shops No. 153-154 situated in Neeraj Complex, Near Reliance Petrol Pump, Bye Pass Mandi Adampur, in plot no. Khasra No. 44/12, vide sale deed no. 4167 dand 4169 dated 08.11.2011.									
3.	Auto Market Hissar	Borrower : M/S JB Cotton & Oil Mills Prop.- Rajesh Kumar Aggarwal	Factory Land area measuring 1K-13.75 M, comprised in kawat No. 759, khatauni No. 953, khasra No. 90/2/2/1 (1-13.3/4) situated at VPO Talwandi Rana, Central Sheep Breeding Farm Road, Hisar as per fard Jamabandi sale deed No. 1126 dated 03.05.2006, standing in the name of Sh. Rajesh Kumar s/o Sh. Jai Bhagwan. Factory Land area measuring 1K-13.3/4 M, comprised in kawat No. 831, khatauni No. 1037, khasra No. 90/2/2/1/2 (1-13.3/4) situated at VPO Talwandi Rana, Central Sheep Breeding Farm Road, Hisar as per fard Jamabandi sale deed No. 1129 dated 03.05.2006, standing in the name of Sh. Sajjan Kumar s/o Sh. Prushotam Chand.	Rs. 93,80,905.00	18.07.2017	Rs. 81.27 Lacs	Rs. 08.13 Lacs	Rs. 25,000/-	05.11.2019 11:00am to 1:00pm
Village Talwandi Rana, Tehsil & District Hissar. Guarantor : Sajjan Kumar S/o Prushotam Chand- Village Mandi Adampur District Hissar.									
4.	Gulha Cheeka	Borrower : 1. Rahul Mittal S/o Sh. Nand Lal Mittal. 2. Ankit Mittal S/o Sh. Khazanchi Lal # 14, ward No 7, Khati Shyam Park, Cheeka, Gulha, kaithal. 3. Anu Mittal W/o Sh. Nand Lal Mittal #14, ward-7 Khati Shyam Park, Cheeka, Gulha, kaithal.	Lot : 1. commercial land and building measuring 12K 11M at Sadaheri Road, Khushal Majra, Tehsil Gulha Distt. Kaithal in the name of M/s N.R Rice Mills, Vide Sale Deed No. 611 Dated 23.05.2016. Lot : 2. Plant & Machinery of Rice Mill Plant including elevators, Rice Cleaners, Paddy Separator, panels and allied parts.	Rs. 52,09,697.00	07.05.2017	Rs. 91.57 Lacs	Rs. 09.16 Lacs	Rs. 25,000/-	05.11.2019 11:00am to 1:00pm
5.	Juliana	Borrower : Fateh Chand Anil Kumar Prop. Anil Kumar S/o Prem Chand, Anaj mandi, Juliana, Jind. Guarantor : Vinod Kumar S/o Sh. Prem Chand, Anaj Mandi, Juliana, Jind.	Commercial Godown measuring 480.33 Sq. Yards vide Regd Sale Deed No. 541 dated 23.01.1992 situated near telephone exchange & Chakkar Road, Juliana in the name of Vinod Kumar s/o Sh. Prem Chand.	Rs. 28,06,331.69	05.06.2016	Rs. 26.00 Lacs	Rs. 02.60 Lacs	Rs. 10,000/-	05.11.2019 11:00am to 1:00pm
6.	Juliana	Borrower : Jain Traders Prop. Vinay Jain S/o Prem Chand, Anaj Mandi, Juliana, Jind. Guarantor : Sh. Anil Kumar S/o Prem Chand Anaj Mandi, Juliana, Jind.	Residential plot measuring about 152 Sq. Yards vide sale deed No. 3067 dt. 26.03.1980 situated at Near Chakkar Road, Juliana in the name of Sh. Anil Kumar s/o Sh. Prem Chand.	Rs. 17,97,499.66	05.06.2016	Rs. 08.66 Lacs	Rs. 0.87 Lacs	Rs. 10,000/-	05.11.2019 11:00am to 1:00pm
7.	ADB Safidon	M/s Goel Trading Co. Partners: 1. Sh. Sanjeev S/o Sh. Bhagwat Saroop. 2. Sh. Amit Kumar S/o Sh. Sh. Suresh Kumar. 3. Sh. Subhash Chand S/o Om Prakash. 4. Sh. Suresh Kumar S/o Om Prakash. 5. Sh. Bhagwat Saroop S/o Sh. Om Prakash (Deceased). 6. Sh. Satish Kumar S/o Sh. OM Prakash	Lot : 1. Eq. Mortgage of Residential Plot situated at Safidon, measuring 216.00 Sq. Yards Sale Deed No. 1143 dt. 13.01.1994 in the Name Sanjiv Kumar (Guarantor) s/o sh. Bhagwat Saroop Lot : 2. Eq. Mortgage Of Residential plot situated at Safidon, measuring of 200 Sq. Yards Regd. Vide sale Deed No. 1143 dated 22.08.2000 in the name of Sh. Amit Kumar s/o Sh. Bhagwat Saroop (Guarantor).	Rs. 11,53,147.00	23.09.2004	Rs. 11.79 Lacs	Rs. 01.17 Lacs	Rs. 10,000/-	05.11.2019 11:00 am to 1:00 pm
8.	ADB Sirsa	Borrower : M/s Raj Seeds Prop. Sh. Rajan Kumar, Village Kusumbi, Distt. Sirsa. Guarantor : 1. Sajjan Kumar S/o Amar Singh, Vill Kusumbi, Sirsa. 2. Raj Bala W/o Sajjan Kumar, Vill Kusumbi, Sirsa. 3. Bhanwar Lal S/o Durga Parkash, 19 FF, Nai Anaj Mandi, Sirsa. 4. Sarjeet S/o Raj Kishan, VPO Kachwana, Tehsil Bhadra, Distt Hanumangarh, Rajasthan.	Lot : 1. A plot measuring 10 marlas 05 sarsai or say 316.66 sq yds out of which one is area of plot no. 11 and 12 situated in the area mea ground sirsa village khaja khera within municipal limits of sirsa vide sale deed no. 20236 dt 13.01.2012 registered in the office of sub registrar sirsa standing in the name of Sh. Bhanwar Lal s/o Sh. Durga Parkash and Sh. Sarjeet S/o Sh. Raj Kishan Lot : 2. A building bearing property tax No. 12/ DEF-1 duly constructed on Gair Mumkin area msg 02 marlas or say 62 sq yds (18 x 31) situated Near Truck Union, Auto Market, Khairpur Sirsa & Distt Sirsa within MC limit of Sirsa as per sale deed no. 3546 dt 06/08/2013 registered in the office of sub registrar sirsa and jamabandi 2007-08 standing in the name of Smt. Raj Bala W/o Sh. Sajjan Kumar	Rs. 62,43,648.00	06.06.2017	Rs. 42.74 Lacs	Rs. 04.27 Lacs	Rs. 10,000/-	05.11.2019 11:00am to 1:00pm
9.	Fatehabad Main	Borrower : M/s Kanan Traders, Prop. Smt Renu Juneja W/o Tarun Juneja, Shop No 21, Anaj Mandi, Fatehabad. Guarantor : 1. Smt. Kusum Lata W/o Sh. Ram Chand, Gali No. 2, Aggarwal colony, Fatehabad (Haryana). 2. Sh. Tarun Juneja S/o Sh. Ghanshyam Dass Juneja R/o Th. 158-A, Model Town, Fatehabad (Haryana).	Commercial Plot measuring 04 M (121 Sq.Yds) situated at Bhathu Road, Fatehabad vide sale deed No. 546 dated 30.04.2012.	Rs. 50,92,068.00	23.12.2015	Rs. 23.19 Lacs	Rs. 02.31 Lacs	Rs. 10,000/-	05.11.2019 11:00am to 1:00pm
10.	NAM, Sirsa	Borrower : M/s Shankar Cotgin Industries, Shamsabad Patti, Ahmedpur Road, Sirsa (Haryana). 1. Sh. Robin Gandhi (Partner). 2. Sh. Ashish Gandhi (Partner). 3. Smt. Neelam Gandhi (Partner). 4. Sh. Ramesh Kumar (Partner). 5. Sh. Rakesh Kumar (Partner). 6. Smt. Ritika (Partner). 7. Smt. Kanta Rani (Partner). Guarantor : 1. Sh. Lalit Kumar S/o Sh. Kashmir Lal, H.No. 155, C-Block, Sirsa. 2. Smt. Dropadi W/o Sh. Shankar Lal, H.No. 24, B-Block, Sirsa.	Lot : 1. A factory constructed on area 20 k 9 m, detailed as 19 k 11 m comprised in sq. No.43, killa no.10/2(4-13) 11 (8-0) 20(6-18); 0 k.18 m being 18/67th share of area measuring 3 x 7 m comprised in sq.no.43 killa no.10/1 (3-7) situated in the revenue estate of vill-shamsabad, tehsil & distt-sirsa, vide sale deed No.2823 dated 17/06/2005 registered in the office of sub registrar, sirsa and mutation no.3714 in the name of M/s Shanker Cotgin Industries Lot : 2. A residential house bearing house tax unit no. 21/24 b-block (constructed on plot no. 24-1-b), Sirsa (situated at b-block, Sirsa) measuring 587.5 sq. yards in the name of Sh. Lalit Kumar S/o Sh. Kashmir Lal, Sh. Ashish Kumar S/o Sh. Kashmir Lal, Sh. Robin Gandhi S/o Sh. Chiranjai Lal and Smt. Neelam W/o Sh. Ved Prakash R/o Village Khuain Nepalpur, Tehsil & Distt. Sirsa vide family settlement deed no. 15466 dated 27/09/2011 registered in the office of sub registrar, sirsa (personal guaranteee of sh. Robin gandhi s/o sh. Chiranjai Lal)	Rs. 6,09,14,172.76	31.10.2017	Rs. 229.00 Lacs	Rs. 22.90 Lacs	Rs. 1,00,000/-	05.11.2019 11:00am to 1:00pm
Lot : 3. A shop bearing house tax unit no. 21/17 constructed on plot of SCF No.17 CC-II measuring 25' * 70' situated at CC-II, near additional Mandi, Sirsa vide conveyance deed No. 32 dated 05/04/1983 registered in the office of sub registrar, Sirsa stands in the name of Smt. Dropadi Devi W/o sh. Shankar Lal.									
11.	Mandi Dabwali	Borrower : M/s Samrath Enterprises, 78, New Grain Market, Mandi Dabwali, Prop. Rajinder Kumar. Guarantor : Smt. Amarawati W/o Sohan Lal, H.No.390, W.No.6.13 & 14, Dabwali.	Residential Plot admeasuring 332.2 Sq.Yd. (0kanal-11 marla) comprised in Khewat No 60 Min, Khatauni No. 320 Kitey 2 situated in Gali Gumberwali, Ekta Nagar, Waka Rakba Nai Dabwali, Distt. Sirsa. In the name of Smt. Amarawati w/o Sh. Sohan Lal vide Sale Deed No 3574 dated 21.08.2012 registered with The Sub Registrar Mandi Dabwali.	Rs. 19,78,306.90	06.11.2017	Rs. 14.45 Lacs	Rs. 01.45 Lacs	Rs. 10,000/-	05.11.2019 11:00am to 1:00pm
12.	Ambala City	Borrower : Sh. Jai Bhagwan S/o Sh. Manfool Singh Resident Of House No 916, Sector 10 Urban Estates, Ambala city.	House measuring 152 sq yds bearing khasra no 71/17/11, 71/17/10 Hira Nagar Ambala city in the name of Jai bhagwan vide sale deed no. 8595 dated 19.2.2016.	Rs. 22,93,078.00	24.08.2016	Rs. 13.74 Lacs	Rs. 01.37 Lacs	Rs. 10,000/-	05.11.2019 11:00am to 1:00pm
13.	Ambala City	Borrower : Smt. Rajwant Kaur and Sh. Satinder Singh Resident of Village Lohgarh Post office Kakru , Ambala City	Residential House H no 2450/3564-B2 Abadi Patel Road Ambala City measuring 67 sq yds vide sale deed no 2346 dated 15.7.2016	Rs. 25,51,048.00	14.02.2017	Rs. 10.83 Lacs	Rs. 01.10 Lacs	Rs. 10,000/-	05.11.2019 11:00am to 1:00pm
14.	Ambala City	Borrower : Smt. Urmila Devi and Pinki Resident of H. No. 3497/2, Near Gurdwara, Patel Road, Ambala City. Guarantor : Sudhir Singh S/o Sh. Vijender Singh Resident of H. No. 3497/2, Near Gurdwara, Patel Road, Ambala City.	H. No. 915/3497, Block no 3, Aabadi Hari Mandir, Near Gurdwara, Patel road, Ambala City in the name of Urmila and Pinki Devi vide sale deed no 2755 dated 02.7.2015.	Rs. 31,10,766.00	09.12.2016	Rs. 16.16 Lacs	Rs. 01.62 Lacs	Rs. 10,000/-	05.11.2019 11:00am to 1:00pm
15.	Ambala City	Borrower : Sh. Umesh Kumar and Aarti Resident of H. No. 1293/5994/B-2, Ward No. 2, Hari Mandir Gali, Kaziwara, Ambala City.	H. No 1293/5994/B-2, Ward no 2, Hari Mandir Gali, Kaziwara, Ambala City in the name of Umesh Kumar and Aarti measuring 62 sq. yds. vide sale deed No. 4527 dated 04.9.2015	Rs. 12,88,368.00	09.08.2017	Rs. 09.95 Lacs	Rs. 01.00 Lacs	Rs. 10,000/-	05.11.2019 11:00am to 1:00pm
16.	Ambala City	Borrower : Santosh Rani and Sh. Balbir Singh Resident of House No 39, Heera Nagar colony Ambala City.	H. No. 30 measuring 110 sq yds khata no 587/638 bearing khasra No 77/10/13, situated at Heera Nagar Colony, Ambala City	Rs. 11,57,856.40	10.10.2017	Rs. 07.96 Lacs	Rs. 0.80 Lacs	Rs. 10,000/-	05.11.2019 11:00am to 1:00pm
17.	Kurukshetra	Borrower : Smt. Urmila Devi and Balbir Singh Resident of H No. 53, Near Kirmach Chowk Opposite Ashirwas Hotel, Chanarthal Road, Akash Nagar, Tehsil Thanesar Distt. Kurukshetra. Guarantor : Jasbir Singh S/o Deva Singh H. No. 1787/8, Hargind Nagar, Salarpur Road, Kurukshetra.	Residential Plot measuring 110 sq yds situated at Darra Kalan, Akash Nagar, Thanesar vide sale deed no 6379 dated 03.9.2017.	Rs. 23,36,979.06	18.05.2016	Rs. 18.81 Lacs	Rs. 01.88 Lacs	Rs. 10,000/-	05.11.2019 11:00am to 1:00pm
18.	Kurukshetra	Borrower : Smt. Renu Resident of H no 963/5, Mohan Nagar Chownk, Thanesar, Kurukshetra.	Residential House bearing plot No 963/5 measuring 147.5 sq yds situated at Darra Kalan, Iyal pur Colony Thanesar within M C limits of Thanesar owned by Smt. Renu W/o Sh. Kulbhushan vide sale deed no 5859 dated 21.8.2014	Rs. 15,96,311.00	05.9.2016	Rs. 20.31 Lacs	Rs. 02.03 Lacs	Rs. 10,000/-	05.11.2019 11:00am to 1:00pm
19.	Ambala Cantt.	Borrower : M/s B D Jagan Prop. Smt. Kamlesh Singla W/o Sohan Lal Singla R/o 2557/16, Bengali Mohalla, Ambala Cantt	Lot : 1. Commercial Plot measuring 4K-1M being 242/2133 share of 35K-1M situated in the limit of Handiyaya, Bamala regd vide sale deed no 4453 dt 14.01.2013 in the name of Smt. Kamlesh Singla & Smt Meera Devi.	Rs. 5,06,06,031.00	04.08.2017	Rs. 118.91 Lacs	Rs. 11.89 Lacs	Rs. 10,000/-	05.11.2019 11:00am to 1:00pm
Lot : 2. Commercial Land & Building measuring 2K-1M being 41/146 share of 7K-6M situated within the limit of Village Handiyaya, Bamala regd vide sale deed No 6995 dt 24.01.2012 in the name of M/s Om Shree Ganesh Enterprises.									
20.	Barwala	Borrower : MS S K Electric Prop. Sh. Akshay Kumar S/o Jay Pal R/o Barwala.	Land & building measuring 0K 1M situated at Vill. Bataur, Hadbast No. 247, Barwala, Pki. Regd vide sale deed No. 202 on 27.06.2002 in name of Sh Akay Kumar S/o Sh. Jay Pal	Rs. 13,58,849.00	05.06.2017	Rs. 04.00 Lacs	Rs. 0.40 Lacs	Rs. 10,000/-	05.11.2019 11:00am to 1:00pm
21.	Barwala	Borrower : M/S S K Cable and wires Prop. Sh. Akshay Kumar S/o Jay Pal R/o Barwala.	Land & building measuring 0K 9M khewat 164 khatauni 181 khasra no. 17/12/2(9-7) Barwala, Pki. Regd vide sale deed No. 201/1 on 27.06.2002 in name of Sh Akay Kumar S/o Sh. Jay Pal.	Rs. 81,06,194.00	05.06.2017	Rs. 58.02 Lacs	Rs. 05.81 Lacs	Rs. 25,000/-	05.11.2019 11:00am to 1:00pm
22.	Sector-8, Panchkula	Borrower : M/s Sam Chemicals Prop. Sunil Dutt. Bansal C/o SCF-272, 1st floor, Motor Market, Manimajra. Guarantor : Smt. Renu Bansal C/o SCF-272, 1st floor, Motor market, Manimajra.	Land measuring 9k-7m bearing Khata no 284/316, khasra no 82/16/2(0-4), 16/3(1-16), 25(7-7) kite 3, Salam area, Vill. Sundran, Derabassi, Mohali.	Rs. 5,43,64,841.90	08.02.2018	Rs. 112.80 Lacs	Rs. 11.30 Lacs	Rs. 1,00,000/-	05.11.2019 11:00am to 1:00pm
23.	Ambala City- Railway Road	Borrower : M/s Harmilap Traders Prop. Ashok Kumar Kharbada R/o 918/14, Friends Colony, Ambala City, Hissar Road. Guarantor : Smt. Amita Kharbada D/o Sh. Munshi Ram and W/o Sh. Ashok Kumar Kharbada R/o Friends colony, Ambala City.	918/14 , Block no-11 Mauja Singhawala Tehsil and Distt. Ambala , Plot No. 6 out of Khasra No. 7/24/21 min 8 marla measuring 235 sq yds in name of Smt. Amita Kharbada D/o Sh. Munshi Ram and W/o Sh. Ashok Kumar Kharbada R/o Friends Colony, Ambala City vide sale deed No 8653/1 Jild No 845 page No. 163 dated 28.02.2011.	Rs. 63,36,003.00	30.06.2017	Rs. 51.01 Lacs	Rs. 05.10 Lacs	Rs. 25,000/-	05.11.2019 11:00am to 1:00pm
24.	SMEC, Yamunanagar	Borrower : M/s Sharma Bardana Prop. Madhur Sharma R/o Ratuali, Yamunanagar, Near Government School.	Four walled Plot measuring 192 Sq Yd i.e. 0K-6.4M being 13/870 share out of land measuring 21K-15M situated at Mauja Jagadhari vide sale deed no 1808 dated 25.05.16 in the name of Smt Sonia Oberoi	Rs. 27,07,831.00	05.02.2018	Rs. 10.00 Lacs	Rs. 01.00 Lacs	Rs. 10,000/-	05.11.2019 11:00am to 1:00pm
25.	SME, Yamunanagar	Borrower : M/s Vardham Strips Pvt. Ltd., Narinder Pal Jain R/o Tejji Gate, Old Court Road, Jagadhari, Yamunanagar. Guarantor : Smt. Radha Jain R/o Tejji Gate, Old Court road, jagadhari, Yamunanagar.	EM of factory land & building measuring 2108 sq yds (998+750+360) comprising following sale deeds:- 1. Property measuring 0k-12m(360sq yds) in khewat no 752 khatauni no 940 bearing khasra no 100/69(15-17) situated at Mauja Jagadhari, Tejji gate near Metro Motor workshop near old court road, jagadhari, regd deed 6941 dt 16.12.2010. 2. Property measuring 0B-15B(750sq yds) khewat no 289, khatauni 336 khasra 22(1-0) at Mauja Garhi Mundo HB 408, Jagadhari near Tejji gate, near metro workshop, jagadhari, with regd. Deed 6941 dt 16.12.2010. 3. Property measuring 1K-13M (998Sq Yds) in khewat 753, Khatauni 941 khasra 99/44(6-11) regd deed no 6941						







