

Lynching not an Indian word, bid to defame country, says RSS chief

VIVEK DESHPANDE
NAGPUR, OCTOBER 8

UNDERLINING THAT "words like lynching" are "alien to Bharat and belong elsewhere", Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh Sarsanghchalak Mohan Bhagwat Tuesday warned of a "conspiracy" and said "efforts are underway to defame our coun-



Bhagwat, Nadar in Nagpur on Tuesday. Monica Chaturvedi

try and the entire Hindu society and create fear among the so-called minority communities". In his annual Vijaydashami address at the Sangh headquarters in Nagpur — it was attended among others by Union Minister

HE CAUTIONS GOVT ON TRADE TALKS P 7

65 days after lockdown, officials in Valley caution: Don't call this 'normal'

P VAIDYANATHAN IYER & ADIL AKHZER
NEW DELHI, SRINAGAR, OCT 8

MORE THAN 60 days into the lockdown in the Valley, many officials on the ground, both in the civilian and security establishment, have begun to say that the political imperative, from New Delhi, to sustain an "everything-is-normal" narrative is turning

out to be challenging — and could even be counterproductive. Internet and cellphones are still down, the disruption caused by these touches virtually all aspects of life — from seeking health care to connecting with friends and family; schools and colleges

ONLY BJP READY FOR BDC POLLS PAGE 8

HDIL, PMC bosses were 'horsing' around as well

KHUSHBOO NARAYAN
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 8

THE PROMOTER of Housing Development Infrastructure Ltd (HDIL) Rakesh Wadhawan and Waryam Singh, the former chairman of Punjab & Maharashtra Co-operative (PMC) Bank Ltd, were not only colleagues at the real-estate company but had together started a firm that breeds race horses.

Wadhawan Livestock Pvt Ltd was set up in August 2007 by Wadhawan, Singh and Ashok Kumar Gupta, a former independent director of HDIL, to "import, export, breed horses for racing" and has horses worth Rs 64 crore as on March 2018, according to the latest annual report of the company. Waryam Singh was appointed as chairman of PMC Bank in 2015 for a period of five

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RAFALE ENTERS IAF

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh readies for a sortie in a Rafale fighter Tuesday at the Dassault Aviation facility in Merignac, southwestern France. ANI

REPORT, PAGE 8

INFORMAL SUMMIT

Thaw in chill, Beijing to Delhi: Xi's visit is on

SHUBHAJIT ROY & SOWMIYA ASHOK
NEW DELHI, BEIJING, OCT 8

ENDING DAYS of suspense over the fate of the proposed second India-China informal summit, Beijing has officially confirmed to New Delhi about Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to India on October 11 and 12. An official announcement will be made by both sides on Wednesday, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

The official confirmation from China to India has been conveyed through diplomatic channels over the last 24 hours. This comes after a series of strong statements and moves that adversely impacted the bilateral space before the informal summit.

EXPLAINED Kashmir, Pakistan challenge

CHINESE PRESIDENT Xi Jinping's visit may be on but Delhi has its diplomatic task cut out — as long as Kashmir and Pakistan are the two key issues at the high table that any guest will have to deal with.

Beijing, too, gave positive signals on Tuesday through its Foreign Ministry spokesperson's statement that China's position on Jammu and Kashmir is "clear and consistent" to assuage Delhi's concerns that the

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Asim Umer was killed in Helmand, Afghanistan. ANI

India-born chief of Qaeda arm killed in US-Afghan raid

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 8

THE LEADER of Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) was killed last month in a joint operation by US and Afghan forces, said Afghanistan's National Directorate of Security (NDS) Tuesday. Maulana Asim Umer, known to Indian security agencies as Sanaul Haq from Sambhal in Uttar Pradesh, was appointed the head of AQIS by Al Qaeda chief Ayman Al Zawahiri in 2014. Afghan agencies claimed Umer to be a Pakistani since he was carrying a Pakistani passport, said sources in the Indian establishment. Umer went missing from India in 1995, three years after the Babri demolition, and is suspected to have been in Pakistan since then.

The NDS Tuesday tweeted: "NDS can now confirm the death of Asim Omar, leader of #Al-Qaeda in the #Indian Subcontinent (AQIS), in a joint US-Afghan raid on a Taliban compound in Musa Qala district of Helmand province on Sep. 23."

Identifying Umer as "a #Pakistani citizen", the NDS said he "was #killed along with six other AQIS members, most of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



THE EDITORIAL PAGE

ECONOMY NEEDS DEEP CIVIL SERVICE REFORM

BY MANISH SABHARWAL
PAGE 10

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WORLD



BRITAIN RULES OUT BREXIT DEAL, EU SLAMS BLAME GAME

TURKEY SAYS READY FOR SYRIA ATTACK, KURDS FOR TALKS
PAGE 12

Shiv Sena hands Haryana poll ticket to man who attacked JNU's Umar Khalid

MIHIR VASAVDA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 8

NAVEEN DALAL, one of the two men accused of attacking activist and former JNU students' union leader Umar Khalid last year, is back in a new avatar — as the Shiv Sena's candidate from Bahadurgarh for the Haryana Assembly polls on October 21.