BAGEHOT

# After Corbyn

The party conference was overshadowed by the question of succession



The interesting question is not whether Mr Corbyn can survive for the next few months, but whether the “Corbyn project”, as Labour delegates call it, can survive his departure. Reuters

THE SUPREME court’s thunderclap of a ruling against the government on September 24th was a godsend for Jeremy Corbyn. It not only gave him an excuse to bring his Labour Party conference to a premature end by giving his speech a day early. It also allowed the party to dispense with a speech by Tom Watson, the deputy leader, that might have resulted in mass walkouts. There is nevertheless no doubt that this year’s conference, held in a rainy Brighton, was a miserable affair. An event that is designed to showcase the leader’s preparedness for power was overshadowed by the question of whether he should be preparing for retirement.

The first sign of trouble was a failed attempt to remove Mr Watson from his job by Jon Lansman, the head of Mr Corbyn’s praetorian guard, Momentum. It is no secret that the left covets Mr Watson’s head. But Mr Lansman’s timing was odd given that his plot was guaranteed to ignite an internal war and send the media into a blood-frenzy. The only explanation is panic about the succession. Under current rules the deputy leader takes over temporarily if the leader resigns and therefore plays a role in choosing the next one.

The second sign of trouble was a leaked memo by Andrew Fisher, a member of Mr Corbyn’s inner circle and an author of Labour’s 2017 manifesto. Mr Fisher lambasted Mr Corbyn’s office for its “blizzard of lies” and “lack of competence, professionalism and human decency”. The last two words were particularly cutting. He also warned that the party would not be able to win the next election with the current leadership.

The succession crisis is being driven by two numbers: 70 and 25. At 70, Mr Corbyn is on the old side for somebody who aspires to the most demanding job in British politics. And at 25, Labour’s average poll rating is much too low for a party that aspires to power. Labour should be well ahead of a government that blunders from crisis to crisis. Instead it is behind in every poll, sometimes by some distance. In this year’s European election Labour finished third, behind the Liberal Democrats. In two subsequent by-elections it has suffered double-digit declines in its vote share. Labour MPs from the Midlands and the north report that voters constantly tell them they will not back Labour so long as it is led by Mr Corbyn.

Labour Remainers (who make up the bulk of party members) are furious with Mr Corbyn’s fence-sitting over Brexit. Matthew Pennycook, a shadow Brexit minister, stepped down on September 25th to campaign for Remain. People across the party are disheartened by Mr Corbyn’s faltering performance. Though he bought himself a period of grace with his almost successful election campaign in 2017, that has now ended. He has made a succession of unforced errors that hurt deeply, not least asking for the

**The succession crisis is being driven by two numbers: 70 and 25. At 70, Mr Corbyn is on the old side for somebody who aspires to the most demanding job in British politics. And at 25, Labour’s average poll rating is much too low for a party that aspires to power**

Russians to be called in to help investigate the poisonings in Salisbury, and dragging his feet over investigating anti-Semitism in the party. It is a measure of Mr Corbyn’s leadership ability that he has managed to take a moderate position on the one subject, Brexit, where extreme positions are popular, and extreme positions on everything else.

Mr Corbyn insists that he will not only lead his party into the next general election but also serve a full term as prime minister. He is probably right about the first, given that the next election could be a matter of weeks away. But he is almost certainly wrong about the second. A year in Downing Street is equivalent to several years of ordinary life. The more interesting question is not whether Mr Corbyn can survive for the next few months, but whether the “Corbyn project”, as Labour delegates call it, can survive his departure, be it the result of an election defeat or the toll of high office.

For all his many faults Mr Corbyn is a consummate machine politician. His supporters control all the party’s great organs of power, from the National Executive Committee to the biggest trade union to the local parties. Mr Corbyn demonstrated his grip at the con-

ference by engineering the defeat of a motion to throw the party’s weight behind Remain. Two big unions, Unite and the GMB, voted as a bloc against the motion, the left-wing pressure group Momentum whipped its delegates to oppose it and, in a Soviet moment, Wendy Nichols, the chairwoman of the session, reversed her decision that the vote had passed after an intervention from Jennie Formby, the party’s general secretary. What’s more, the Corbyn project is driven by two men rather than one. John McDonnell, the shadow chancellor, remains as bright and omnipresent as ever despite his 68 years.

Against that, the party’s middle ranks are much less supportive of the project. The Corbynites’ preferred successor, Rebecca Long-Bailey, the party’s energy spokeswoman, is a thin reed. A poor performer in Parliament and on television, she lacks both Mr Corbyn’s intermittent charm and Mr McDonnell’s iron grip on detail. By contrast, the party’s moderate wing has a plethora of more impressive figures. Emily Thornberry is a good parliamentary debater (and outshines Mr Corbyn when she stands in for him at prime minister’s questions); Sir Keir

Starmer has transformed himself from a lawyer who happens to be in the politics business to an accomplished politician who happens to know a lot about the law; Hilary Benn and Yvette Cooper have a rare ability to articulate a moderate position in an age of polarisation. The most impressive members of the party’s next generation — Jess Phillips, Angela Rayner and Lisa Nandy — have kept their distance from Corbynism.

## Capture the red flag

Labour’s ascendant left wing likes to think in terms of vast, impersonal, historical forces: the crisis of neo-liberalism, the death-agonies of imperialism and the rest of it. But the fate of Mr Corbyn’s great project to build socialism in Britain depends on the political machinations of a handful of individuals. The fact that the balance of power is so delicate means that the struggle can only become more bitter in the months to come. Mr Corbyn’s rise divided the party like nothing since the second world war. His eventual departure will divide it even further.

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## POLITICS IN CANADA

# Dark days for Justin Trudeau

To keep his job, Justin Trudeau must fight on two fronts

THE LIBERAL party supporters who lined up behind Justin Trudeau during a campaign stop in Brampton, near Toronto, were an ethnically diverse lot. But they looked universally glum. Thanks only partly to the release of several photographs showing a younger Mr Trudeau wearing blackface make-up, the man who was once his party’s greatest asset has become its biggest problem.

Mr Trudeau, who came to power in 2015, is a prominent exception to the domino run of right-wing populist world leaders. At international events he promotes immigration, globalisation and feminism. At home, his government has raised taxes on the wealthy, launched a means-tested child benefit, imposed a carbon tax in provinces that do not have their own ones and legalised marijuana.

Gradually, though, Mr Trudeau has acquired a shifty reputation. In 2017 he broke his promise to reform Canada’s first-past-the-post electoral system, which benefits his party. In February this year he broke the parliamentary ethics code by pressing his attorney-general to intervene in the criminal prosecution for bribery of a large Quebec engineering firm. Then the blackface pictures appeared. Mr Trudeau has told reporters that his privileged background as the son of former prime minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau left him with a blind

**To keep his job as prime minister in this month’s elections, Mr Justin Trudeau must do two things. He has to hold onto moderate voters who might be tempted by the Conservative Party, while convincing supporters of the Green Party and the left-wing New Democratic Party that he is their best hope for pushing through a progressive agenda**

spot about race. He is somewhat vague about when his vision improved.

To keep his job as prime minister in this month’s elections, Mr Trudeau must do two things. He has to hold onto moderate voters who might be tempted by the Conservative Party, while convincing supporters of the Green Party and the left-wing New Democratic Party that he is their best hope for pushing through a progressive agenda. The Greens and the NDP are polling at about 10% and 15% re-

spectively; thanks to the first-past-the-post system, neither stands to win many seats in parliament. But the right-left two-step is a tricky dance.

The Conservatives, who are neck-and-neck with the Liberals in the polls, are running a good campaign. Andrew Scheer, a former speaker of the House of Commons who leads the party, has tapped into widespread unease about the cost of living. His promises, which include tax cuts for people on low incomes, tax credits for new parents and children’s sports activities, and loosening mortgage rules so that more young people can buy homes, fit tidily under the Conservative campaign: “It’s time for you to get ahead”. He talks often about fighting for ordinary people against elites — a fire-some populist trope that works better when aimed at a political scion like Mr Trudeau.

Canada’s unemployment rate was just 5.7% in August, close to a 40-year low. Average wages are growing by nearly twice the rate of inflation. Mr Trudeau repeats some version of these numbers frequently. Yet Mr Scheer’s message about affordability resonates and has forced the prime minister to focus on the issue. He presented slightly altered versions of the Conservative tax cut and maternity-benefits plan within days of their announcement. Meanwhile parts of the coalition of voters



Justin Trudeau, with his face and hands painted brown, poses with others during an “Arabian Nights” party when he was a 29-year-old teacher at the West Point Grey Academy in Vancouver. This image was published in The View yearbook. Reuters

that brought Mr Trudeau to power are looking shaky. In 2015 eight out of the ten constituencies with the highest proportion of immigrants went for his party. The blackface scandal could put some immigrant voters off, although Mr

Trudeau’s support for high levels of immigration will weigh in his favour. Just over 321,000 permanent residents were admitted in 2018 (0.9% of Canada’s population) and the target for 2021 is 350,000.

Yet this election, like most, is a referendum on the incumbent. And Mr Trudeau is no longer the fresh-faced celebrity that he was four years ago. Glum acceptance might be the best he can hope for.

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# 21 ECONOMY

<b>GOLD</b>	<b>RUPEE</b>	<b>OIL</b>	<b>SILVER</b>
₹39,115	₹70.87	\$58.69	₹47,580

\*Indian basket as on September 30, 2019

SENSEX: 38,106.87 ▼ 198.54 NIFTY: 11,313.10 ▼ 46.80 NIKKEI: 21,341.74 ▼ 436.87 HANG SENG: 26,110.31 ▲ 67.62 FTSE: 7,074.43 ▼ 48.11 DAX: 11,925.25 ▼ 338.58

International market data till 1900 GMT

## POLICY WATCH TAXATION

### MP, Punjab raise concerns over delay in release of GST revenue by Centre

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

RAISING CONCERNS over the design of Goods and Services Tax (GST) and delay in the release of revenue share of states, Opposition-ruled states Madhya Pradesh and Punjab said the issues were affecting the functioning of states. Punjab's Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal called for a fresh look at the GST structure, saying the current system was "badly designed". Badal said the Council should desist from cutting rates around state elections as a favour. "Punjab has been consistently opposing the design of the current GST... the arrogance which is there within the Council, the idea of giving favours and knee-jerk reactions, for example, if there is Gujarat election you immediately cut rates. We should desist from that," he said. Badal further said, "I am not mistaken, in the last two years we have had almost 4,000 changes in the GST law, changes and amendments for which they have to go to Parliament and state legislatures. Can you imagine if there was a patient and was operated on 4,000 times would there be anything left of the patient?"

**On Wednesday, Kerala Finance Minister Thomas Isaac had pointed to the low revenue under GST, saying it's a sign of issues under GST apart from the economic slowdown**

revenue share under GST. "In the meantime, what do we do. Now for our expenditure, we have to borrow money. This is a very sad thing that is happening," he said. On Wednesday, Kerala Finance Minister Thomas Isaac had also pointed out to the low revenue under GST, saying it's a sign of issues under GST apart from the economic slowdown. "Record low GST collection is not only a reflection of economic slowdown but also the mess in GST administration. What compliance can you expect when even first annual return is yet to be filed? And also rates have been continuously slashed to less than revenue neutral levels," he had tweeted.

A senior Finance Ministry official said states are equal participants in all rate reductions and deliberations under GST. "As far as the rate cuts are concerned, most of the rate cuts happened during 2018. It may be noted that during the period Nov 2018 to Mar 2019, GST revenues have seen a growth rate of 14 per cent. It is only after May, 2019 that lower growth rates of the level of 5 per cent are being observed. The only major rate rationalisation that happened during the current calendar year is that pertaining to real estate which is not even in the nature of rate cut... linking sudden drop in revenues to rate reduction alone would be farfetched, because the same rate structure was leading to high revenue growths during the last quarter of the previous financial year," the official said.

Madhya Pradesh's Chief Minister Kamal Nath said that most of the BJP-ruled states sign on dotted lines in the GST Council meetings. "GST Council consists of states. The states are falling in line with the central government because they may be run by one party. If they are few states and rest are being run by one party then they come to sign on dotted lines. It is pre-determined. There is no engagement. There is no intellectual understanding of the situation. It's all in theory. All on paper. We must recognise and we cannot shut our eyes to this," he said while speaking at the India Economic Summit. Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh said there is a delay in the release of states'

## INDIA ECONOMIC SUMMIT

# 'No structural reason' ... trade deal can happen 'pretty quickly': Ross

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

WHILE EXPECTATIONS of a potential trade deal between India and the US fell flat during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the US late last month, Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross on Thursday suggested progress on resolving issues between the two countries would be faster.

"We do think that there is no structural reason why there can't be one (a trade deal) pretty quickly. We each know the other's issues, we have for quite some little while... Now that the election has come and gone and Prime Minister Modi has a very clear, strong position in Parliament, it should be a lot easier to take decisive action," said Ross.

Ross indicated the US would not change its stance towards trade practices it found to be "unfair", but also said the Trump administration expected it to be "a lot easier to take decisive action" towards a trade deal between the two countries now that the Prime Minister had been re-elected.

"The first time I was able to meet and really further the talks and progress the talks actively was only on the Monday following Howdy Modi," said Goyal during the World Economic Forum's India Economic Summit amid



**"Now that the election has come and gone and Prime Minister Modi has a very clear, strong position in Parliament, it should be a lot easier to take decisive action"**

WILBUR ROSS, US SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

concerns that an expected trade deal between the two countries did not fructify during the Prime Minister's visit.

In response to concerns that India was meted out harsh treatment despite reducing trade deficit with the US, Ross said that, "We can add and subtract too, so we're well aware of the differences between the amounts of trade deficit between the two countries (India compared with China)... That doesn't mean that we shouldn't be dealing with unfair practices even if they result in smaller trade deficits with other countries."

At the same time, the US plans to focus on measures to improve total trade with India and talks with the commerce minister later in the day would focus on products where India could step up exports to the US in place of Chinese products, according to him.

"When I'm meeting with minister Goyal one-on-one a bit later,

we've actually prepared a chart about what are the areas where China is the big exporter to us, how does that compare with what India is exporting to us and what are the possible solutions to how do we change that mixture. So, don't think that we're just focussing on total trade," said Ross.

### US' e-commerce push

India will have to "balance" the interests of its small retailers by giving its population access to cheaper products through e-commerce if it does not want to hold back on growth, said Ross in response to Goyal's statement that e-commerce players could not act as predatory pricing platforms or "use muscle power of large capital" to put the country's small retail out of business.

"If a hundred years from now, India still has as many small retailers as now, it will have held back growth of the country im-

## EXPLAINED Confidence building step

A RESOLUTION of the problematic issues would be a confidence building measure as both the governments indicated that they want to consult on the policies and provisions that they are considering.

mensely," Ross said.

India's stance on e-commerce has been seen as one of several sticking points for the US, with recent changes to the country's e-commerce policy expected to have hit investment plans of giants like Amazon.

"There has been absolutely no change in India's stand as far as e-commerce is concerned," said Goyal at the summit.

"The spirit of Indian law is protecting small retail, and I think every country in the world would like to protect employment, work and livelihoods of their people. And in that spirit, we welcome all e-commerce companies to India to work as agnostic platform for people to trade in," he said.

## IRCTC public offering subscribed 112 times

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, OCTOBER 3

PROVIDING A boost to the government's disinvestment plan, Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corp's (IRCTC) initial public offering (IPO) to raise Rs 645 crore was subscribed nearly 112 times by the end of the book-running process, according to stock exchange data.

The category meant for qualified institutional buyers (QIBs) was subscribed 108.79 times, non-institutional investors (NIIs) was subscribed 354.52 times and retail investors was subscribed 14.65 times. The issue comprised an offer-for-sale of 2.01 crore shares of face value of Rs 10 each. Out of the total issue size, 1,60,000 equity shares are reserved for eligible employees.

The company is authorised by the railway ministry to offer railway tickets online, offer catering service and exclusively manufacture and supply packaged drinking water at railway stations and on trains in India.