A self-proclaimed gau rakshak, Dalal says he joined the



Sena six months ago because their ideologies on "nationalism and cow protection" matched. "We are fighting the same battle — for nationalism, cow protection and recognition for our

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Naveen Dalal says he joined the Sena six months ago

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EAST DELHI		WEST DELHI		SOUTH-WEST DELHI		GHAZIABAD		NORTH DELHI		SOUTH DELHI		
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DELHI'S AIR GETS CLEANER! POLLUTION DOWN BY 25%

CLOSURE OF THERMAL POWER PLANTS

25% प्रदूषण
हुआ कम
आओ मिलकर
100%
कम करें हम

WHAT BROUGHT DOWN POLLUTION?

- 24x7 electricity supply brought generator usage to near zero
- Heavy fines on construction sites in violation of dust control norms
- Implementation of Hon'ble Supreme Court's 'Graded Response Action Plan'
- Closure of Rajghat and Badarpur Thermal Power Plants
- Eastern-Western Peripheral Expressways reduced vehicular traffic
- Increase in Green Cover in Delhi

But we can't stop here! We have to make every possible effort to make Delhi pollution free

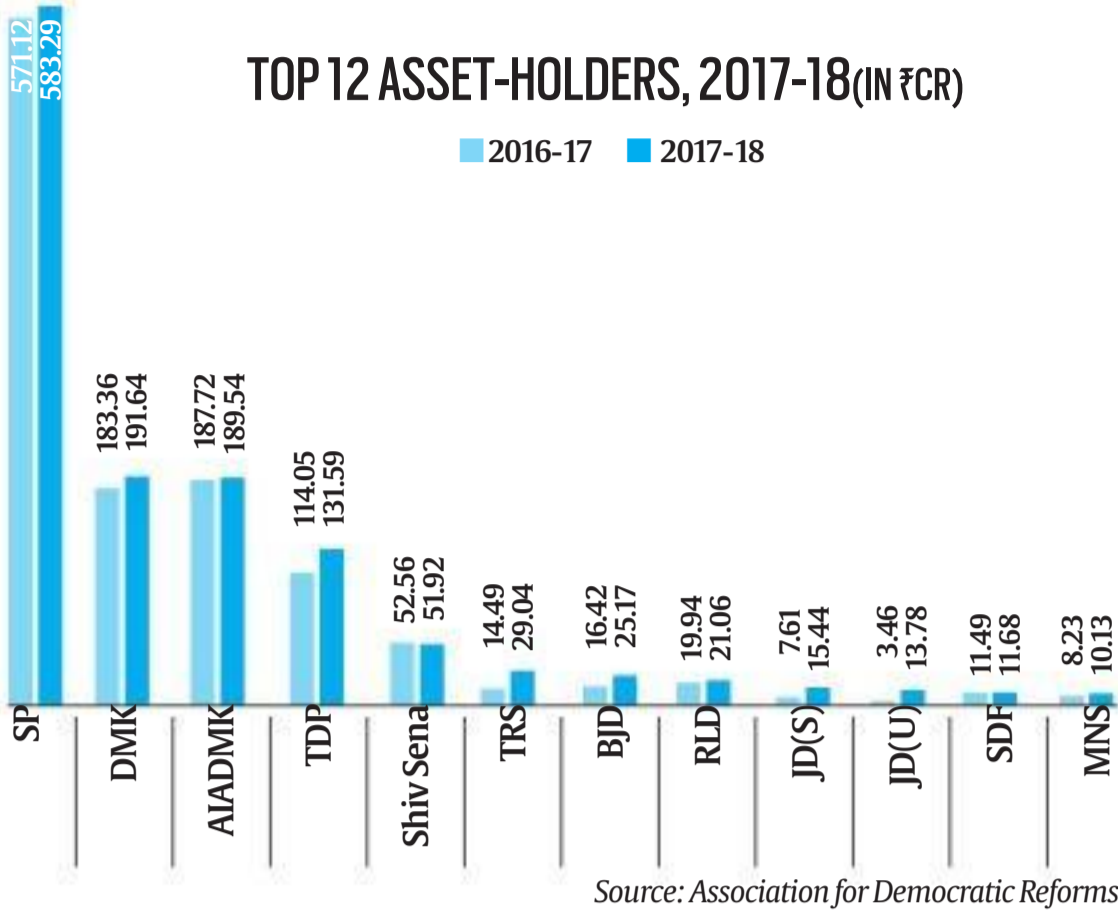
Year	PM 2.5 Levels *
2012-14	154
2016-18	115

* Source: Central Pollution Control Board, Government of India



TELLING NUMBERS

Regional parties own Rs 1,320 cr; SP richest, JD(U) assets multiply



A NEW report by the Association of Democratic Reforms (ADR) has analysed the assets and liabilities declared by regional parties in 2016-17 and 2017-18. The number of regional parties who declared their holdings has increased from 39 in 2016-17 (Rs 1,267.81 crore declared) to 41 in 2017-18 (Rs 1,320.06 crore). Their liabilities in the two years were Rs 40.33 crore (39 parties) and Rs 61.61 crore (41 parties). The Samajwadi Party holds Rs 583.29 crore, which is 46 per cent of the assets declared by all 41 parties in 2017-18. The regional giants of Tamil Nadu account for another 15 per cent each, with the DMK holding Rs 191.64 crore and the AIADMK holding Rs 189.54 crore. The TDP is the only other party that has declared more than Rs

100 crore. Besides these four, eight more parties have declared more than Rs 10 crore, with the AAP at 13th place with a little over Rs 6 crore. The JD(U)'s assets have increased almost threefold from Rs 3.46 crore to Rs 13.78 crore. The assets of two other parties in the top 12 have doubled — from Rs 14.49 crore to Rs 29.04 crore for the TRS, and from Rs 7.61 crore to Rs 15.44 crore for the JD(S). These assets were declared by the regional parties under six major heads: fixed assets, loans & advances, FDR/ deposits, TDS, investments and other assets. FDR/ fixed deposits comprised two-thirds of their total assets in both years — Rs 809.52 crore (63.85%) in 2016-17 and Rs 859.89 crore (65.14%) in 2017-18.

THIS WORD MEANS

BUNAD

Norway's traditional costume; comes in many forms



Amb. Hans Jacob Frydenlund, wearing a bunad, presents his credentials to President Kovind last month. Rashtrapati Bhavan

WHEN NORWEGIAN Ambassador Hans Jacob Frydenlund went to Rashtrapati Bhavan to present his credentials to President Ram Nath Kovind recently, he was wearing his country's traditional folk costume. Called a "bunad", it is not a single kind of costume but an umbrella term with several regional variations. A bunad often includes an apron, a headdress, and a scarf or shawl, and is embroidered and embellished with buckles, ornaments,

jewellery and at times, blades. Bunads are expensive and typically worn on festive occasions. The University of Oslo estimates that one in two Norwegians owns a bunad, which is about 2.5 million bunads. There are 400 different variations that come in different styles for men and women. In 2012, Norway's Ministry of Culture appointed the Bunad and National Costume Council to promote the use of bunads and other national costumes.

MALLICA JOSHI
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 8

STARTING OCTOBER 15, some stricter measures to fight air pollution will come into force in Delhi's neighbourhood, as part of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP). The action plan has already been in effect for two years in Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR). What is new in the recent announcement is that measures aimed at stopping the use of diesel generator sets will, from next week, extend beyond Delhi to the NCR, where many areas see regular power cuts.

The measures that are coming into force will be incremental. As pollution rises, and it is expected to as winter approaches, more measures will come into play depending on the air quality.

All these measures are part of GRAP, which was formulated in 2016 and notified in 2017. Experts working in the field of air pollution have credited this list of measures with causing the dip in Delhi's air pollution over the past few years.

What is GRAP?

Approved by the Supreme Court in 2016, the plan was formulated after several meetings that the Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA) held with state government representatives and experts. The result was a plan that institutionalised measures to be taken when air quality deteriorates.

GRAP works only as an emergency measure. As such, the plan does not include action by various state governments to be taken throughout the year to tackle industrial, vehicular and combustion emissions. When the air quality shifts from poor to very poor, the measures listed under both sections have to be followed since the plan is incremental in nature.

If air quality reaches the severe+ stage, GRAP talks about shutting down schools and implementing the odd-even road-space rationing scheme.

GRAP has been successful in doing two things that had not been done before — creating a step-by-step plan for the entire Delhi-NCR region and getting on board several agencies: all pollution control boards, industrial area authorities, municipal corporations, regional officials of the India Meteorological Department, and others. The plan requires action and coordination among 13 different agencies in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan (NCR ar-

SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER

How plan for clean air works

Stricter measures under Graded Response Action Plan in Delhi-NCR from October 15. How has the plan worked in Delhi so far, what is being extended to NCR towns, and where do other states figure in it?

GRADE BY GRADE

SEVERE+ OR EMERGENCY
(PM2.5 over 300 µg/cubic metre or PM10 over 500 µg/cu. m. for 48+ hours)

- Stop entry of trucks into Delhi (except essential commodities)
- Stop construction work
- Introduce odd/even scheme for private vehicles and minimise exemptions
- Task Force to decide any additional steps including shutting of schools

SEVERE
(PM2.5 over 250 µg/cu. m. or PM10 over 430 µg/cu. m.)