"IRCTC IPO has evoked tremendous response from all the categories of investors, with the issue being subscribed more than 111 times. The issue, which divested 12.6 per cent of the government's stake in the CPSE is expected to generate a revenue of Rs 645 crore. It is the 2nd CPSE to be listed this fiscal," the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) said in a tweet.

Overall, IRCTC has been the best PSU as well as the most successful IPO in the last two fiscals

## Bharat-22 ETF: Anchor investors submit ₹13,500-cr bids

New Delhi: The fourth tranche of Bharat-22 exchange traded fund received an overwhelming response from institutional players on Thursday with the portion reserved for anchor investors garnering bids worth Rs 13,500 crore, around 27 times the size.

The ETF issue that opened on Thursday received subscriptions from investors like mutual funds, foreign portfolio investors, and insurance funds.

The follow-on fund offer will open for subscription for retail and other institutional investors on Friday. The investors would get a 3 per cent discount over the issue price. PTI

in terms of overall subscription where it leads in the QIB, NII and employee segments, analysts said. In retail category, RIFES leads the PSU IPO league table.

A group of secretaries had recently cleared strategic sales in Bharat Petroleum Corp, BEMIL, Container Corporation of India and Shipping Corporation of India (SCI). Stake sales in THDC India and Neepco, both power companies, have also been approved.

## 'Indian firms raised ₹6,000 cr via 10 IPOs in Q3 2019'

India Inc raised \$0.86 billion (about Rs 6,000 crore) through 10 initial public offerings in the July-September quarter of this year. The IPO activity is expected to gain momentum in the first half of 2020, according to the EY India IPO Trends Report Q3 2019

**6th**  
The BSE and the NSE, including SMEs, ranked sixth globally in terms of the number of IPOs in the third quarter of 2019

**4** IPOs were recorded by the BSE and the NSE in the third quarter of this year, as against three in the year-ago period

**FISCAL REFORMS A POSITIVE:** The report noted that the recent fiscal reforms were likely to instill confidence in the capital markets and were expected to improve market sentiments and liquidity in the economy

**256**  
IPOs came to the market in July-Sep 2019

**\$40.2 bn**  
was the value of the total proceeds — a decrease of 24% by volume and 22% by proceeds, compared to the July-September 2018, the report noted

**CORPORATE EARNINGS** are likely to be positively impacted owing to the recent fiscal reforms announced and demand in the upcoming festive season

**POSITIVE MOMENTUM IN H1 2020:** Khetan said the firm expects to see positive momentum around IPOs in the first half of 2020

**SECTOR-WISE ANALYSIS**  
■ Consumer products and retail sector — 3 IPOs  
■ Real estate, hospitality construction and technology — 2 IPOs each (including main and SME markets)

**GLOBAL SCENARIO** The backlog of IPOs continues to grow as issuers worldwide await more favourable market conditions, pushing IPO activity down across many markets in Q3 2019, compared to Q3 2018

## Godrej calls for cut in personal I-T rates

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

CALLING FOR a reduction in personal income-tax rates after the recent reduction in corporate tax rate, Godrej Group Chairman Adi Godrej said more measures need to be taken to stimulate GDP growth and there is need to provide more stimulus to the industry.

"The government should provide more stimulus... the current growth rate of the economy is slow and we need to stimulate it. We need to have the growth rate up and even if it means that the fiscal deficit goes up, I do not think it matters," the chairman said on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum's India Economic Summit.

Godrej said the recent cut in corporate tax rate will help the business cycle and also help in improving the consumption. Going ahead though, he said, more specific measures need to be taken to boost consumption, he added.

"(Corporate tax rate cut) will certainly help the business cycle and help consumption go up... I think they (government) will announce some reduction in personal income tax rates and there will be other measures for specific industries to increase consumption," he said. Godrej further said that the Reserve Bank of India has undertaken rate cuts but they need to be better transmitted.

When asked to list few measures to revive growth, especially in the FMCG sector,

Godrej said: "GDP growth is low, we need to do more and more to stimulate the economy and increase the GDP growth".

The government had on September 20 announced cuts in tax rates for domestic companies to 22 per cent and for new domestic manufacturing companies to 15 per cent.

The new effective tax rate inclusive of surcharge and cess for domestic companies is 25.17 per cent and for new domestic manufacturing companies is 17.01 per cent. Earlier, the tax rate for companies with annual sales over Rs 400 crore was 30 per cent (exclusive of surcharge and cess).

The Task Force on drafting direct tax law, which submitted its report to the government in August that is yet to be made public, has recommended rationalisation of personal income tax rates along with the reduction in corporate tax rates.

A cut in tax rates is being seen necessary to boost consumption demand and thereby, the overall economic growth, which had slipped to a 25-quarter low of 5 per cent in April-June. The overall economic slowdown has also started to reflect in the government's revenues.

Gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections fell to a 19-month low of Rs 91,916 crore in September, while net direct tax collections during April 1-September 15 grew at just 5 per cent to Rs 4.4 lakh crore, as against the annual targeted growth rate of 17.3 per cent.

## Centre reduces interest rate on house building advance for govt employees

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

THE CENTRE has reduced the interest on House Building Advance from 8.5 per cent to 7.9 per cent for its employees, a move aimed at boosting housing demand, an official statement stated on Thursday.

According to the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry, the new interest rate has come into force from October 1.

"The rate of interest on House Building Advance (HBA) has been reduced from existing 8.5 per cent to 7.9 per cent for government employees for a period of one year, irrespective of the loan amount of HBA," the ministry said.

The House Building Advance is admissible to permanent employees and all those temporary employees who have rendered five years of continuous service. "The ministries/departments are delegated powers to sanction House Building Advance to their employees in accordance with the HBA rules," it stated.

## Yes Bank stock bounces back 33% after clarification

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, OCTOBER 3

YES BANK'S shares on Thursday soared nearly 33 per cent after the bank said its financials were strong and liquidity was well in excess of regulatory requirements. Following the bank's assurance, the scrip jumped 32.97 per cent to close at Rs 42.55 on the BSE, even as Rajat Monga, senior group president and former chief financial officer, quit.

Yes Bank on Wednesday said the decline in its stock price was mainly due to forced sale of 10 crore equity shares on the back

## Sell-off continues for 4th straight session

Mumbai: Equities continued to reel under selling pressure for a fourth straight session on Thursday as GST shortfall, financial sector woes and renewed concerns over global trade worried investors.

Market participants also maintained a cautious stance

awaiting the Reserve Bank's monetary policy outcome, due on Friday.

The Sensex swung between a high of 38,310.93 and a low of 37,957.56, before settling at 38,106.87, showing a decline of 198.54 points or 0.52 per cent. PTI

of invocation of pledged shares by a large stakeholder. The private sector lender's share price plunged nearly 30 per cent during intra-day trade on Tuesday

(October 1), before closing the session down 22.8 per cent at Rs 32.

"Rajat has decided to move on. For the past two years he has

been carrying a lot of load and needed some time off... so has decided to leave," chief executive Ravneet Gill said on Thursday.

The new deposits are also up 13 per cent quarter-on-quarter, he said. The bank is engaged in regular discussions with the RBI and the Finance Ministry, and both of them want a "strong and independent" Yes Bank, said Gill in a conference call. The bank is on the lookout for capital either from a private equity investor, a strategic investor or family office, he said.

Meanwhile, Morgan Credits Pvt Ltd (MCPL) and Yes Capital, part of the promoter group of Yes

Bank, expressed their disappointment over Reliance Nippon Asset Management Company (RNAM) selling pledged shares of the lender at a 'dismal price' on Tuesday. "We are highly dejected that our family shareholding in Yes Bank was sold at such dismal price levels, despite the bank having created long-term shareholder value and over 20,000 jobs during the last 15 years. We will continue to focus our energies on growing the start-up ventures incubated by us where we see potential for meaningful value creation in the long-term," they said in a press statement.

## WTO HAS GIVEN GREEN LIGHT TO US TARIFFS ON \$7.5 BN EUROPEAN GOODS OVER AIRBUS SUBSIDIES

# Trump hails 'nice victory' on trade as EU whisky, wine makers left reeling

REUTERS LONDON/WASHINGTON, OCT 3

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump hailed a "nice victory" on Thursday after the United States got the green light to place tariffs on European Union goods in a row over EU aircraft subsidies.

But Wednesday's decision by the World Trade Organization (WTO) left Scottish whisky makers, Spanish winemakers and French cheesemakers fuming as the US tariffs targeted products from countries in the Airbus consortium. Engineers in Germany worried that the row over subsidies granted to the European

planemaker was leading to "a table tennis match" over transatlantic tariffs, and France warned of retaliation by the EU.

The WTO decision gave the US the go-ahead to impose tariffs on \$7.5 billion worth of EU goods annually in the long-running case.

The dispute darkens the global economic outlook, which already has the cloud of the US-China trade dispute hanging over it. Washington and Beijing have imposed tariffs on each other's goods worth hundreds of billions of dollars. Trump said on Twitter the EU "has for many years treated the USA very badly on Trade due to Tariffs, Trade Barriers, and more. This case going on for years, a nice

victory!" Washington said that, after 15 years of litigation, it would impose 10 per cent tariffs on Airbus planes, a move that could hurt orders by US airlines, and 25 per cent duties on French wine, Scotch and Irish whiskeys, and cheese from across the continent.

"If the American administration rejects the hand that has been held out by France and the European Union, we are preparing ourselves to react with sanctions," French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire said. Britain said it was seeking confirmation from the WTO that it had complied with the organisation's rulings and should not face tariffs. The Scottish Whisky

"If the American administration rejects the hand that has been held out by France and the European Union, we are preparing ourselves to react with sanctions"

BRUNO LE MAIRE, FRENCH FINANCE MINISTER

Association said jobs and investment were at risk from a 25 per cent tariff on single malt Scotch whisky exports to the United States, the industry's biggest single market, were worth 1 billion pounds (\$1.23 billion) last year. "Despite the fact that this dis-

pute is about aircraft subsidies, our sector has been hit hard," the association's chief executive, Karen Betts, said in a statement, urging restraint from both sides.

Spanish vintners said their wine would cost too much in US stores if tariffs were confirmed.

"The tariffs will affect our competitiveness," said a spokesman for CECRV, the association for producers of Spanish wines such as Rioja and Cava. Germany's VDMA engineering association said it was disappointed the European Commission, the EU executive, had not defused the row. "The current situation resembles a table tennis match," said VDMA trade expert Ulrich Ackermann.

Spanish olives, British sweaters and woollens, and German tools and coffee were targeted, as well as British whisky and French wine. Cheese from nearly every EU country will also be hit with the 25 per cent tariffs, but Italian wine and olive oil were spared, along with European chocolate. There was relief for some who had expected to be drawn into the row but were not.

The size and scope of the tariffs were reduced considerably from a \$25-billion list floated by Washington this year that included helicopters, major aircraft components, seafood and luxury goods. One person familiar with the case said the US Trade

Representative (USTR) was liberally not using the full extent of WTO-approved ruling to coax the EU into negotiations. But the USTR also issued a warning.

"The US has the authority to increase the tariffs at any time, or change the products affected. USTR will continually re-evaluate these tariffs based on our discussions with the EU," it said.

Airbus and US firm Boeing, the world's two largest plane-makers, have waged a war of attrition over subsidies at the WTO since 2004. The dispute has tested the trade policeman's influence and is expected to set the tone for competition from would-be rivals from China.



IL&FS CASE

# Deloitte moves Bombay HC against govt plea in NCLT

ENSECONOMICBUREAU MUMBAI, OCTOBER 3

DELOITTE HASKINS & Sells has moved the Bombay High Court, challenging the constitutional validity of the central government's petition in the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) seeking the removal of former auditors to IL&FS under Section 140(5) of the Companies Act.

Deloitte's petition is on the same lines as that filed by BSR & Associates. Senior counsel Amit Desai, representing Deloitte, also informed the court that the facts of the case were similar and the issue was merely on the ques-

## Deloitte's petition is on the same lines as that filed by BSR & Associates

tion of law.

At Thursday's hearing, Darius Khambata, senior counsel appearing for BSR, reiterated his arguments.

Meanwhile, the court directed the Attorney General to submit a statement. The court has set October 16 as the next date of hearing.

As part of his arguments, Khambata informed the court that his petition was based on two

main prayers — one, that Section 140(5) of the Companies Act be declared ultra vires (outside the purview of the Indian Constitution), and second, that the NCLT not be allowed to oversee proceedings on the matter of removal of auditors of IL&FS.

In June, the Centre moved the NCLT seeking removal of BSR and Deloitte as auditors of IIFIN. The application was filed under Section 140(5) of the Companies Act, which deals with removal, and resignation of auditors. The section seeks to remove auditors which have acted in or abetted fraud. One of the provisions (the second proviso) of the section allows for removed auditors to be

banned for a period of five years.

In August, BSR filed a writ petition in the Bombay HC against the government's move to ban the auditors. The petition sought to declare Section 140(5) ultra vires of the Constitution of India (i.e., outside the purview of the Indian constitution or, unconstitutional).

Khambata claimed Section 140(5) of the Companies Act is ultra vires on the premise that it only allows for summary proceedings which is left to the sole discretion of the NCLT. He stated that there was no procedure or safeguards available to the respondents under the section and hence, 'left to the devices of the NCLT'. FE

# RBI allows PMC Bank customers to withdraw up to ₹25K

ENSECONOMICBUREAU MUMBAI, OCTOBER 3

GIVING FURTHER relief to customers of crisis-hit Punjab & Maharashtra Cooperative Bank, the Reserve Bank of India on Thursday increased the cash withdrawal limit to Rs 25,000 per account from Rs 10,000 earlier.

"The Reserve Bank again reviewed the bank's liquidity position and, with a view to reducing the hardship of the depositors, has decided to further enhance the limit for withdrawal to Rs 25,000," the RBI said in a statement. With the latest relaxation, more than 70 per cent of the depositors of the bank will be able to withdraw their entire account balance. "The RBI is monitoring the position of the bank and will continue to take necessary steps in the interest of depositors," it said.

The RBI has also decided to appoint a Committee of three Members to assist the Administrator of PMC Bank. Several customers and housing societies had complained to the RBI about the restrictions on withdrawals of funds.

While slapping restrictions on the bank for six months on September 24, the RBI had allowed withdrawal of only Rs 1,000 for the bank's depositors, leaving the customers, creating panic among the depositors. However, on September 26, following a spate of complaints from depositors, the RBI relaxed the curbs and allowed depositors to withdraw a sum not exceeding Rs 10,000 (including the Rs 1,000 already withdrawn) of the total balance held in every savings bank account or current account or any other deposit account.

# Kant: More structural reforms in the offing to propel growth

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

THE GOVERNMENT will keep the reform momentum going with more such announcements in the future to bring back the economy on a higher growth track, though issues related with productivity efficiency persist, NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant said on Thursday.

Going back to 2005 and till now, close to about 300 million people have been pulled out of poverty. In the last five years, the economy has grown at about 7.5 per cent.

India's growth was at about 8.1 per cent in the last quarter of 2017-18 and fell to 5 per cent in the June quarter of 2019-20, Kant said at the World Economic Forum's India Economic Summit-III event here. "And since then both the RBI and the government have taken a series of measures to take India back to a high growth trajectory. The RBI has dropped the repo rate by about 110 basis points to 5.4 per cent. But there is limitation to monetary policy and therefore the

government stepped in and took a series of measures," Kant said.

The government announced a series of economic boosters including capitalisation of public sector banks, merging some of them, package for exports, and bringing down corporate tax rate, he said.

"I think many more structural reforms are in the offing. The government has pushed for public sector disinvestment. I can tell you we have pushed for asset monetisation in a very big way. Our belief is that instead of green-field projects, investors must come into brown-field projects," he said further.

The step to bring down the corporate tax rate was to align it with global standards, he said, adding the government must be a facilitator, a catalyst and should keep itself out of business.

"Our belief is that instead of green-field projects, investors must come into brown-field project... And government will put many of these assets out in the marketplace for many of you people to invest," he said.

BRIEFLY

## New portal for coal supply coordination

New Delhi: The government on Thursday launched a portal for transparency and better coordination among stakeholders, including Coal India Ltd, Indian Railways, power utilities and, ministries of coal and power, for coal supplies to power plants. PTI

## BHEL CMD gets additional charge of HEC

New Delhi: State-owned BHEL on Thursday said its Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) Nalin Shinghal has been given an additional charge of CMD of Heavy Engineering Corporation Ltd. PTI

## NSE to delist 9 companies from Oct 17

New Delhi: The NSE will delist nine companies from its platform from October 17. These companies are Lanco Infratech, Moser-Baer, Amar Remedies, Supreme Tex Mart, Samtel Color, Hindustan Dorr-Oliver, Servalakhmi Paper, LML, and Hanung Toys and Textiles. PTI

## Tata Comm names MD & group CEO

New Delhi: Tata Communications has named Amur S Lakshminarayanan managing director- and group chief executive officer-designate of the company. "As MD and CEO-designate, Lakshminarayanan will advise the interim management committee of Tata Communications," a company statement said. PTI

## United Bank names Choksi as willful defaulter

New Delhi: State-run United Bank of India on Thursday issued a public notice declaring Gitanjali Gems and its fugitive owner Mehul Choksi as willful defaulter and sent them notices seeking repayment of Rs 332 crore dues. PTI

## 'Chinese are coming for trade talks'

Washington: President Donald Trump said on Thursday a delegation from China would come to the US next week for trade talks. "China's coming in next week. We're going to have a meeting with them," he said. REUTERS

# Irdai revisiting 'title insurance' products

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

IRDAI HAS started the process to standardise 'title insurance' with an aim to promote the product which provides indemnity to property buyers against loss arising from defects in title deeds.

Towards this, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) has set a working group to revisit the product structure of title insurance, a circular said.

Obtaining title insurance has been made mandatory for promoters/developers under the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016.

Currently, the product is offered by only a few general insurers in the Indian market.

# 'Commercial realty developers may raise ₹1.5 lakh crore through REITs'

ENSECONOMICBUREAU MUMBAI, OCTOBER 3

WITH INVESTOR interest in the residential segment declining because of limited property price appreciation and inability to monetise assets, real estate investment trusts (REITs) can provide a better investment option.

Rating agency Crisil, in its report on India's REIT Opportunity, stated on Thursday that the top 10 commercial real estate developers and operators in the country can raise as much as Rs 1.5 lakh crore through REITs route by monetising 184 million square feet (msf) assuming a capitalisation rate of 8.5 per cent and stake dilution of 75%.

Crisil said these assets, with annual lease rentals of around Rs 17,000 crore, represent around

30 per cent of Grade A properties across major micro markets in the country. "Portfolios with annual rentals of over Rs 1,000 crore, translating into a minimum asset valuation of Rs 10,000 crore, can absorb higher transaction costs and comply with regulations, and are more likely to use this option," said the report on REITs.

There are multiple advantages of REITs for both investors as well as developers or private equity. For investors, REITs offer steady returns, capital appreciation opportunity and low ticket size of investment. While for developers, it can help them to monetise the portfolio of operational assets and unlock capital and leverage the balance sheets.

At present, only Embassy Office Parks REIT is listed on the

exchanges and has given returns of 28.6 per cent since its listing in April this year. While, the BSE Realty index is down by around 7 per cent for the same time frame.

In the past few years, profitability has improved for commercial assets, given low vacancy rates and consistent improvement in rentals and developers with lease rental portfolio have embraced multiple alternative modes of funding, while deleveraging their balance sheets.

"This is evident from the fact that of the almost Rs 75,000 crore of PE investment in the sector in the past three years, as much as 70 per cent has been parked in commercial and retail portfolios of developers. This has had a positive bearing on the credit profile of such assets, with the credit ratio well above 1.0 time for the past three years," the report said. FE

# BPCL privatisation to prompt downgrade, warns Moody's

ENSECONOMICBUREAU NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

Moody's Investors Service on Thursday said if a non-government firm takes over the entire government stake in BPCL, it would likely downgrade the state-run oil marketing company by two notches to Baa1, which denotes medium-grade and is subject to moderate credit risk. Whether BPCL is to be privatised or sold to another PSU, the proposed stake sale of 53.29 per cent government stake in the company will prompt bond redemption and attendant refinancing risks, the rating agency added.

Currently, the agency's rating for BPCL is Baa2 and this takes into consideration "the high likelihood of extraordinary support from the government" that corresponds to two notches of uplift in the rating.

## The BPCL stake sale would significantly increase the firm's refinancing risk as it will require it to redeem its bonds within 45 days of the change of control

"If the stake is sold to another government-owned company such that the government continues to appoint all of BPCL's board of directors and have substantial control over its operations, we will continue to include support in BPCL's ratings," the rater said.

On Thursday, the BPCL stock touched Rs 525.3, the highest in 52 weeks and 11.8 per cent up from September 30, when a group of secretaries on disinvestment approved the sale of govern-

ment's entire stake in BPCL.

Sale of BPC stake, at current share prices, could fetch the government around Rs 57,500 crore or 55 per cent of its FY20 disinvestment target of Rs 1.05 lakh crore. So far in the current financial year, it has garnered Rs 12,357 crore, or 12 per cent of this fiscal's target, via sale of government stakes in companies via various routes.

The BPCL stake sale would significantly increase the firm's refinancing risk as it will require it to redeem its bonds within 45 days of the change of control. As of September 30, BPCL had \$1.7 billion of foreign currency bonds outstanding. At FY19-end, BPCL had cash and cash equivalents of around Rs 5,300 crore (which included short-term investments of Rs 4,600 crore) against Rs 10,900 crore of debt maturing over the next 15 months. FE

# US factory orders dip in August; core capital goods revised down

REUTERS WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 3

NEW ORDERS for US-made goods slipped in August and business spending on equipment was much weaker than initially thought, the latest indications that manufacturing was in a slump.

Factory goods orders dipped 0.1 per cent after surging by an unrevised 1.4 per cent in July, the Commerce Department said on Thursday. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast factory orders would fall 0.2 per cent in August.

Factory orders edged down 0.1 per cent compared to August 2018.

Shipments of manufactured goods fell 0.1 per cent in August after decreasing 0.3 per cent in the prior month. Pointing to underlying weakness in the sector, which accounts for about 11 per cent of the economy, unfilled or-

ders at factories nudged up 0.1 per cent after the same gain in July. Inventories were unchanged in August after ticking up 0.1 per cent in July.

A survey from the Institute for Supply Management (ISM) on Tuesday showed a measure of national factory activity tumbled to more than a 10-year low in September. The ISM said comments from manufacturers "reflect a continuing decrease in business confidence," and also noted that "global trade remains the most significant issue."

Ironically, manufacturing has borne the brunt of the 15-month US-China trade war, which has thumped business confidence. The Trump administration has argued that trade tariffs are necessary to protect industries from what it says is unfair foreign competition.

Transportation equipment orders fell 0.4 per cent in August after increasing 7.3 per cent in July.

# Gloomy US data sets yields falling for sixth straight day

REUTERS NEW YORK, OCTOBER 3

TREASURY YIELDS were lower for the sixth straight session on Thursday, with the two-year yield at its lowest since September 2017, after US service sector growth hit its slowest pace in three years last month.

The Institute for Supply Management said its index of non-manufacturing activity fell to 52.6 from 56.4 the previous month. The reading was below expectations of 55.0 from a Reuters poll of 67 economists and was the lowest since August 2016. The survey of purchasing managers also showed that job growth in the largest slice of the US economy was the weakest in half a decade.

"Yields are dropping like stones after the weaker-than-expected ISM services and factory data added to recession worries," wrote analysts at Action Economics. "The weak service sector report signals downside risk for Q3 GDP as well

as tomorrow's job report." Yields across maturities were lower, with the two-year Treasury yield, which is a proxy for investor expectations of interest rate moves, down 9.2 basis points to 1.392 per cent, extending a 7.2 basis point fall on Wednesday.

Expectations the Federal Reserve will cut rates by 25 basis points from its current target rate of 1.75-2.0 per cent in October jumped to 92.5 per cent on Thursday from 39.6 per cent on Monday, according to CME Group's FedWatch tool.

An October rate cut "is certainly a possibility but it is still not our baseline. But the Fed is certainly data-dependent and if that data weakens enough, then they will respond... We do continue to see the Fed as reactive rather than proactive, which is why even though the market was pricing in a greater chance of Fed cuts, we are not seeing that translate into higher inflation expectations," said Michael Pond, head of global inflation-linked research, Barclays.

**Government of India DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY Board of Radiation & Isotope Technology Engineering support**

Vashi Complex, Navi Mumbai 400703, September 25, 2019

**TENDER NOTICE NO. : BRIT/ES/2019-2020/06**

Chief Executive, BRIT, Vashi Complex, behind APMC Fruit Market, near Govt. Ware House, Turbhe, Navi Mumbai-400703, for and on behalf of The President Of India hereby invites sealed tenders from eligible contractors on the approved list of Central/State PWD, MES, Railway and others for the following work.

Description : Expansion of Security Facility / Construction of Access entry System Building in BRIT-Vashi Complex.

Estimated cost : Rs. 63,69,000.00 (Including GST)

Earnest money : Rs. 1,27,380/- (This deposit should be either in the form of Demand Draft or deposit at call Receipt issued in favour of Pay & Accounts Officer, BRIT)

Completion Period : Nine months.

Security Deposit : 5% Performance Guarantee + 2.5% Security Deposit

Tender documents will be available at the office of the Assistant Personnel Officer, BRIT, Vashi Complex, behind APMC Fruit Market, near Govt. Ware House, Turbhe, Navi Mumbai-400703, and can be purchased on any working day between 10.00 hrs. to 15.00 hrs. (excluding Sundays, Mondays and public holidays) from 05.10.2019 to 19.10.2019 on payment of Rs. 1000/- (Rupees One Thousand only) per set in cash (non refundable) against written application and on production of (a). Bank solvency certificate of minimum value Rs. 25.48 Lakhs (b). Latest income tax clearance certificate (Last 3 years), (c). List with evidence of similar works (Construction of civil works including RCC structure and civil related works) in hand and completed in last Seven years indicating agency for whom the work has been carried out, Value of work, stipulated and actual completion period, Present status. (The cost of work 40% of 3 similar works, 60% of 2 similar works or 80% of 1 similar work. (d). Performance / completion certificates, (e). List of construction plant & machinery. (f) List of Technical staff and administrative staff available, (g). Annual Turnover during last five years and (h) Proof of GST registration.

After examining these documents, blank tender forms shall be issued only to the firm prima facie found competent to carry out the tender job. Sale of tender/ opening of tender does not imply acceptance/approval. Tenders will not be sent by post. The tenders will be issued only after the verification of certificates with the originals.

Tenders duly filled in should be placed in sealed cover, prescribed with the name of work, should be deposited in the box provided at Security counter, Vashi Complex, behind APMC Fruit Market, near Govt. Ware House, Turbhe, Navi Mumbai-400 703, upto 14.00 hrs. on or before 22.10.2019 and will be opened by senior Manager (Engineering Support), BRIT, in his office at 15.00 hrs. on 22.10.2019 in the presence of such contractors who desires to attend.

Acceptance of tenders will rest with the Chief Executive, BRIT, Vashi Complex, who does not bind himself to accept the lowest or any other offer and reserves to himself the right to reject any or all the offer received without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Offers which do not fulfill all or any of the above conditions and incomplete in any respect are liable to be summarily rejected.

For further details regarding eligibility of contractors, conditions please visit [www.britatom.gov.in](http://www.britatom.gov.in)

Senior Manager (Engineering Support) For and on behalf of The President of India

**The Brihanmumbai Electric Supply & Transport Undertaking (OF THE BRIHANMUMBAI MAHANAGARPALIKA)**

**TENDER NOTICE**

e-tenders are invited for the supply of following items.

(1) 35947 - Triennial Contract for Xeroxing of Undertaking's documents by providing 4 Nos, Heavy Duty Digital Photocopier Machines, 1 each at 4 different locations.

**Re-invited e-tenders**

(2) 44592 - 10 KV Insulation Resistance Tester, (3) 44597 - Supply & Laying of HDPE Pipes Beneath Western & Central Railway Tracks for Cable Laying by Horizontal Directional Drilling (Trenchless) Technology (Corrigendum).

Note : For more details, at (Sr. No. 1) log on to website [www.besttender.com](http://www.besttender.com) & (Sr. Nos. 2 & 3) <https://mahatenders.gov.in>

PRO/IAAM(M)/66/2019 GENERAL MANAGER

**BRIDGE & ROOF CO. (INDIA) LTD.** (A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ENTERPRISE) CIN No. U27310WB1920603003601

"KANKARIA CENTRE, (4TH & 5TH FLOOR), 2/1, RUSSELL STREET, KOL-71

**NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER (e-BID) TENDER NO. : B&R / HO / DMER / 51160 / KARNAL / EPC-WIT / CW / PKG-(1R)**

Online Item-wise Lumpsum Rate Bid(s) / Offer(s) in Two part bid system are invited from Reputed, Resourceful and Experienced Parties meeting prescribed QUALIFYING CRITERIA for the work of "PLANNING, DESIGNING, CONSTRUCTION, FURNITURE, IT (NETWORKING) AND MAINTENANCE OF PANDIT DEEN DAYAL UPADHAYAYA UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES AT VILLAGE KUTALI, DISTRICT KARNAL, HARYANA UNDER DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH (DMER), GOVT. OF HARYANA, PANCHKULA, HARYANA-134115 ON EPC CONTRACT MODE (HOSPITAL BLOCK INCLUDING SUPPLY & INSTALLATION OF MGPS & MOT)."

Interested Bidders(s) will have to be enrolled & registered with the Government e-Procurement System; through logging on to <https://eprocure.gov.in>.

Addendum / Corrigendum, if any, shall be hosted in Company's website: [www.bridgeroof.co.in](http://www.bridgeroof.co.in) and CPP portal : <https://eprocure.gov.in> only.

THE LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF OFFER(S) : ON OR BEFORE 24.10.2019

**GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU - PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

Buildings (CBM) circles, (Medical Works) Madurai - 625 092.

Notice Inviting Tenders (Lumpsum Contract) (Pre qualification Tender) (Two Cover System) Short Term Tender Notice

Tender Notice No. : BT/SE/BC/MW/2019-2020/Dated : 03.10.2019

For and on behalf of Governor of Tamil Nadu sealed tenders are invited from the contractors registered in Public Works Department in the appropriate class to the office of Superintending Engineer, PWD, Buildings (CBM) circle, (Medical Works) Madurai upto 02.10 PM on 25.10.2019. Received tenders will be opened at 2.30 PM on the same day in the presence of all interested parties whose representatives who choose to be present at all time. The tender schedule can also available in office at 03.10.2019 to 24.10.2019 upto 5.45 PM

**PACKAGE NO. 05 : KANAMATHAPURAM, DISTRICT (20 SLICES)**

Construction of Health Sub Centre in Ramanaiduvaram District

Site No 1 Pularani, Site No 2 Nalliyarudi, Site No 3 Kanthankudi, Site No 4 Vagakkulam, Site No 5 Kullamurachi, Site No 6 Kanam, Site No 7 Alangantham, Site No 8 Puduvalam, Site No 9 Vethala, Site No 10 Perumthalam.

Site No 11 Vattayampuram, Site No 12 Orakkudi

Construction of Maternity ward in PWC in Ramanaiduvaram District.

Site No 13 Theerthai, Site No 14 Perurachi, Site No 15 Vennur, Site No 16 Thiruvayamam

Site No 17 Construction of Staff Quarters Building in PWC building of Vattayampuram Ramanaiduvaram District.

Site No 18 Construction of Out Patient Block in PWC building at Uchirahallam Ramanaiduvaram District.

Site No 19 Construction of Out Patient Block in PWC building at Vattayampuram Ramanaiduvaram District.

Site No 20 Construction of AMI Training Centre in PWC at Paruthiathur in Ramanaiduvaram District.

Package No. 5 : Total value of Slices Rs. 652.70 Lakhs

For further details and tender documents visit the website [www.tenders.tn.gov.in](http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in) and [www.besttender.com](http://www.besttender.com)

DIPR/3471/TENDER/2019 Superintending Engineer PWD, Buildings (CBM) circle (Medical Works) Madurai.

**TAMILNADU MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LIMITED**

No.417, Pantheon Road, Egmore, Chennai-600 008.

Phone : 28191890 / 28190259; Fax: 044 - 28190636

E-Mail: [equipment.tnmsc@tn.gov.in](mailto:equipment.tnmsc@tn.gov.in)

**NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING - TENDER EXTENSION NOTICE**

1. The Government of Tamilnadu has received a Financing (Loan No. IN8499) from the World Bank towards the cost of Tamil Nadu Road Sector Project II and it is intended that part of the proceeds will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts for which this Invitation for Bids is issued.

2. The due date for the tender is extended as follows:

S. N.	Description	IFB No	Sale period	Last date and time for receipt of bid	Date and time of opening of bid
1	Modular Operation Theatre (1)	RSP1/NCB/TNRSPI-//TNMSC/ENGG/19 dt.02.05.19	Upto 10.10.19	11.10.19, 11.00 AM	11.10.19, 12.00 PM
2	Angiography C-Arm based with Angiosuite (1)	RSP2/NCB/TNRSPI-//TNMSC/ENGG/19 dt.02.05.19	Upto 22.10.19	23.10.19, 03.00 PM	23.10.19, 04.00 PM

For details visit [www.tenders.tn.gov.in](http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in) and TNMSC website: [www.tnmsc.com](http://www.tnmsc.com)

DIPR/3471/Tender/2019 General Manager (E)

# US weekly jobless claims rise

Washington: The number of Americans filing applications for unemployment benefits rose marginally last week, suggesting the labor market remains strong even as employers are becoming more cautious about hiring workers.

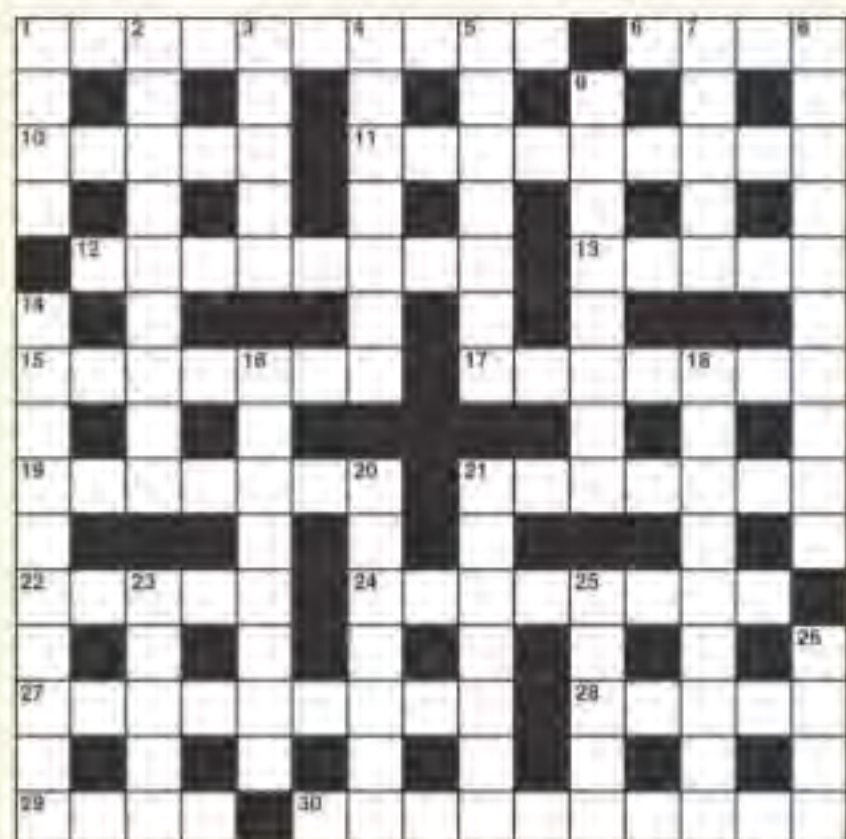
Labor market strength was reinforced by other data on Thursday showing a sharp drop in layoffs announced by US-based employers in September. REUTERS