- Close brick kilns, hot mix plants, stone crushers
- Maximise power generation from natural gas to reduce generation from coal
- Encourage public transport, with differential rates
- More frequent mechanised cleaning of road and sprinkling of water

VERY POOR
(PM2.5 121-250 µg/cu. m. or PM10 351-430 µg/cu. m.)

- Stop use of diesel generator sets
- Enhance parking fee by 3-4 times
- Increase bus and Metro services
- Apartment owners to discourage burning fires in winter by providing electric heaters during winter
- Advisories to people with respiratory and cardiac conditions to restrict outdoor movement

MODERATE TO POOR
(PM2.5 61-120 µg/cu. m. or PM10 101-350 µg/cu. m.)

- Heavy fines for garbage burning
- Close/enforce pollution control regulations in brick kilns and industries
- Mechanised sweeping on roads with heavy traffic and water sprinkling
- Strictly enforce ban on firecrackers

Rural areas are, however, being left out of this stringent measure because of unreliable power supply.

Has GRAP helped?

The biggest success of GRAP has been in fixing accountability and deadlines. For each action to be taken under a particular air quality category, executing agencies are clearly marked. In a territory like Delhi, where a multiplicity of authorities has been a long-standing impediment to effective governance, this step made a crucial difference. Also, coordination among as many as 13 agencies from four states is simplified to a degree because of the clear demarcation of responsibilities.

Three major policy decisions that can be credited to EPCA and GRAP are the closure of the thermal power plant at Badarpur, bringing BS-VI fuel to Delhi before the deadline set initially, and the ban on Pet coke as a fuel in Delhi NCR.

The EPCA, headed by retired IAS officer Bhure Lal and including members from the Centre for Science and Environment, was constituted in 1998 by the Supreme Court. The initial mandate of the body was to ensure the shift of Delhi's bus and auto fleet to CNG — a mammoth task that was among the most crucial ones in cleaning Delhi's air in the late 2000s.

The body continues to monitor pollution and assists the Supreme Court in several pollution-related matters.

What measures have been taken in other states?

One criticism of the EPCA as well as GRAP has been the focus on Delhi. While other states have managed to delay several measures, citing lack of resources, Delhi has always been the first one to have stringent measures enforced. In a recent meeting that discussed the ban on diesel generator sets, the point about Delhi doing all the heavy lifting was also raised.

In 2014, when a study by the World Health Organization found that Delhi was the most polluted city in the world, panic spread in the Centre and the state government. The release of a study on sources of air pollution the following year also gave experts, NGOs and scientists a handle on why Delhi was so polluted.

All of these things, state government officials say, have made Delhi the obvious pilot project.

For GRAP as well as EPCA, the next challenge is to extend the measures to other states effectively.

FACT CHECK, GROUND REALITY

What does 'no dengue deaths' really mean?

ABANTIKA GHOSH
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 8

ON MONDAY, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal tweeted the "stunning results" of his government's campaign to get people to invest 10 minutes every week to stop dengue mosquitoes from breeding: "The number of cases in Delhi so far is just 356, compared to 650 by this time last year", he posted; "most importantly, we have not lost a single life yet". To put this success in perspective, it is important to note three things.

This is a low dengue year

The data sheet on the "Dengue/DHF Situation in India" uploaded by the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP) of the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare contains numbers up to only May 26 of this year — well before the onset of the dengue season. Until then, the country had seen only five dengue deaths —

three in Kerala, two in Maharashtra. More recent data — albeit of dengue cases, not deaths — were furnished to Rajya Sabha by the Ministry in July. Until the end of June, only 8,058 cases of dengue had been reported countrywide — less than 8% of the 1,01,192 cases reported by NVBDCP for the entire year in 2018. Four deaths from dengue were reported in Delhi last year, according to the NVBDCP data.

The data given to Parliament show that until June, the largest number of dengue cases this year were reported in Karnataka (1,933), followed by Tamil Nadu (1,100), and Maharashtra (969). Twenty two out of 34 states and Union Territories that reported data had fewer cases than in Delhi (91). West Bengal has stopped reporting cases to the Centre.

Dengue comes in cycles

Most experts agree that dengue comes in cycles — which means, it is only after every few years that a significant spike is seen in the incidence of the disease. The NVBDCP data

show 15,867 cases in Delhi in 2015, followed by 4,431, 9,271, and 7,136 cases in 2016, 2017, and 2018 respectively. Factors such as the amount of rainfall in a particular monsoon, levels of public awareness, and the efficiency of the state's response also play a role.

Dr P K Sen, a former director of the NVBDCP, said: "Dengue is cyclical, every 3-4 years there is a spurt. During the last few years, IEC (Information, Education and Communication) activities have been stepped up across the country, and measures have been taken early. People are more aware about the dangers of accumulated water; the breeding of Aedes mosquito (which is the carrier of dengue) has gone down greatly in the last three years. Environmental factors such as El Niño (which has an impact on the monsoon) also influence the virulence of the outbreak."