## CROSSWORD 3928



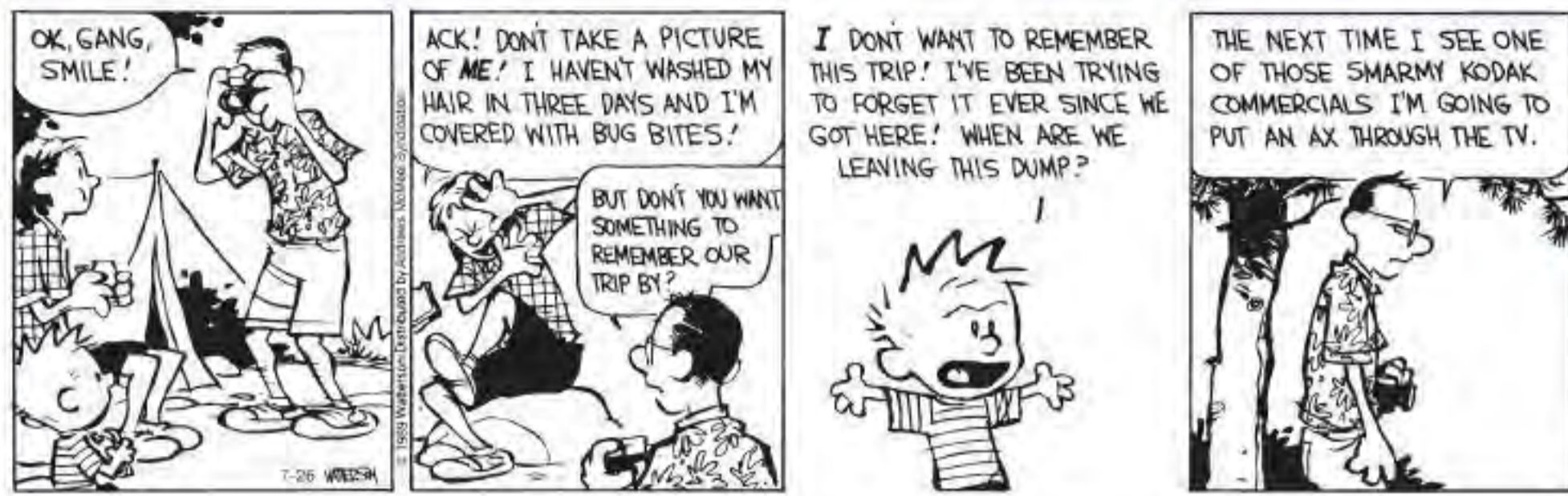
- ACROSS**
- 1 A meal's been cooked for sailors (4,6)
  - 6 Word to describe Bush's presidency for example? (4)
  - 10 Ten is about all right as a symbol (5)
  - 11 Far Eastern symbol of the dawn (6,3)
  - 12 Burst into song about wine? Fair enough! (8)
  - 13 Not above using two foreign articles (5)
  - 15 Maybe Lister had a point making things so (7)
  - 17 Time for expansion (7)
  - 19 Before the vote, this will decide the issue (7)
  - 21 Lettuce goes down for pets (7)
  - 22 It may be grand entertainment (5)
  - 24 The virtue of having spoken it in my presence (8)
  - 27 Society member who is not even a member of society (9)
  - 28 Very much a negative result (2,3)
  - 29 Long pointless story (4)
  - 30 It's rather a colourless affair, mind (4,6)
- DOWN**
- 1 Plays parts or play's parts (4)
  - 2 Mere versifiers (4,5)
  - 3 Foreign title, possibly Norse (5)
  - 4 Express a policy on travel service (7)
  - 5 Officers sensing change (7)
  - 7 Used some oil from a seed perhaps (5)
  - 8 He has a liking for sovereigns (10)
  - 9 Asks how paper may be sold (8)
  - 14 Subject for those who have the mind to study (10)
  - 16 Took off (8)
  - 18 Well, no one wants it! (9)
  - 20 Even as a loser, he's still better (7)
  - 21 Spice for which transport is not immediately available (7)
  - 23 Tree, evidently of some antiquity (5)
  - 25 Girl puts lad in turmoil (5)
  - 26 Love on the German river (4)

Solutions Crossword 3927: Across: 1 Baptist, 5 Rifts, 8 Lethargic, 9 Cat, 10 Saps, 12 Previous, 14 Plover, 15 Brainy, 17 One-sided, 18 Used, 21 Act, 22 Insurance, 24 Curry, 25 Trainer. Down: 1 Bales, 2 Pet, 3 Ivan, 4 Tigers, 5 Recovery, 6 Factors, 7 Satisfy, 11 Protector, 13 Felicity, 14 Prosaic, 16 Tea set, 19 Dread, 20 Area, 23 Nun.

## OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



## CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



## MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



## JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

Crude classifications and false generalizations are the curse of the \_\_\_ life. - H. G. Wells (9)

HMAER



KNPIO



EOOWDN



ABEOGZ



SOLUTION: HAREM, PINKO, WOODEN, CAZERO  
Answer: Crude classifications and false generalizations are the curse of the organized life. - H. G. Wells

## SUDOKU 3989

**Difficulty Level 5s**  
**Instructions**  
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

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



## SOLUTION SUDOKU 3988



**Government Of Jharkhand Urban Development Department**  
**OFFICE OF THE NAGAR PARISHAD MADHUPUR**  
**Very Short Notice Inviting Tender**  
E-Tender Reference no-**UDD/MMC/05/2019-20** Date :- .....2019

Sl. No	Name of work	BOQ Amount cost (Rs.)	Earnest money (Rs.)	Cost of tender paper (Rs.)	Class of contractor eligibility	Time of Completion	Name of the concerned office
1	Construction of "MULTI PURPOSE CULTURAL COMPLEX AT NEW BUS STAND CAMPUS, NEAR LA-OPALA FACTORY" in Madhupur	Rs. 55614314.00/-	Rs. 556143.00/-	Rs. 10,000/- (Non-Refundable)	1 <sup>st</sup> class only	24 Months	Executive Officer, Nagar Parishad Madhupur

Helpline No.- 7368005128  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER, NAGAR PARISHAD MADHUPUR  
P.R.218658 Deoghar(19-20)-D

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION HAZARIBAG**  
Letter no :- 1200 e-tender notice Dated :- 01.10.2019

Tender Reference no - WRD/MID/HAZARIBAG/F2-03/2019-20

Group no	Name of Scheme	Estimated Cost (in lakh)	Time of Completion
1	Renovation of Joraga M.I Scheme Block - Keradari, Dist- Hazaribag.	121.605	11 Month
2	Renovation of Jamna Belu Ahar Block - Keradari, Dist- Hazaribag.	125.418	11 Month
3	Renovation of Salga Nala M.I Scheme Block - Keradari, Dist- Hazaribag.	179.443	11 Month
4	Renovation of Ram Sagar M.I Scheme Block - Ichak, Dist- Hazaribag.	179.659	11 Month
5	Renovation of Jamarai Dam Block - Ichak, Dist - Hazaribag.	121.748	11 Month
6	Renovation of Shrinagar M.I Scheme Block - Barhi, Dist - Hazaribag.	125.782	11 Month
7	Renovation of Belkapi Ahar Block - Barkatha, Dist - Hazaribag.	160.746	11 Month
8	Renovation of Buchai M.I Scheme Block - Barkatha, Dist - Hazaribag.	127.614	11 Month

Note:- Only e-Tender will be accepted.  
Further details can be seen on website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>  
P.R. 218664 Mines and Geology (19-20)-D

**EAST DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**  
**REMUNERATIVE PROJECT CELL, UDYOG SADAN, 419, F.I.E. INDUSTRIAL AREA, PATPARGANJ, DELHI-110092**  
No. AC/RPC/EDMC/2019/D-559 Dated 03.10.2019  
Sub: Extension of last date for submission of bids in respect of Surface Parking NIT No. D-426 dated 26.08.2019. - reg.

In reference to this office NIT No. D-426 dated 26.08.2019, vide which bids/tenders were invited for surface parking NIT, the competent authority has decided to extend the last date for submission of bids up to 15.10.2019. The revised scheduled is as under -

Date of placement of Tender Box : 15.10.2019 at 10.00 AM  
Last date of submission of Bids : 15.10.2019 upto 01.00 PM  
Opening of Technical Bids : 15.10.2019 at 02.00 PM  
Opening of Financial Bids : To be declared later

Further, the bidders who have already applied for the said NIT may not apply again for the same site which they have already applied. However, if they apply for the same site again, the earlier bid would be considered invalid. In such case the bidder should deposit the difference of EMD if any.

SD/-  
Assistant Commissioner  
RP Cell, EDMC  
RO No. 61/DPI/East/2019-20  
EDMC's Citizens Helpline No. 155303

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR, SHER-I-KASHMIR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, SOURA**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL**  
E-mail: mechanicalskims@gmail.com

**SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS**  
e-NIT NO. 23 OF 2019-20 Dated: 25.09.2019

For and on behalf of Governor of Jammu & Kashmir State, the Executive Engineer, Mechanical, SKIMS, Soura, Srinagar, invites Online e-Bids in Two (02) Covey System from Registered/ Reputed and Experienced Firms having expertise as detailed in the Tender Document for the following works:

Sr. No.	Name of the Work	Estimated Cost (In Rs.)
1.	Providing of Medical Gas Facility to the Operation Theatre of Vet Lab at SKIMS, Soura	9,34,285/-

The complete Tender Document is available at website: <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested Bidders/Tenderers may view, download the e-Bid Document, seek clarification and submit their Bids Online upto the Date and Time mentioned in the Table below. Tender Documents contain Qualifying Criteria for Bidders, Specifications, Bills of Quantities, & Terms and Conditions of the Contract and other relevant details.

i)	Date and Time of Downloading/Sale of Tender Documents (Starting Date)	26.09.2019 from 11.00 Hours
ii)	Date and Time of Bidding Queries/Clarification/Pre-Bid Meet	30.09.2019 at 11.00 Hours
iii)	Last Date & Time of Bid Uploading	09.10.2019 upto 16.00 Hours
iv)	Date of Submission of Hard Copies. (Only Original EMD/DD for Document Fee)	11.10.2019 upto 14.00 Hours
v)	Date & Time of Commercial/ Technical Bid (Cover-I) Opening	12.10.2019 11.00 Hours (Or next convenient day)
vi)	Date & Time of Financial Bid (Cover-IInd) Opening of the Qualifying Bidders	Shall be intimated separately
vii)	Cost of e-Bid Document	Rs. 500/- (Rupees Five Hundred only)
viii)	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit (CDR/ FDR)	Rs. 18700/- (Rupees Eighteen Thousand & Seven Hundred only)
ix)	Completion Time	Thirty (30) Days
x)	Budget Head	CD-165 for the Year 2019-20

No.: SIMS 139 EX.451/19-1275-85-3592-3595  
Dated: 25.09.2019  
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Mechanical, SKIMS.

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR, SHER-I-KASHMIR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, SOURA**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL**  
Tel.: E-mail: mechanicalskims@gmail.com

**SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE**  
Gist of e-NIT NO. 22 OF 2019-20 Dated: 25.09.2019

For and on behalf of Governor of Jammu & Kashmir State, Executive Engineer, Mechanical, SKIMS, Soura, Srinagar, invites e-Tenders from Registered/Reputed/Experienced Firms, having relevant experience of Repairs and Maintenance of Hot Water Generators on Annual Contract Basis.

Sr. No.	Name of the Work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)
1.	General Overhauling of Hot Water Generators of various Capacities in Boiler House of Nursing College, Trust Hospital, Doctors/Nursing Hostel & Advance Human Genetic Centre at SKIMS, Soura	Rs. 7,53,350.00

The complete Tender Document is available at website: <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested Bidders/Tenderers may view, download the e-Bid Document, seek clarification and submit their Bids Online upto the Date and Time mentioned in the Table below. Tender Documents contain Qualifying Criteria for Bidders, Specifications, Bills of Quantities, & Terms and Conditions of the Contract and other relevant details.

i)	Date and Time of Downloading/Sale of Tender Documents (Starting Date)	26.09.2019 at 11.00 Hours
ii)	Date and Time of Bidding Queries/Clarification/Pre-Bid Meet	30.09.2019 at 11.00 Hours
iii)	Last Date & Time of Bid Uploading	04.10.2019 upto 14.00 Hours
iv)	Date of Submission of Hard Copies. (Only Original EMD/DD for Document Fee)	05.10.2019 upto 14.00 Hours
v)	Date & Time of Commercial/ Technical Bid (Cover-I) Opening	09.10.2019 at 11.00 Hours (Or next convenient day)
vi)	Date & Time of Financial Bid (Cover-IInd) Opening of the Qualifying Bidders	Shall be intimated separately
vii)	Cost of e-Bid Document	Rs. 500/- (Rupees Five Hundred only)
viii)	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit (CDR/ FDR)	Rs. 15,000/- (Rupees Fifteen Thousand only)
ix)	Completion Time	One Month
x)	Budget Head	M&R Works 2019-20

No.: SIMS 139 EX.465/19-1258-67-3588-3591  
Dated: 25.09.2019  
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Mechanical, SKIMS.

**SEARCH FOR MISSING BOY**

General public is here by informed that one boy Namely: Gulshan, S/o Sh. Bachan Singh R/o H.No. C-75, Shakurpur, JJ Colony, Delhi Age: 06 years, Height: 3'4", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Long, Built: Thin, Wearing: Black & Red Shirt and Half Nikkar and Hawai Chappal in feet has been missing / kidnapped since 18.09.2019.

In this regard a FIR No. 333/19 dated 18.09.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Subhash Place, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this boy but no clue has come to light so far.

Any person having any information or clue about this boy kindly inform to the following.

E-Mail: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) SHO  
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> P.S. Subhash Place, Delhi  
Fax: 011-24368639 Ph. 011-27356336, 27356314  
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 DP/9432/NW/19

**REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS**  
**MINISTRY OF HEALTH & QUALITY OF LIFE**  
HSCC/Mauritius/Fiacq/2019 Date: 03.10.2019

**NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER (NIT)**  
Ministry of Health & Quality of Life, Republic of Mauritius invites online rate bids on International Competitive Basis through their Consultants HSCC (India) Limited from eligible contractors/firms for the following works:

Name & Description of Work	Estimated Cost (in Mauritian Rupees)	Tender available online and Last date to fill/upload the tender through e-Tendering	Bid Security (in Mauritian Rupees)
Construction of Teaching Hospital at Fiacq, Mauritius.	2781 Million	From 11.10.2019 to 08.11.2019 upto 15.00 hrs and opening on 08.11.2019 at 15.30 hrs.	28.81 Million

Completion period is 22 calendar months.  
For tender details, please refer detailed NIT on e-tender portal <http://www.tenderwzard.com> and HSCC and Republic of Mauritius websites [www.health.govmu.org](http://www.health.govmu.org) and [www.hscck.com](http://www.hscck.com) and Republic of Mauritius websites: [www.health.govmu.org](http://www.health.govmu.org) and [publicprocurement.govmu.org](http://publicprocurement.govmu.org) as per the terms and conditions of the tender documents. Prospective bidders are advised to regularly scan through HSCC websites <http://www.tenderwzard.com>, <http://www.hscck.com> and Republic of Mauritius websites: [www.health.govmu.org](http://www.health.govmu.org) and [publicprocurement.govmu.org](http://publicprocurement.govmu.org) as per the terms and conditions of the tender documents. 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# 25 TALK ART, MUSIC, STYLE, FOOD



**SOMETHING'S COMING**  
Oscar-winner Steven Spielberg has wrapped up the shooting for his next film in New York. The film is a remake of the 1957 musical *West Side Story*. The film stars Rita Moreno, who was there in the original, and has Ansel Elgort and Rachel Zegler. It releases in December 2020.

## Goddess Goes Green

Durga Puja *pandals* in the Capital stay eco-friendly and attempt to find an alternative to the Yamuna

PALLAVI CHATTOPADHYAY

EVERY YEAR, the Kashmere Gate Durga Puja members cling to their 110-year-old tradition of having a bullock cart carry the goddess Durga to the immersion site at Yamuna. This year as the oldest public Durga Puja of Delhi stands in the premises of Bengali Senior Secondary School, it faces a threat. Circulars by the Delhi Pollution Control Committee have prohibited the immersion of idols in the river. What they have instead is an artificial pond in Burari, 10 km away from their *pandal* for their 15-ft idol. Robin Bose, general secretary of the organising committee, says, "Yamuna is out of bounds but to see Durga immersed in black, filthy water is extremely emotional for us. However, it is difficult to make our bullock cart travel so far. We have requested the deputy chief minister's office for an immersion site that is closer."

Meanwhile, the Kashmere Gate *pandal* has switched to bowls (*dona*) made of leaves, in place of thermocol ones, for their *bhog* and



*prasad*. Designing its interiors like the Jorasanko neighbourhood of Kolkata, where the ancestral house of Rabindranath Tagore sits, it has replicas of the author's books and sculptures within it as well. Going the same route of green cutlery is the Matri Mandir Sarbojanin Durga Puja Samiti at Matri Mandir in Safdarjung Enclave, where they will serve *bhog* in betel leaf plates. Debashis Saha, General Secretary of the Samiti, says, "Earlier it was thermocol plates. With



the ban on plastic, the expenditure has gone up three times."

The *pandals* at Chittaranjan Park, known for hosting some of the best Durga Pujas in Delhi, has left no stone unturned to attract footfalls. The Cooperative Ground Durga Puja Samiti welcomes visitors with photo collages of two doyens of Indian music on their birth centenary, Hemanta Mukherjee and Manna Dey. Mukherjee's song *Ranar*, that tells of a postman who travelled through jungles to

deliver letters, with a lantern in hand, is given a pictorial depiction on a wall. Dey's Bengali song *Coffee Houser sei addata* of friends and the famous Indian Coffee House at College Street in Kolkata shines on another mural. Shorba Bong, member of the executive committee, informs about a singing competition. "We are also getting Ankita Bhattacharyya, this year's winner of Zee Bangla's *Sa Re Ga Ma Pa*, and *Indian Idol* participant Amit Paul." For the first time, the Samiti will immerse



(From far left) *Pandals* at Mayur Vihar Phase 1; K Block, Chittaranjan Park Praveen Khanna; Aradhana Park, IP Extension Abhinav Saha

their idol within their own premises in a 20 x 8 ft pit.

Meanwhile, the Milani Durga Puja association in Mayur Vihar Phase 1 has taken the "Save Earth" theme literally. Two hands hold the earth at the entrance, with fire emerging from above, to depict the *panch-tattva*. Artist Sudip Ranjan Routh from Kolkata has created replicas of peacocks, trees and water. He says, "The inspiration has been how we can preserve nature

through our Vedic knowledge." The idol in light sea blue has been made entirely from mud and eco-friendly dyes. The Durga Puja *pandal* by the Indraprastha Matri Mandir Nirman Society at Aradhana Park in IP Extension has gone further and used recycled items sourced from junkyards and scrap dealers. With gas cylinders for heads and steel scrap for bodies, the idols are accompanied with decorations made from used bulbs and soft drink cans.