Confirmation is not critical

A dengue death is not classified as one unless the serological tests that isolate and identify the virus returns positive. Dengue is a no-

tifiable disease, but a case is required to be notified only when the confirmatory test has been done in the lab. Importantly, however, the confirmation of dengue infection is not key to its treatment, which can proceed and even conclude without that test being done.

"A suspected dengue case can be treated without any compromise in the quality of care even without confirming the suspicion. It is a viral fever, so doctors have to essentially watch out for dehydration, provide symptomatic relief, and keep a sharp eye on the platelet count so that the fever does not progress to the haemorrhagic variety," said a senior doctor at a Delhi government hospital, who did not want to be named.

"All of this", the doctor said, "can be done without the serological test, and this is routine in government hospitals where resources are limited. It also keeps the official 'dengue numbers' low. In theory, therefore, it is possible to have zero dengue deaths even when people have actually succumbed to the disease."

What we know about the universe: the science behind Physics Nobel Prize

KABIR FIRAQUE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 8

THIS YEAR'S Nobel Prize for Physics, announced on Tuesday, recognises research that helps us understand our place in the universe.

Canadian-American cosmologist James Peebles, 84, won one-half of the Prize for his theoretical work helping us understand how the universe evolved after the Big Bang. The other half went to Swiss astronomers Michel Mayor, 77, and Didier Queloz, 53, for their discovery of an exoplanet that challenged preconceived ideas about planets.

How the universe evolved

Modern cosmology assumes that the universe formed as a result of the Big Bang. In decades of work since the 1960s, Peebles

used theoretical physics and calculations to interpret what happened after. His work is focused largely on Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB) radiation, which is electromagnetic radiation left over from the early universe once it had cooled sufficiently following the Big Bang.

Today, CMB can be observed with detectors. When it was observed for the first time in 1964 by radio astronomers Arnold Penzias and Robert Wilson — who would go on to be awarded the 1978 Physics Nobel — they were initially puzzled. They learnt later that Peebles had predicted such radiation.

Peebles and colleagues have correlated the temperature of this radiation with the amount of matter created in the Big Bang,

which was a key step towards understanding how this matter would later form the galaxies and galaxy clusters. From their work derives our knowledge of how mysterious the universe is — just 5% known matter and the rest unknown, as dark matter (26%) and dark energy (69%).

Exoplanets

The hunt for extraterrestrial life, if any exists, depends on finding habitable planets, mainly outside our Solar System. Today, exoplanets are being discovered very frequently — over 4,000 are known — which is remarkable progress from three decades ago, when not even one exoplanet was known. The first confirmed discoveries came in 1992, but these were



James Peebles (left) won one-half; Michel Mayor, Didier Queloz shared half.

orbiting not a star but the remains of one. The planet discovered by Mayor and Queloz in 1995 is 50 light years away, orbiting the star 51 Pegasus that is similar to our

Sun. Called 51 Pegasus b, the exoplanet is not habitable either, but it challenged our understanding of planets and laid the foundation for future discoveries. Using a spectro-

graph, ELODIE, built by Mayor and collaborators and installed at the Haute-Provence Observatory in France, they predicted the planet by observing the "Doppler effect" — when the star wobbles as an effect of a planet's gravity on its observed light.

It is a gas giant comparable to Jupiter, yet it very hot, unlike icy cold Jupiter; 51 Pegasus b is even closer to its star than Mercury is to our Sun. Until then, gas giants were presumed to be cold, formed a great distance from their stars. Today, it is accepted that these hot gas giants represent what Jupiter would look like if it were suddenly transported closer to the Sun. The discovery of the planet "started a revolution in astronomy", as described in the official Nobel Prize website. "Strange new worlds are still being discovered... forcing scientists to revise their theories of the physical processes behind the origins of planets," it said.



The Indian EXPRESS

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BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

Uncaging India

The steel frame has become a cage. A \$10-trillion economy needs deep civil service reform



MANISH SABHARWAL

RSS REPLAY

Last year, Sarsanghchalak signalled flexibility. His Dusshera speech is disquieting for how it looks inward, what it overlooks

THE BJP WON a second term with a larger mandate, its government is putting in motion its core ideological projects, Article 370 has been abrogated — and yet. A summary of RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's Dusshera speech this year would have to begin with the “parantu (but)” he inserts into his address after acknowledging, and owning, the Modi-BJP's triumph. “Parantu is sukhdh vatavaran mein alsa kar hum apni saajagta va apni tatparta ko bhula dein... aisa samay nahin hai”, this is not the time to be lulled into complacency, he says. The rest of the speech is mostly a bristling statement of the dangers and spectres that ostensibly afflict and confront Hindutva and the “Hindu Rashtra”, as the RSS and its chief have always defined, and continue to define, the nation. “Hamaare saamne kuch sankat hain jinka upaya hamein karna hai”, we are faced with dangers we must resolve. These, in Bhagwat's telling, are visible but also hidden, more internal than external — “kuch sankat saamne dikhayee dete hain, kuch kuch baad mein saamne aate hain”. They are born of India's diversities, which, he says, are manipulated to widen cleavages and fault lines. They come from attempts to defame Hindus, as in the case of lynchings, which, he says, are communal problems that are not one-sided, “dono taraf se aarop-pratyarop chalte hain” (there are allegations and counter-allegations).

In a speech that paints a state of siege, from family to nation, Bhagwat's description of lynchings stands out for its stark denial of a brutal reality. That these incidents of violence, most often in the name of the cow, have seen the targeting of poor and vulnerable Muslims, is documented in the videos shot and publicised by the perpetrators themselves. That such mob violence and vigilantism is emboldened by a mix of religious passion and cold calculation of impunity, a majoritarian triumphalism, is there to see. For Bhagwat to suggest otherwise may be predictable, but it is still chilling.

The RSS chief's inward-looking tone on the economy is disquieting. Even as he acknowledges the economic slowdown, albeit by attributing it to global currents, and while defending the Modi government's efforts to find a way out of it, he returns to the RSS's pet themes of “swadeshi”, “swavalamban” and “swanirbharta” (self-reliance). In times when the BJP government is faced with the challenge of reviving the economy by resuscitating trade and investment, Bhagwat's articulation is a worrying reminder of the pressures an insular RSS vision can bring to bear on a government it calls its own. Bhagwat takes this theme forward — “swa bhasha (indigenous language)”, “swa bhoosha (indigenous attire)”, “swa sanskriti (indigenous culture)”. These formulations — purveying spectres, imposing sameness — are, of course, ill fitting in a diverse democracy. They are also a retreat from what seemed to be the RSS chief's own breakthrough moment a year ago. During a chintan shivir in September 2018, Bhagwat had suggested that the RSS may be rethinking its certitudes and prejudices — most notably, by urging that Golwalkar's anti-Muslim formulations be seen in the context of their time. This harking back puts a question mark on that step forward.

TROUBLE WITH CREDIT

Collapse in credit flow to commercial sector is worrying. Time to ensure a quick and orderly resolution of stressed NBFCs

THE MONETARY POLICY Report of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) paints a worrying picture of credit flows in the economy. Between April and mid-September this year, the flow of funds to the commercial sector collapsed to Rs 90,995 crore, down from Rs 7.36 lakh crore over the same period last year. Non-food bank credit has declined, as have flows from NBFCs. Foreign flows, though, have picked up during this period. While, typically, credit flows in the first half of the year tend to be subdued and pick up in the second half, the decline this time around compared to the previous year is staggering.

The sharp decline appears to be due to a combination of two factors — a collapse in demand and risk aversion. An over-leveraged corporate sector is in the midst of a much needed deleveraging exercise. And in the current environment of subdued demand and low capacity utilisation rates, there is little incentive to launch fresh investments. On the other hand, banks appear to be reluctant to cut rates to boost lending. Instead, they are parking more funds in government securities and with the RBI. As the RBI report notes, banks have increased their SLR portfolios (statutory liquidity ratio), holding excess SLR of 6.9 per cent at the end of August 2019, as compared to 6.3 per cent at the end of March 2019, indicating a reluctance to lend. The shift in the liquidity stance from deficit to surplus mode has also not helped boost credit flow to the larger economy. It is also plausible that, in the face of growing economic uncertainty, banks have tightened credit norms, reducing those eligible for credit. Further, the crisis in the NBFC segment has only deepened. With bank credit and the commercial paper market remaining shut for NBFCs, credit flow from NBFCs to the larger economy has suffered, the fallout of which is visible in the decline in household debt fueled consumption.

A slowdown in economic activity will only exacerbate the situation, as stress on the repayment capacity of borrowers will increase the rise of default, making lenders even more cautious. Breaking out of this vicious cycle may be a long drawn out process. But the first step towards rebuilding trust, and addressing the stress in the financial sector in order to get credit flowing, should be to ensure a quick and orderly resolution of stressed NBFCs.

JUST TAKE THE METRO

Expensive ‘innovations’, like tracks for self-driving cars, are being touted as an ecological solution. It's not a new idea

ANTHROPOLOGICAL CIRCLES, especially in the study of tribes, an object is considered a fetish if it is thought to be imbued with magical powers, often because it is inhabited by a spirit. Between the contemporary obsession with technology, and the near-divine worship of start-up culture, it may be time to shift the focus of that definition. The latest tech “innovation” to make news is placing on roads copper coils to make it easier to charge electric vehicles. More importantly, such dedicated roads could remove much of the uncertainty and danger around self-driving or driver-less vehicles — Elaine Herzberg became the first person to be killed by a self-driving car in 2018.