### TALK CHECKS OUT

## Arigato, from Tokyo

Japanese high street brand enters India with fanfare and kurtas in tow



The brand has collaborated with designer Rina Singh for their kurta collection

EKTAA MALIK

THE RED-and-white signage of Uniqlo stand out even in the frenzy of other brightly lit signage that dot the Ambience mall in Vasant Kunj, New Delhi. 'Tokyo to Delhi' reads the tagline. The signs are just the top of the iceberg — the first-ever store of the Japanese clothing brand in India is spread over 35,000 feet and three floors and they are serious about their business here.

Every available surface — in white — is stacked with clothes that range from womenswear, mens, kids and babies. A large mural encompassing three walls, grabs your attention. Delhi and its daily grind have been captured beautifully by illustrator Dattaraj M. Naik. And local artist Johnson Kshetrimayum has created an installation using lambswool. Both these artworks have been helped by graphic designer Hanif Kureshi.

Uniqlo has its traces in the 1949 company Ogori Shoji, that was based in Yamaguchi. They branched out in 1984 with a unisex casualwear store, that was named Unique Clothing Warehouse, it went through various changes and today it's known as Uniqlo.

From casual jeans, hoodie dresses, corduroy jackets, winter coats and trenches to formal trousers, shirts and blazers, neat rows separate the clothes. Knitwear in bold winter colours is juxtaposed with neat plaid ensembles.

One also sees their collaboration with designer Rina Singh for their kurta collection. They range from cotton, and have rayon and twill variations. Winter wear is dominant with thick socks, puffer jackets, beanies, berets and mufflers. You can also design your own T-shirt at the Design your UT station. Their flagship Ultra light down jacket — a version of the puffer jacket — is a must have for the season at Rs 3,500.

The store opens its doors today. For those who have been shopping overseas for the brand, this is good news. But the apprehension looms — will they deliver on their promise of high quality or will they go the way many other high-street brands have, by compromising to meet the demands of scale.



## Such a Long Journey

A book by the Indian ambassador in the Netherlands highlights the historical and current exchanges that define the relationship between the two countries

POOJA PILLAI

THE FIRST book in which Malayalam appears in print is the *Hortus Malabaricus* (*Garden of Malabar*), a 12 volume treatise, written in Latin and published in Amsterdam from 1678 to 1693. Compiled over a period of 30 years, under directions from Hendrik van Rheede, a naturalist and colonial administrator, who was at the time the governor of Dutch Malabar, the *Hortus Malabaricus* gives a comprehensive account of the flora of the Malabar region, along with their properties and detailed sketches. Malayalam appears in this multilingual book, along with other languages that were common currency at the time, including Arabic and Konkani.

The *Hortus Malabaricus* was an important document of its time, the product, as Venu Rajamony writes in his new book *India and the Netherlands: Past, Present and Future*, "of a multinational and multicultural team of botanical experts." Yet, it remained lost to the public until a botany and taxonomy scholar from Calicut, KS Manilal, learned Latin and translated it first into English in 2003 and into Malayalam in 2008.

Highlighting such instances of the Indo-Dutch artistic and cultural exchange through the last 400 years was one of the reasons why Rajamony, who has been the Ambassador of India to the Netherlands since June 10, 2017. The book was released on September 30 at the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam, with the first copy being presented to the King and Queen of Netherlands, Willem-Alexander and Maxima.

"When I was appointed the Ambassador, I began reading the history of the Indo-Dutch relationship, and found so much information that is not widely known in India as well as in the Netherlands. There was much exchange of art and scholarship, and I felt that I must tell this story of how the two countries have complemented each other," says Rajamony, over the phone from the Hague. The release of the book comes ahead of the King and Queen's visit to India later this month, with their largest trade delegation.

The connection between India and the Netherlands begins with the Dutch Golden Age, when latter was a flourishing centre for commercial and artistic endeavours. Following Spain, Portugal and Great Britain, it also emerged as one of the great maritime nations of the world, establishing a far-flung empire thanks to the ven-



(Clockwise from top) *Parade of the Sons of Shah Jahan on Composite Horses and Elephants*, Willem Schellinks, late 17th century © Victoria and Albert Museum, London; *Venu Rajamony; the book cover; title page of 'Hortus Malabaricus', 1678. Open Source CC 0.1.0 Universal; Caunga. 'Hortus Indicus Malabaricus', Vol.1, 1678-1703. Wellcome Collection. CC BY*

tures of the The Vereenigde Oostindische Compagnie (VOC), better known as the Dutch East India Company. Over the course of his research for the book, Rajamony says, one of the things that surprised him was how taken the great Dutch master Rembrandt van Rijn was with Indian miniature paintings, collecting them and even making drawings inspired by them. "I was pleasantly surprised to discover this



## Good, Bad, Better

Akarsh Khurana captures on stage, a sweep of emotions, from betrayal to redemption, and places, from Afghanistan to America, in *The Kite Runner*

DIPANITA NATH

AKARSH KHURANA has been to war before. In 2011, he presented *Baghdad Wedding* after carrying it inside himself for three years. The production, about the relationship among three friends in Iraq during the US occupation, won three awards at the prestigious Mahindra Excellence in Theatre Awards 2012, including Best Play. It also laid the ground for another drama set in a world that's turned into a battleground, *The Kite Runner*. The play is a part of Aadyam and will be staged in Delhi's Kamani auditorium on October 5 and 6.

Khurana, founder of theatre group AKvarious Productions, confesses to being a procrastinator, and glosses over the detail that he has produced more than 60 plays in 19 years of which he has directed more than 20. Or that, as a young theatre person, he won Best Director twice at Thespo, the country's foremost youth theatre festivals. Excerpts from an interview with Khurana:

cence lost and decisions taken, but these are told against a backdrop of conflict. There is an element of conflict throughout the story but the play is also about internal conflict. You are invested in a man's journey as he tries to find redemption for himself. There are mentions of Afghanistan, a happy and peaceful place until all hell breaks loose and the Taliban rolls in.

**The plot travels across geographical locations. How do you recreate this on stage?**

One of the biggest challenges was that the plot starts in Afghanistan, moves to San Francisco and then to Pakistan, and back to Afghanistan. Rather than being literal, we decided to build the play on Amir's memories. We chose a slightly abstract set. When you walk in, it feels as if you have walked into the ruins of something that was once beautiful. This theme permeates the story; whether it is about a country that was once beautiful and went to rot or about a relationship that was once strong and then went into a traumatic space.



Akarsh Khurana

**The Kite Runner was published in 2003. What took you so long to create the play?**

When I saw the adaptation in a bookshop, I was very surprised because I thought this was a very difficult book to adapt. I feel *Baghdad Wedding* was a boot camp for me because, if I hadn't done that, I would not have been able to achieve *The Kite Runner*.

**The story involves great political events, such as the Soviet conquest of Afghanistan and the rise of the Taliban, among others. How do you balance the personal story of two boys with the political upheavals?**

The events in the book span the 1970s to when the World Trade Centres came down. It is almost like a period play. For me, the story has great human resonance. It revolves around Amir, the protagonist, and his guilt and betrayal. It is a story of inno-

**You have made some unconventional casting decisions, especially of Nipun Dharmadhikari as Amir. How do you choose your actors?**

It's instinct. Nipun is more a director than an actor but I have known him as a person and he played a small role in my film, *Karwaan*. There is a vulnerability about him as well as a thinking side. This is what I wanted. It is an unconventional choice, and that will divide opinion. Casting my father (Akash Khurana) as Baba, Amir's father, seemed obvious, but he comes with a great deal of experience and talent and I knew that, emotionally, he would be the spine of the play. Abhishek Saha, who is playing Hassan, Amir's childhood friend, is a huge fan of the book. He is a wonderful actor but it was his passion for the text that really drew me to say yes to him.

### AROUND TOWN

#### Posture and Pray



**Anatomy of Belief.** The performance choreography is a response to an environment of growing intolerance. It delves into four universally familiar gestures of praying — bowing, kneeling, lowering the forehead to the floor and bringing the palms together. At Oddbird Theatre, October 4, 7.30 pm. Passes available at [oddbird.org](#).



#### Capital Times

REVISIT THE Delhi of yore through the works of Habib Rahman, Madan Mahatta and Raghu Rai, which will be showcased at Ojas Art Gallery. Curated by Anubhav Nath, the exhibition brings 45 photographs from the 1940-1950s. At the Ojas Art Gallery, till November 12.

#### Celebration Galore

CELEBRATE DUSSHERA with the 63rd presentation of 'Sampoorna Ramlila', presented by Shriram Bhartiya Kala

Kendra, and curated by Shobha Deepak Singh. The story of Ram's battle with Raavan and the eventual defeat of Raavan is recreated each year with much fanfare all over India. 6.30 pm onwards, at the Shriram Bhartiya Kala Kendra lawns. Till October 25.



WOMEN'S T20I

## INDIA SECURE SERIES WIN

India defeated South Africa by five wickets in the fifth T20I, taking an unassailable 3-0 lead in the six-match series. After restricting SA to 98 for 8, India chased down the target in 17.1 overs, with skipper Harmanpreet Kaur making 34\* off 32 balls.

# Making of Mayank Agarwal

As the Bangalore batsman's maiden double ton flattens SA, those close to him recall how he bounced back from self-doubt, slump to become India's Test opener

**SRIRAM VEERA**  
VISAKHAPATNAM, OCTOBER 3

SOMETIME IN April 2017, Mayank Agarwal was chatting with Ramesh Mane, or Mane Kaka as the long-time masseur and mentor of the Indian team was fondly called by the players. It was during the IPL and Mane Kaka was with the Royal Challengers Bangalore, Agarwal's team.

"It's my dream, *sapna hai*, to play for India, kaka. I know I have to work on my mental side of the game and I am willing to do anything that can help me." Mane Kaka remembers telling him that it's the "law of nature that you will seek what you get".

"And then I gave him the book *The Power Of Your Subconscious Mind* by Joseph Murphy, an expert on the subject. Mayank soaked it all up — *jo bolte hain na juice nikaal diya* — and he would keep having chats with me on it. His father, I think, had told him to take up Vipassana, the ancient Buddhist meditative practice, and that too played a big part in calming his mind. He was already a tremendously hardworking boy and with the efforts he started on the mental side of his game, I knew it was a matter of time before he would play for India," Mane told *The Indian Express* on the day Agarwal starred with a double ton to push India to a mammoth total before Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja sent shivers down the spine of South African batting unit, which wobbled to 39/3 by the end of the second day.

Mane, who runs an acupuncture and physiotherapy clinic in Mumbai these days, was a happy man.

Back at his Bangalore home, Agarwal's mother Suchitra Singh was fidgeting with her set-top box. She had just been informed that her son had reached a double hundred and she began to replay that moment from the recording she had started at the start of the day. Suchitra doesn't watch the match live when her son is playing — "I can never watch him live!" — and enjoyed the moment.

The only condition she and her husband Anurag put on their son, she says, was that he would ensure he got 50-60 per cent in exams and progress to the next class. "We never stopped him from playing when he was young. We didn't know the ABC of the game but his school coach was impressed and wanted him to take up the game seriously. We just let him follow his dream," Suchitra told this newspaper.

When Agarwal was scorching left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj with a series of inside-out lofted hits, his former Ranji coach J Arunkumar was smiling at home. It looked as if it was a natural shot, such as the ease and control, but Arunkumar knew the phase when Agarwal would repeatedly lose his wicket to left-arm spinners in domestic cricket.

"He had only an attacking response and that too the heave to the leg side against the left-arm. Sometimes he would step out but would hole out to long-off or wherever," Arunkumar recalls.

The pair worked on strengthening Agarwal's defence against left-arm spin to start with. "Simple stuff, getting left-arm spinners to bowl on a roughed-up surface and him batting on and on against them, tightening his defence. Slowly, he grew in confidence about that part of his game which helped him attack better as now he was in better control and could choose his shots carefully."

Agarwal would not only work at it in Ranji nets but also take it forward with his long-time personal coach RX Murali.

"Then the attacking options and rotating-strike shots on the off-side were worked upon. Those inside-out shots, for example, the use of wrists. And the pushes and dabs into gaps. Also, I would make him play the drives from the crease. Not just to stop him from running down the track without a game plan but also help him get better control over his drives: now he had to stretch forward and across, get the wrists working to keep the ball in the gaps or loft it if he is in full control," Arunkumar says. "I was watching the match and was marvelling at how he made all those off-side shots look so natural — because it has become natural now for him."

**Agarwal's 215 helped push India to a mammoth total before Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja sent shivers down the spine of South African batting unit, which wobbled to 39/3 by the end of the second day.**

In the past, Agarwal has talked about how his long-distance running has helped his endurance levels to play long innings and on Thursday, he also spoke about how he would bat for hours and hours with Murali. "I would bat for two-and-a-half hours, take a break, and then start again." All that has helped him play long knocks like this.

Another man who was watching Agarwal's knock closely was his former Ranji captain, ex-India seamer R Vinay Kumar.

He too was impressed with Agarwal's shots against the left-arm spinners. "I remember there was a time I told him, 'Mayank, you have to improve your batting against left-arm spinners, and spinners in general. All the teams have now started to use them against you and even if they have a long-off, they know you will give him a catch and get out.' He took it on board and worked hard with his coaches and has turned things around."

Vinay, in fact, played a key role in turning around Agarwal's career at its lowest phase. In 2017, Agarwal had a very lean patch in the domestic season and it was speculated that he would be dropped for a Ranji Trophy game against Maharashtra in Pune. Vinay remembers telling the youngster not to worry, that he would back him, and he would play that game. "He thought he would be dropped but I knew his talent and value to the team. I told him just think of this as a fresh start, forget the past, 'you are too good to keep failing'. Also, as a captain, I tend to worry if a batsman gets starts and then throws them away. That sometimes tells about the temperament and approach. Mayank that season was getting out cheaply, he hadn't spent any time in the middle and it was not as if he was throwing his wickets. There were some good balls too."

Agarwal hit a triple hundred that game and last year, after making his India debut, he had publicly shared that he had called Vinay to thank him for not dropping him for that Maharashtra game in 2017 and how it helped his turnaround.

"Since then, he has improved in all aspects of his game. The skills were always there but even there he improved his all-round game. Then the mental side of it. Then I think very importantly, his fitness too," Vinay says. "When you are fit, your mental strength improves. Physical tiredness can tire you mentally too — and that's why all the bad shots come. Like he would make lovely 40s and get out. He worked hard on his fitness and everything began to fall in place."

Agarwal's Ranji team-mate Robin Uthappa too remembered the lean days and how it used to affect him. "There was a lot of talk about him just being a limited-overs batsman and Mayank was getting restless. He used to take failure to heart. He was highly energetic and very excitable as a character, he has now learnt to calm down in the middle, have a routine of sorts, and all that has helped him mellow down, and focus better... He worked really hard at his game. The trigger movement, in particular, was revamped. The front foot used to come across, and create problems for him: the head was moving but he has a really stable base now. He thinks a lot about his game."

Just one final piece of puzzle was left. He had already transformed from an energetic youngster to a calmer version who was in control of his mind but he would still obsess about his game. Enter Rahul Dravid, who was the India A coach last year. Dravid felt that Agarwal wasn't able to manage his mental energy well as he was perhaps over-thinking about his game which caused mental fatigue. That he was putting too much pressure on himself as a result.

Agarwal eased off after that, rather learnt how to switch on and off from the game, and as runs began to pile up, the Indian selectors had to finally relent.



Mayank Agarwal celebrates his maiden Test double hundred on Day 2 of the first match against South Africa on Thursday. PTI

## Suffers attack Agarwal's pads, but no reversal in fortunes

**SANDIP G**  
OCTOBER 3

LIKE DESPERATE teams in desperate times, South Africa resorted to bowling outside the leg-stump from around the stumps to strangle the free-scoring ways of Mayank Agarwal and Rohit Sharma. But the buoyant India openers dismantled the ploy with a spate of reverse sweeps.

**THE PREAMBLE:** With the runs mounting, the run rate escalating and the strip getting slower, Faf du Plessis summoned left-arm spinner Senuran Muthusamy and made him bowl over the stumps, setting a 7-2 leg-side heavy field, leaving the offside open with a point and mid-off. The logic was straightforward, stem the run flow, build pressure, and induce a false stroke. Even if it didn't bargain a wicket, they could at least drag India's innings deep into the day. A bit of Ashley Giles-like strategy in years gone by. Only that, Faf failed to factor in the improvisational skills of the pair.

**DUSTING UP AN OLD FAVOURITE:** In his ambition to remodel his long-form game, Agarwal had eschewed the reverse-sweep, in fact, all kinds of sweep shots that were risk-prone but his staple. But past his hundred,

and his team looking to hoard as many runs as possible before the predicted rain, Agarwal summoned the reverse-sweep. He played the stroke three times, in three different directions, and all three shots found the boundary. The first one was dinked through backward point, the second slapped to third-man and the last wristed through point.

**PRE-DETERMINED, NOT PREMEDITATED:** Surely, Agarwal must have made up his mind before playing the reverse-sweeps, but im-

portantly, he hadn't picked his spots. He would wait for the trajectory of the ball to decide where he would tuck them. In the first instance, off a ball pitched way outside the leg-stump, he had to fetch the ball. So he chose to hit it squarer to point. The next was of offie Dane Piedt, which was homing on the leg-and-middle. This meant, he could use the pace and work the ball finer to third man with the angle. The third one, again off Muthusamy, was slower, so he had to use more power and smear it like a two-handed

backhand in tennis. The fundamental reason for the accuracy was Agarwal's shape and balance, each feeding off the other. And he always looked to play inside the line of the ball which meant he could play the ball, and place it where he wanted to, at the very last moment. Also, he was careful not to over-use the shot.

**BACK TO 6-3:** Not just Mayank, even Rohit chimed in with a reverse sweep, rare for him even in the shortest format, forcing Faf to ditch the unrewarding ploy. The Proteas skipper knew the dangers of it. With empty expanses on the off-side, even decent connection would take the ball to the rope. A defensive play was thus rendered utterly counter-productive. He switched to a more conventional 6-3 field in a little less than four overs. As soon as he changed his tactic, the Indians stopped the reverse sweeps too. In fact, Rohit and Agarwal resoundingly answered every question South Africa's bowlers threw up.