If a dedicated lane or road to provide safe, eco-friendly transport which spares commuters the trials and tribulations of driving through urban mazes seems like a familiar idea, that's because it is. Wooden rails were used as early as 1515 and the carts that plied on them have never been accused of an over-sized carbon footprint. Closer home, and closer to our times, Kolkata still sports proudly the most nostalgic form of public transport — the tram. Paris, too, has them, albeit slicker, faster versions. Sadly, trams and trams still require drivers. But for would-be commuters, what does it matter how they get there, as long as they don't have to do the driving themselves?

The tram-track idea for electric, self-driving cars has come from a start-up. By employing new-sounding, if not novel, jargon — “eco-friendly”, “futuristic”, etc — the company has figured out what second-hand car salesman have long known: Slap a coat of paint on it, and sell the shine. As for the substance of the proposal, track-based transport is an excellent idea for urban conglomerations that can no longer support the luxury of fuel-guzzling, space hoarding private vehicles. Fortunately, someone already thought of the metro.

IN SEPTEMBER 1984, J R D Tata responded to retired bureaucrat P N Haksar's letter taunting him that businessmen were not doing enough for India's development with “I began my 55-year-old career as an angry young man because I couldn't stomach foreign domination... I end it as angry old man... because it breaks my heart to see the continuing miserable fate of the vast majority of our people, for much of which I blame years of ill-conceived economic policies of our government. Instead of releasing energies and enterprises, the system of licences and controls imposed on the private sector, combined with confiscatory personal taxation, not only discouraged and penalised honest free enterprise but encouraged, and brought success and wealth, to a new breed of bribers, tax evaders, and black marketeers”. Reforms over 35 years since J R D's letter — delicensing, deregulation, Aadhaar, UPI, inflation targeting, Bankruptcy, GST, lower corporate taxes, etc. — are India's strong foundations for a \$5-trillion economy. But reaching a \$10-trillion economy and a per capita income close to what China has today needs a new human capital regime for India's 20 million civil servants.

Let's imagine India's \$10-trillion economy. Eighty per cent of our labour force works outside farms (the only way to help farmers is to have less of them). We have 200 cities with more than a million people (today we have 52). Our cities meet the Marchetti constant (people have 30-minute work commutes). Our government borrows at less than 4 per cent. Our Aadhaar-linked land markets equalise rental yields and mortgage borrowing rates. PSU banks are governed by an independent holding company with no access to taxes. Our credit to GDP ratio rises to 100 per cent (from today's 50 per cent) because our financial institutions know how to lend and recover money. Government school enrolment stops declining because learning outcomes improve (if anything should be free with quality, it should be schools). We have attracted China factory refugees that are going to Vietnam and Malaysia today. The global capital glut of negative interest rates chasing growth underwrites our investment needs. Fiscal discipline delivers low inflation. Fifty per cent of our college-going-age kids go to

This horrible hostility to private enterprises comes from toxic civil service thought-worlds like prohibited till permitted, know-it-all rather than learn-it-all, too small for big things but too big for small things, poor and jerky law drafting, contempt for execution complexity, immaculate conception over continuous improvement, stereotyping the private sector as big companies rather than MSMEs, only using punishment to enforce policy rather than design driven by domain specialisation, and not viewing wealth creators as national assets.



C UDAY BHASKAR

A TRIANGULAR AFFAIR

Delhi will have to accept China's role in Bangladesh while shaping its ties with Dhaka

PREPARATIONS ARE afoot for Prime Minister Narendra Modi to receive Chinese President Xi Jinping at an informal summit (October 11-12) in Mamallapuram. While a formal announcement is still awaited (at the time of writing this article) and uncertainty lingers, a tweet by the Chinese ambassador to India highlighting the need to “further unleash the positive effect of Wuhan” is seen as a signal that the Modi-Xi meeting is on.

The first informal summit between the two leaders was held at Wuhan in April 2018, necessitated by the earlier military stand-off between the Asian giants at Doklam. Prudence at the highest political level enabled the two nations to arrive at a modus vivendi in Wuhan, though the long-festering territorial dispute and an unresolved 4,000 km-plus Line of Actual Control are tenaciously alive.

The just-concluded visit (October 6) to India by Bangladesh's prime minister, Sheikh Hasina, provides an instructive cue as to how the strategic ties between India and China have evolved and future lessons to be drawn from this bilateral relationship. The Bangladesh-India-China triangle is often obscured by the high visibility accorded to Pakistan in the uneasy relationship between the two Asian giants.

India enabled the birth of Bangladesh in December 1971 when it militarily assisted the erstwhile East Pakistan to acquire freedom from its oppressive western wing and this is still venerated as the Liberation War. At the time, the Pakistani army unleashed a

diverse higher education system (today 25 per cent are in a homogenous system). Policy encourages formal hiring (today's labour laws are like marriage without divorce). Our reformed social security system covers 60 per cent of workers (today's cover only 20 per cent because the Provident Fund and ESI provide poor value for money).