**(Getting to the double hundred) It's a feeling that I really can't describe. It's my first hundred, and to make it a double. The word 'finally' makes a difference."**

**MAYANK AGARWAL**



Agarwal plays a reverse sweep. BCCI

## Old story with the new ball: Irresistible Ashwin prizes open top order



Ravichandran Ashwin bowled Markram through the gate. PTI

**SRIRAM VEERA**  
VISAKHAPATNAM, OCTOBER 3

NO OTHER spinner loves that new ball as much as Ravichandran Ashwin does. Remember Alastair Cook last year in England, all studious in defence, only to hear the death rattle behind him? Not once, but twice in one game.

Even these days when most spinners are used to bowling with the new ball, Ashwin is the unrivalled king. He is the only spinner in the top five bowlers with most wickets with the new ball. He has 71 wickets at an average of 23.1 in the first 20 overs of Test innings. The rest are all pacers, of course.

And he was at it again on Thursday, sucker-punching South Africa and leaving them gasping for breath by the end of the

second day.

There is something about his game that makes him the most difficult spinner. The conventional wisdom of a spinner taking his time, finding his length and rhythm doesn't sit well with him.

He jumps at the batsmen from the start and, if anything, is at his orthodox best with the new ball. He knows it suits him — the bounce, the seam, and the great benefit in bowling to top-order batsmen before they get set. Usually, the openers and no.3 aren't used to playing spin at the start — they don't normally appear until the pacers have been worn down.

Also, one suspects, even if the batsmen are used to playing spinners in Twenty20 and limited-overs cricket early on in the piece, those are played usually on flat tracks and batsmen are also in an attacking frame

**He jumps at the batsmen from the start and, if anything, is at his orthodox best with the new ball. He knows it suits him — the bounce, the seam, and the great benefit in bowling to top-order batsmen before they get set.**

of mind.

Ashwin's bowling is also helped by the pronounced seam in the SG ball, used in India, and the Dukes, used in England.

He usually has two main variations with the new ball — the ripping off break that he used to castle Aiden Markram and the one he delivers with the ball held between the

thumb and forefinger that he gets to skid on straight. With that grip, he can also turn it a little and so even if the batsmen pick the grip, they aren't always sure whether it would turn or skid on straight.

Ashwin used that to trouble Theunis de Bruyn before he shifted angles to go round the stumps. One could sense it was coming with de Bruyn unsure of the different grips. What remained to be seen was whether he would get one to go on with the angle from close to the stumps or it would be the slower drifter well outside off. As it turned out, it was the latter, and Bruyn, under pressure, fell for it; he reached out for a loose drive and edged it to Wriddhiman Saha, who grabbed it neatly to show why the team management want him as the 'keeper on Indian tracks.

But it would be the ball that removed

Markram that would be watched and shown in newsreels more. Understandably so. Here was Markram, who had come for a spin camp in Mumbai as preparation and practised not to push hard with his hands. In general, he had tightened his defensive game.

Or so he thought. Ashwin got one to rip in with pace on a sluggish wicket and Markram leaned forward to defend. The hands didn't push hard but it did jar a bit. The batsman didn't expect the extent of the turn and also probably the pace as he seemed a bit rushed. It squirted through the bat-and-pad gap to give Ashwin yet another wicket with the new ball.

Who are the deadliest bowlers with the new ball? Stuart Broad, James Anderson, Vernon Philander, Trent Boult and ... Ashwin, the slowest of them, the man who breaks open the opposition for India.

## SCORECARD >>

### India vs South Africa

1st Test | Vizag | Toss: India

INDIA **502/7 DEC IN 136 OV**

**M Agarwal** c Piedt b Elgar **215**  
(371b, 23x4, 6x6)

**R Sharma** st †de Kock b Maharaj **176**  
(244b, 23x4, 6x6)

**C Pujara** b Philander **6** (17b, 1x4)

**V Kohli** c & b Muthusamy **20** (40b, 4x4)

**A Rahane** c Bavuma b Maharaj **15**  
(43b, 2x4, 6x6)

**R Jadeja** not out **30** (46b, 1x6)

**H Vihari** c Elgar b Maharaj **10** (24b, 1x4)

**W Saha** c Muthusamy b Piedt **21** (16b, 4x4)

**R Ashwin** not out **1** (17b)

**Extras:** (b 4, lb 1, nb 2, w 1) **8**

**Fall of wickets:** 1-317 (Sharma, 81.6 ov), 2-324 (Pujara, 88.1 ov), 3-377 (Kohli, 103.1 ov), 4-431 (Rahane, 117.6 ov), 5-436 (Agarwal, 119.4 ov), 6-457 (Vihari, 126.4 ov), 7-494 (Saha, 131.3 ov)

**Bowling:**

**Vernon Philander** 22-4-68-1

**Kagiso Rabada** 24-7-66-0

**Keshav Maharaj** 55-6-189-3

**Dane Piedt** 19-1-107-1

**Senuran Muthusamy** 15-1-63-1

**Dean Elgar** 1-0-4-1

SOUTH AFRICA **39/3 IN 20 OV**

**D Elgar** not out **27** (63b, 2x4, 1x6)

**A Markram** b Ashwin **5** (21b, 1x4)

**T de Bruyn** c †Saha b Ashwin **4** (25b, 1x4)

**DPiedt** b Jadeja **0** (4b)

**T Bavuma** not out **2** (7b)

**Extras:** (lb 1) **1**

**Fall of wickets:** 1-14 (Aiden Markram, 7.1 ov), 2-31 (Theunis de Bruyn, 16.3 ov), 3-34 (Dane Piedt, 17.3 ov)

**Bowling:**

**Ishant Sharma** 2-0-8-0

**Mohammad Shami** 2-2-0-0

**Ravichandran Ashwin** 8-4-9-2

**Ravindra Jadeja** 8-1-21-1



# Law against graft needed, says ACU chief, as TNCA clears own league

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY  
KOLKATA, OCTOBER 3

BCCI ANTI-CORRUPTION Unit (ACU) chief Ajit Singh said corruptors would continue trying to influence matches until there's a law against their malafide activities. He also opined that making sports betting legal would help curb corrupt approaches.

Singh's comments came on the heels of the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association's (TNCA) internal inquiry report finding "no actionable incidents" against anyone with regards to the alleged corruption in this year's Tamil Nadu Premier League (TNPL). The inquiry was conducted by a three-member panel — comprising a retired Chennai police commissioner, a senior lawyer and a former India spinner.

After its Apex Council's meeting on Thursday, the state association stated in a press release: "The Report of the Committee which went into the information made available to the TNPL has been studied by us. We have decided to accept the report which has

opined that no actionable incidents had been noticed. However, this Committee has also made certain confidential recommendations to uphold and safeguard the integrity of the TNPL which we will follow scrupulously."

Asked if he agreed with the TNCA inquiry committee's conclusion, Singh said: "What are the reasons, one has to see. Without seeing the report, I can't say anything."

An internal inquiry of the BCCI's ACU, which is ongoing, however, found that alleged corrupt approaches from "non-participants" had been made to an India player, an IPL regular and a Ranji Trophy coach.

"Our inquiry was on issues of the approaches that were made, which the players have reported. That's a different matter," Singh said.

The former Rajasthan Director General of Police said the ACU probe is centred upon the people who made the approaches. The players, coaches and team officials aren't on the "wrong end" here.

"Basically, we are trying to find out who made the approaches. Players, coaches, team



The inquiry was conducted by a three-member panel — comprising a retired Chennai police commissioner, a senior lawyer and a former India spinner. Express

owners/officials are complainants. In fact, they told us, 'somebody called us on WhatsApp, or somebody sent a message, trying to get information about the matches'. They are not on the wrong end," Singh told *The Indian Express*.

He agreed that despite strict vigilance, stopping approaches from bookmakers and fixers is "difficult" without a law against sports corruption. "If we don't have a law against sports corruption, it's difficult. Even Sri Lanka is going to have a law soon. Now if an approach is made, as a BCCI official, I don't have any authority over someone who makes the approach. I have authority only over the participants. Non-participants are making the approaches, so until and unless we have a law pertaining to sports corruption, these people don't get covered," the BCCI's ACU chief said.

He added: "Once there's a law, then police can take action against them. Right now, the police's fact-finders take a lot of time (and) until and unless they get other corroborative evidence (they can't make a watertight case). As far as (S) Sreesanth is concerned, this has been the case."

The BCCI disciplinary committee had banned the fast bowler for life for his alleged involvement in the 2013 IPL betting and spot-fixing scandal. But the Supreme Court set aside

the life ban earlier this year and accordingly, the cricket board's ombudsman Justice (Retd) DK Jain reduced Sreesanth's ban to seven years, which would end in September 2020.

Singh also spoke about the benefits of making sports betting legal in India, which in turn would help curb sports corruption. "It will bring a lot of revenue to the exchequer. Another advantage is that things will become more transparent. Because then you can access the betting data; who is putting what amount on which particular event. And if there's a suspicion of corruption, then the data can be assessed," Singh told this paper.

Last year, the Law Commission had recommended legalising sports betting in India, but left the final call to the Parliament and the state legislatures.

The Commission also recommended that match-fixing and sports fraud should be made criminal offences with severe punishments.

The TNCA Apex Council also authorised TNCA secretary R Ramasaamy to attend and vote in the BCCI's October 23 AGM/elections.

# How the times have changed

In the absence of World and Olympic champion Semenya, the women's 800 metres regressed in terms of timing

NIHAL KOSHIE  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

THE ABSENCE of Caster Semenya at this World Championship, the South African middle-distance superstar, saw a massive dip in the winning timing of the 800-metres event. Ugandan Halimah Nakkayi's 1:58.04 was way slower than Semenya's best of 1:54.25.

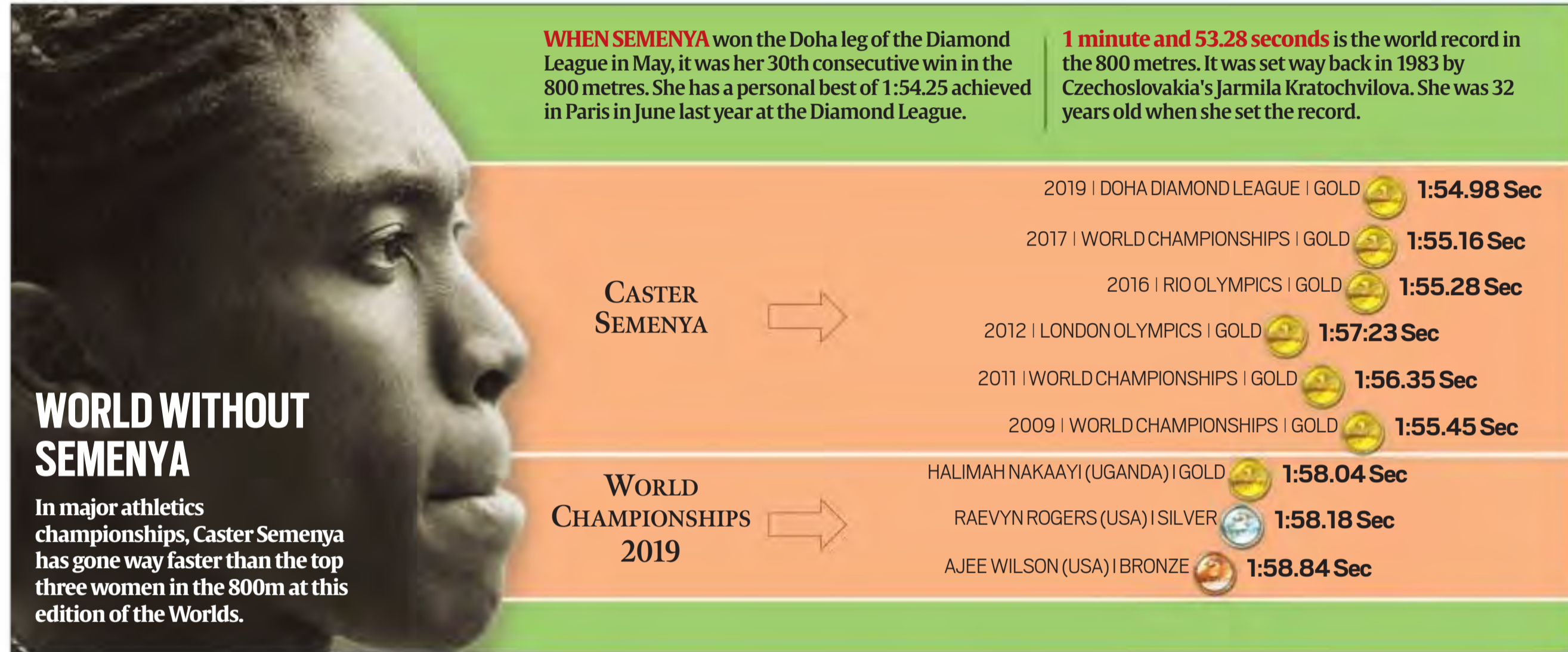
Nakkayi's rise came as a surprise since the athlete had finished 19th in the World Championships two years ago. As for Semenya, who was tipped to break the world record, she was forced to opt out because of the new eligibility regulations, which put a cap on testosterone levels for women athletes.

America's Ajee Wilson, the favourite in the absence of Semenya, had finished third in London two years ago but had to once again settle for bronze after she was overtaken by Nakaayi and America's Raevyn Rogers on the home stretch. Wilson had won six of the eight races, including Diamond Leagues at Stockholm, Monaco, Birmingham and Brussels.

Wilson had struggled to top races when Semenya was around. Wilson's wins in the Diamond League came after Semenya's last appearance in the global series, incidentally at Doha this year, where the South African won the gold with a blistering 1:54.98 — her third fastest ever time which also brought up her 30th consecutive win.

In May, the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) had upheld an International Association of Athletics Federations' (IAAF) ruling which barred women with high levels of naturally occurring testosterone from competing in events between 400 metres and a mile without taking hormone-suppressing medication.

Semenya since has refused to take medication and has joined a South African women's football team, Gauteng-based JVV FC, and hopes to get playing time from next season.



**Semenya since has refused to take medication and has joined a South African women's football team, Gauteng-based JVV FC, and hopes to get playing time from next season.**

clear that the new rules would affect them. "For me, it's about discrimination. It doesn't make sense. For sure, I didn't choose to be born like this," Niyonsaba told the *Olympic Channel*.

The regulations, she said, would make her change events, she added.

"I can even run the marathon. I will keep my passion. I love running, and I will not stop running."

Wambui didn't want to take medication to ensure she met the testosterone cap and be eligible to run 800 metres.

"Drugs is out for me. Other options like moving up to the long distance or scaling down, I can consider, but drugs? No," Wambui said in an interview to the *Olympic Channel*.

In May, CAS came down on the IAAF's policy called 'Eligibility Regulations' for female classification by calling it 'discriminatory'.

At the same time, in a shot in the arm for the IAAF, two of the three arbitrators accepted the IAAF's argument that naturally-occurring but high levels of testosterone in women athletes can give them advantage in terms of strength — during training and also when it came to clocking timings.

# Asher-Smith seizes her golden opportunity

REUTERS  
DOHA, OCTOBER 3

DINA ASHER-SMITH seized her golden opportunity to win the world championship 200 metres on Wednesday and become the first British woman to claim a global sprint title. With many of the top medal contenders pulling out or skipping the event, Asher-Smith proved the class act in the field, powering home in a national record 21.88 seconds to add gold to the silver she won in the 100m.

"You're only the favourite if you go out and perform how people expect you to and I was really focused on putting together a good race," said Asher-Smith. "I dreamt of this but now it's real. I know I was tired and woke up today knowing this was the last individual chance and this was the moment I did all my work for," she added.

"This is what we knew we could achieve if the season went well and the tiredness just disappeared when I needed it to. It's a different thing with everyone saying you're the favourite but it's a different thing going and doing it."

The once mighty United States, who had been a non-factor in the women's sprints in Doha, also benefited from the scratches as Britanny Brown grabbed the silver in 22.22. Switzerland's Mujinga Kambundji completed the podium by grabbing bronze in 22.51.

The fight for medals was blown wide open when some of sprinting's biggest names withdrew during the earlier rounds.



Britain's Dina Asher-Smith holds up her gold medal at the World Athletics Championships in Doha. AP

The race was missing the reigning world and Olympic champions in Dutchwoman Dafne Schippers and Jamaica's Elaine Thompson who withdrew due to injuries. Shaunae Miller-Uibo of Bahamas, owner of the fastest time this season, elected to race the 400m only due to scheduling issues.

The world 100m champion Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce and bronze medallist Marie-Josee Ta Lou scratched because of soreness

from earlier races while Nigeria's Blessing Okagbare, who had run the third fastest time this season, was disqualified in her heat.

None of that mattered to Asher-Smith who was focused on making history, the 23-year-old blasting out of the blocks and in command coming off the bend before cruising to victory. "I made sure that I remained focus," said Asher-Smith.

"It's very easy to come here, to be in great shape but to lose focus over something very silly like getting caught up in the moment. "Whenever I finish a championship, I always want to be able to look back and say I absolutely gave everything that I could have." The victory doubled Britain's medal tally at the championships to two, both coming from Asher-Smith.

But the last few days of the competition could bring more gold for Britain with Katarina Johnson-Thompson taking a 96-point lead into the second day of the heptathlon.

**Mayer out of decathlon**

World record holder Kevin Mayer of France pulled out of the world championship decathlon after six events on Thursday after suffering what appeared to be a pulled hamstring in the 110 metres hurdles.

Mayer, locked in a duel with Canadian Damian Warner for the gold medal, made his first pole vault attempt but ran straight through the pit then stood on the mats and blew a kiss to the crowd. The Frenchman wiped away a tear, then sat down and buried his head in his arms.

# Peerless break Big 3 dominance in Calcutta league

**Kolkata:** Peerless SC effectively became the Calcutta Football League (CFL) champions Thursday after East Bengal offered a no-show against Calcutta Customs in their final league fixture. The Indian Football Association (IFA) will make the formal announcement after receiving match commissioner Bikash Mukherjee's report. Peerless' achievement is historic, because it's after 61 years that a team other than the Big Three — Mohun Bagan, East Bengal and Mohammedan Sporting — will lay their hands on the CFL title. Back in 1958, Eastern Railway had clinched the crown. Peerless finished with 23 points from 11 matches.

East Bengal's original game against Customs was abandoned on September 29 due to a waterlogged pitch at the East Bengal ground. The IFA rescheduled the match to Thursday at Kalyani Stadium. The red-and-gold brigade appealed for postponement till October 21, as their coach Alejandro Menendez and players were on leave. Today, after waiting for the East Bengal team for 32 minutes, officials blew the final whistle. East Bengal had an improbable task of winning by a seven-goal margin. Following the forfeiture, they face potential points deduction. As per rules, East Bengal should lose three points and three goals.

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY

# Hield living his dream — from Bahamas to Mumbai via Sacramento

SHAHID JUDGE  
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 3

THE SOUND of the 'swoosh' as a basketball floats neatly through the hoop and net comes often. The Sacramento Kings have spread out on the court and are shooting hoops during the cool-down drill. It's an exercise not uncommon in the basketball world, but the sight of a team — one among the 30 giants that make up the NBA — that plays at a level unseen in India before has a certain style to it.

On one side of the court, De'Aaron Fox executes a perfect back-flip — for no apparent reason. But at the other end, as the rest of the players make their way off court, the 'swooshing' still continues, courtesy one of the shorter players on the Kings' roster.

It stops when the player, Buddy Hield — standing at 6-foot-4 — is called for a press interaction. He decides to take one last shot, misses, and is immediately encouraged and forgiven by his teammates watching on. After all, the 26-year-old, just last season, set the record for most 3-pointers scored by a player in his first three seasons in the NBA. The previous record of 599 was owned by Damian Lillard, till Hield bettered it to register a tally of 602.

"I'm alright," says the man from the Bahamas, with a shrug when praised about his shooting skill outside the 3-point circle.

He's one of the bigger names in a team that has roped in a new set of players brimming with youthful energy. But he remains the one who needs to be, time and again, told to leave the court once practice ends. More often than not, he somehow gets back on court for one more shot. Just as he did at the NSCI Stadium in Mumbai on Thursday, on the eve of the Kings' pre-season match against the Indiana Pacers.

Hield's work-ethic stems from a childhood dream, and a goal to make it in the NBA to escape a life of poverty.

Not unlike many NBA stars, Hield had a humble beginning. He grew up in a small home with six other siblings who would jostle for space on the only bed, while his mother was out working three jobs a day to make ends meet. But unlike the players who grew up in the US, a basketball court wasn't an accessible luxury to the future Kings shooting guard.

Child kidnappings were rife when he was growing up at the Eight Mile Rock village, just outside Freeport in the Bahamas. Consequently, his mother was never keen on letting him wander too far to shoot some hoops. So Hield sawed off the bottom of a milk crate, attached it to a piece of plywood for a backboard, nailed it to a light pole, and then spent hours learning how to curve the ball in from close and long range. That's how he learnt to shoot, he says.

"The crate, you had to shoot the ball in



Sacramento Kings' Buddy Hield during practice at the NSCI Dome in Mumbai. NBA

(and not rebound). The goal was always to shoot the ball in," he says. "You can't use the backboard, you have to shoot exactly in. That helped me concentrate and lock in focus. That was good for me."

By then, basketball had become his goal, and a way out.

"(It was a) hard life. Growing up I didn't have nothing," Hield says in a typical Bahamas drawl. "But my dream was to make it in the NBA. I had a vision, a dream and goal. I kept it with me. I wanted to be in the NBA

and I kept working. No matter what it takes me, whether I had to go out on the street and sell something to get some money to sponsor me, I did what I did to get here."

It was a path and a career choice mostly unknown to the Bahamas. Ever since the NBA was launched in 1946, six players have emerged from the Bahamas. But including Hield, only three have played more than a 100 matches.

It's been a long path — from Eight Mile Rock, to getting scouted for a school in Kansas, then

being the sixth pick at the 2016 NBA draft by the New Orleans Pelicans, and now a star figure in the Kings' outfit. But it has been a journey that has earned him the riches that come with being a high-profile NBA player. His earnings from last season were reported to be around the \$4 million mark, but he's remained true to his humble roots, collecting over \$300,000 for relief material when Hurricane Dorian hit the island nation last month.

At that point, the only way he could get in touch with his family was through Whatsapp. But now his mother is safely at his Sacramento home, as he's travelled with his team to India for the first global NBA games in the subcontinent.

But he's enjoyed the trip so far.

"It was a good bonding trip," he says of the flight from Sacramento to London to Agra and finally Mumbai. "We didn't have any wifi on the trip, which I think was good for team spirit. So you get to learn about your teammates and that's good for the trip. We played a lot of cards."

There's almost 13,500 km separating the basketball nets at the Golden 1 Centre in Sacramento — where he has been dead-end from distance — and the freshly fashioned poles in Mumbai. But the hoops never mattered to him. He remembers the crate and plywood board from his childhood, that still stand at his mother's backyard in Eight Mile Rock: "No matter where you go," he says, "it's just a basketball and a rim. I love it."



# Suarez leads Barcelona's fightback with a double

REUTERS  
BARCELONA, OCTOBER 3

LUIS SUAREZ scored two classy goals to inspire Barcelona to a 2-1 comeback win over Inter Milan in the Champions League on Wednesday and inflict a first defeat on Antonio Conte since he took charge of the Italians.

Inter, who lead Serie A after winning all six domestic games under Conte, produced a wonderful first-half display and took the lead in the second minute through Argentine forward Lautaro Martinez.

Barcelona had struggled to get going but looked more like their usual dominant selves on European nights at the Camp Nou after the break and deservedly pulled level in the 58th minute through a superb swivelling volley from Suarez.

The Catalans caught Inter out on the counter-attack to take the lead in the 84th minute, with captain Lionel Messi feeding Suarez who produced a cool low finish to prompt relieved celebrations among the 86,000 fans in the stadium.

The win put Barca second in Group F with four points from two games, the same as leaders Borussia Dortmund who won 2-0 at Slavia Prague. Inter have one point.

"This is a very valuable victory for us against a direct rival," Suarez told reporters.

"We were aware that if we continued playing like we had in the first half we could lose but the key thing was we stayed patient and were able to create chances."

Conte conceded a goal after three minutes in his last game at the Camp Nou as Chelsea coach in 2018 but this time it was his side who struck an early blow.

Inter forward Alexis Sanchez found a hole in his former side's defence with a superb through ball into the path of Martinez, who raced into the box and slid to the floor to send a shot flying past Barca keeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen.

Conte's side did not look to sit on their goal and outplayed Barca in the first half, holding on to possession for long periods while doggedly pressing the hosts and picking them off on the



Luis Suarez called Barcelona the best team in the world after their win. Reuters

counter-attack with ease.

It took a superb save from Ter Stegen to prevent Lautaro scoring again with a header, while Italian midfielder Stefano Sensi flashed a shot narrowly over the bar.

"Inter are very powerful when they are given space and it's no coincidence that they are top of their league, but we took a step forward in the second half and had more control of the play," said Barca coach Ernesto

Valverde. Barca were facing their first home defeat in the Champions League group stage since losing to Rubin Kazan in 2009 but were transformed after coach Ernesto Valverde replaced Sergio Busquets with

**RESULTS**

**GROUP E**

Genk 0-0 Napoli  
Liverpool 4-3 Salzburg

**GROUP F**

Prague 0-2 Dortmund  
Barcelona 2-1 Inter

**GROUP G**

Leipzig 0-2 Lyon  
Zenit 3-1 Benfica

**GROUP H**

Lille 1-2 Chelsea  
Valencia 0-3 Ajax

Jong but we needed to get closer to their area, we managed to do that in the end and it's because of that they were able to create better chances and win the game," added Valverde.

Conte, meanwhile, rued his side not making the most of their outstanding performance in the first half. "It's nice to receive compliments after a performance like that but we deserved much more from the game," he said.

"We proved we could cause Barca real problems but it's a shame we couldn't take our chances and kill the game."

**Reds win thriller**

European champions Liverpool gave up a three-goal lead to Austria's Salzburg before recovering to win 4-3 in an enthralling Champions League Group E match at Anfield on Wednesday. Mohamed Salah, who scored twice, grabbed the 69th-minute winner for Liverpool after Salzburg, managed by American Jesse Marsch, had stunned Anfield with three goals either side of halftime to make it 3-3.

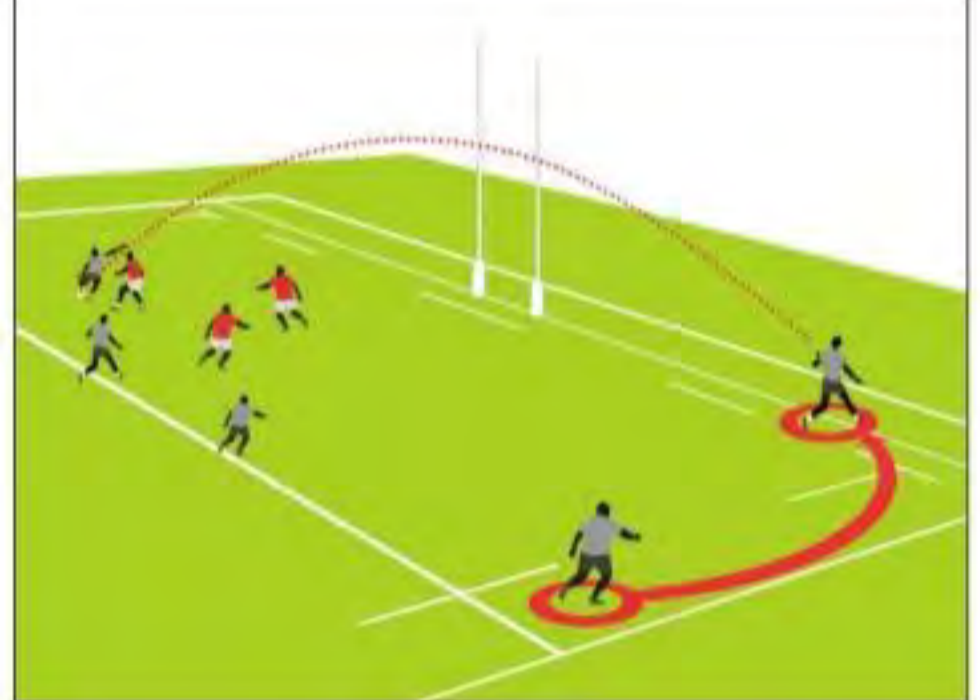
While Liverpool will be relieved to have avoided their first home defeat in the Premier League or Champions League since April 2017, there will be concern about the performance of their defence, which was exposed by the lively Salzburg attack.

Salzburg, who beat Belgium's Genk 6-2 in their opening game in the group, were applauded off the field by their travelling fans, recognition for their spirit and the enterprising, positive football they played against Jurgen Klopp's side.

Liverpool, beaten 2-0 by Napoli in their opening game, quickly took charge, taking the lead in the ninth minute with a beautifully-worked goal from Sadio Mane.

The Senegalese left two defenders in his wake as he cut in from the left and then drove home after a crisp exchange with Roberto Firmino. Left back Andy Robertson made it 2-0 in the 25th minute, starting the move with a burst down the flank and then staying forward to apply a deft finish to Trent Alexander-Arnold's low cross.

## It's raining cross-kicks at Kobe



All Blacks' Richie Mo'unga's brilliant chip kick from the centre found Jordie Barrett all on his own on the right touchline for a calm catch and touchdown. Suvajit Dey

KNOWN FOR his wide range of deceptive trick kicks, Ireland's Johnny Sexton could be likened to Italian footballer Andrea Pirlo. In his team's 35-0 seven-try win over Russia on Thursday, he literally unleashed them all in Kobe's sizzler of a first half.

A line of Russians awaits his charge from a turnover ball as he's dead centre in front of the uprights, but the puppeteer picks his spot behind that wall of men, and floats a low, straight, flat grubber kick instead of passing back. Peter O'Mahony goes sliding, whips up the ball and crosses over for Ireland's second try.

Rugby's slot increasingly has become a pinpoint kick in the vicinity of the tryline, and at Kobe, Sexton's string-pulling set-up play sees magic 3 minutes later though no score comes of it.

The 2018 World Player of the Year is known to deal with pressure fantastically and as Ireland chase a bonus point after their loss to Japan last week, Sexton plays only 40 minutes which are the most dynamic part of the game.

In the 17th minute he pings the second of his "cross-field probes" like BBC calls it, to wings first on the right where Andrew Conway almost gets there, and next on the left where Keith Earls tumbles it out so close to the tryline that had he caught it clean, it was 5 points on a platter.

Shepherd Sexton is one of the finest readers of the game close to the line, and all three of his split-second set-up decisions have been perfect, never mind what happened of the execution.

Sexton, Ireland's talisman, had to grace that tryline kick zone for the trend to take off, but this World Cup has seen a plethora of these cross kicks, ramping up the offensive very close to the melee area.

**Attacking option**

Rugby doesn't allow a forward pass. That's the bedrock of the sport which follows the passing back but chomping forward into territory rhythm. You can kick forward though.

The cross kick is then brought out to cheekily beat the clunky defence of the forward pack. Former India captain Nasser Hussain says the option is mightily paying off. "Cross

kicks are seen as an attacking weapon more often now... perhaps, the defense upfront from teams are pretty strong thus, that is an option being explored," he says.

It's a 60-40 contest for the high ball on kick with the attacking team in advantage as they are on the front foot. "Plus if a defender is there they would always be under immense pressure - as 9 out of 10 times they would be stationary or moving backwards (when receiving the high ball) and contesting against someone moving forward with momentum," he explains. Nothing can match the rush of a wing dodging and twinkling and sprinting forward for a touch down.

But the ping cross kick, pick-and-touch by a lurking teammate, have the charm of basketball's three pointers or football's headers from corners.

**All Blacks special**



Guardian described Jordie Barrett who scored one such try from a Richie Mo'unga kicked dipper from across the field and flanks, as the effort of someone "casually standing at the bus-stop" before he blitz-hopped to score the All Blacks second try.

The cross kicks would seem to rain down in one-sided games like the All Blacks 63-0 win over Canada or Ireland sharpening their attacks against minnows Russia. But even the best of defenses will be left gritting their teeth when a nice lob finds an unmarked man in the corner who is spared the onrushing tanks of the forward scrum.


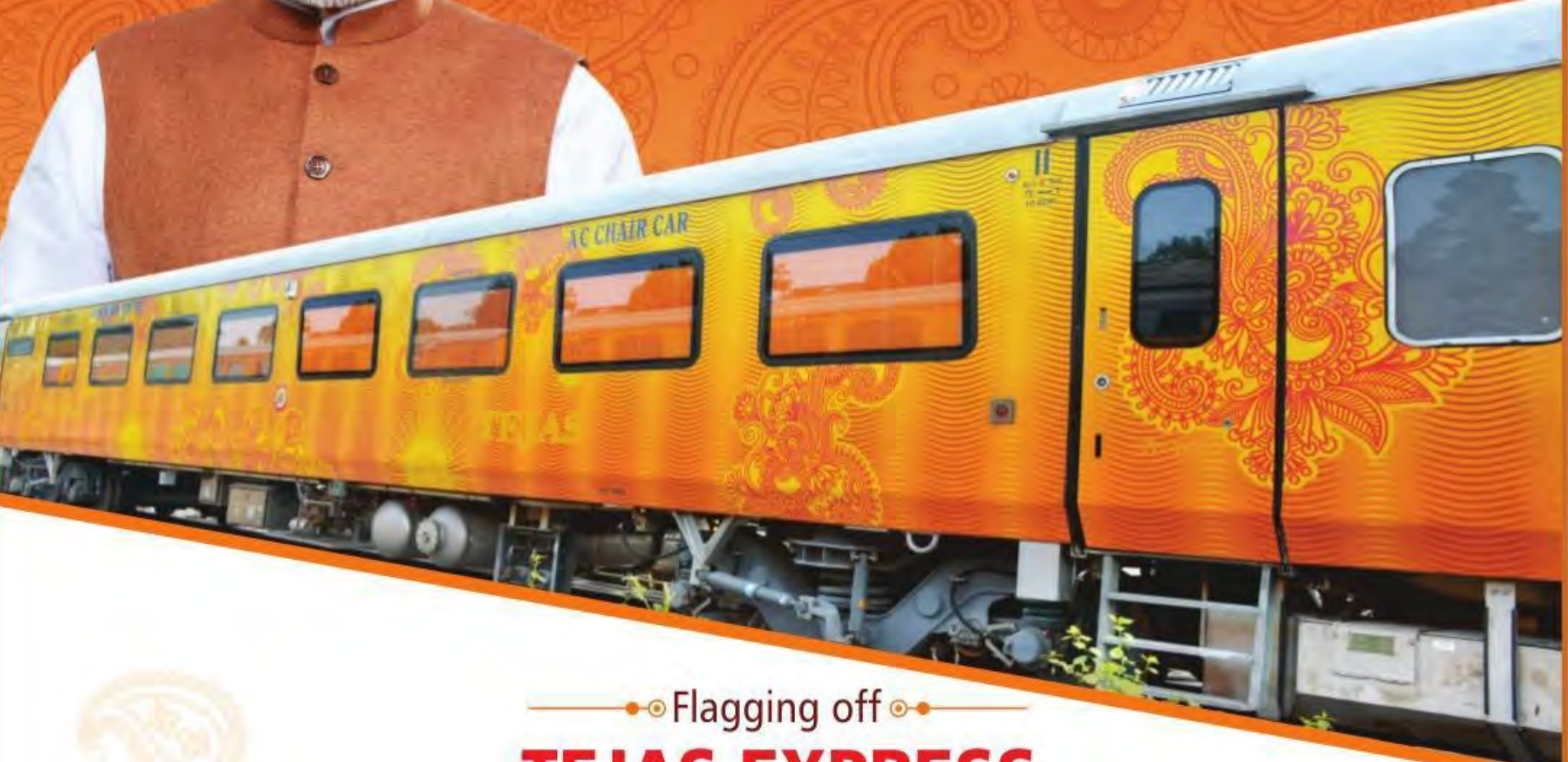
A sidestep here, a switch of hands there, few angled strides and a try's there for the taking from the long-distance liberos.

But perhaps the finest exhibition of the cross kicks was in the Wales-Australia game. Bernard Foley's singular moment of magic had a loping lovely kick for Ashley-Cooper's try as the Wallabies tried to speed things up with aerial probes. His inspiration though must have been what Welshman Dan Biggar did very early in the game. He threaded a cross-field kick right into the arms of winger Hadeleigh Parkes who soared above Marika Korobete, spun mid air and leapt for a sensational try for the Dragons.

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


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