Prosperity needs productive firms and workers. But India's capital is handicapped without labour and labour is handicapped without capital because of our regulatory cholesterol universe for employers of 57,000 compliances, 3,100 filings and 4,000 changes a year (details verifiable at www.teamlease.com and Rulezbook.com). This horrible hostility to private enterprises comes from toxic civil service thought-worlds like prohibited till permitted, know-it-all rather than learn-it-all, too small for big things but too big for small things, poor and jerky law drafting, contempt for execution complexity, immaculate conception over continuous improvement, stereotyping the private sector as big companies rather than MSMEs, only using punishment to enforce policy rather than design driven by domain specialisation, and not viewing wealth creators as national assets. Listed PSUs have destroyed \$150 billion in value over the last decade, consistent with the Gujarati saying “Jahan raja vyapaari, wahan praja bhikhari” (where the king is a businessperson, the population is a beggar). Cutting this regulatory cholesterol needs a climate change for civil servants.

A new human capital regime starts with two projects each in six areas of structure, staffing, training, performance management, compensation, and culture. Structure Project 1 involves rationalisation: We don't need hundreds of PSUs and departments in 55 central ministries (Japan has nine, the US has 14, UK has 21). Structure Project 2 involves reverting the cylinder to a pyramid on the way to becoming an Eiffel Tower (250+ people in Delhi with Secretary rank).

Staffing Project 1 eliminates the sanctioned and actual strength gap because this is possible only with good people being overworked, non-urgent work neglected, or squatting on unnecessary posts. Staffing Project 2 creates cognitive diversity and competition

with 20 per cent lateral entry. Training Project 1 involves restructuring how courses are chosen (demand rather than supply driven), how course nominations choose people, how courses are evaluated, and how course results integrate with performance management. Training Project 2 involves making learning continuous rather than episodic.

Performance Management Project 1 involves a forced curve for appraisals of outstanding (20 per cent), good (60 per cent) and poor (20 per cent) because 98 per cent of people can't be outstanding. Performance Management Project 2 involves replicating army thresholds where people retire at 50 if not shortlisted for promotion. Compensation Project 1 involves moving to a cost-to-government number by monetising benefits. Compensation Project 2 involves freezing salaries at the bottom (we pay too much) and raising them at the top (we pay too little).

The two culture projects are the most difficult — tone from the top around corruption and differentiation. Too many civil service leaders overlook graft among subordinates or don't question the processes that breed corruption. And leaders punish good performers by writing performance appraisals that don't differentiate between *gaddha* (donkey) and *ghoda* (horse), giving top jobs by seniority, and allowing automatic promotions that create a pool of “promotable but not postable”. Differentiation needs a fear of falling and hope of rising.

The current economic slowdown is short-term pain for long-term gain because of overdue medicine. This climate change for employers — ability and strategy only becomes valuable with competition and bankruptcy — needs replication for civil servants. Cutting edge economics views development as a game of scrabble where vowels provided by the government enable the private sector to make more words and longer words. The current civil service fails to provide enough vowels; the steel frame has become a cage. For too long, the brain of the Indian state was not connected to its backbone. Since that has now changed, it's time to connect the backbone to its hands and legs.

The writer is with Teamlease Services



OCTOBER 9, 1979, FORTY YEARS AGO

JP PASSES AWAY

JAYAPRAKASH NARAYAN, WHO inspired the people before and after independence and relit the lamp of democracy, died in deep sleep around 5.45 am. The death came barely a week after the celebration of his 78th birthday, on Vijayadashami day.

In a signed front-page editorial, Express editor, S M Gulgaonkar wrote: “In the death of Jayaprakash Narayan there departs a man who wielded on several aspects of life in India a moral influence second only to that of Mahatma Gandhi. JP was by any reckoning one of the three greatest Indians of this century. But he himself would have taken more pride in being recognised simply as a good

man. He was caught up from his early youth in the struggle for independence and other political causes. Throughout all this and beyond it what set him apart was his deep concern for the human condition. It has been said that he shrank from political power.

The real explanation was that for JP politics could never provide the entire answer to his quest for the freedom and dignity of the human spirit, a quest which for him embraced not only the cause of Indian independence but the struggle against imperialism and authoritarianism everywhere. It was during this phase that JP was attracted to Marxism. He was soon disenchanted with the practitioners of Marxism. JP was never again to be

a slave to political dogma and though he took the lead in launching the Congress Socialist Party he had already lost his appetite for sectarian politics... (In the 1970s) JP's ideas of total revolution were beginning to engulf other parts of the country. This brought JP in direct confrontation with Mrs Gandhi's government at the Centre... The climax was a mammoth rally in Delhi's Ram Lila grounds addressed by JP on the evening of June 25, 1975. Within a few hours JP was arrested with many other opposition leaders... JP died a sad, unfulfilled man. Nobody deserved such a fate less. For nobody ever brought so much high-mindedness and sincerity to the purposes for which he lived.

The writer is director, Society for Policy Studies, New Delhi

11 THE IDEAS PAGE

Mahatma for the last man

The fearless dissenter and village worker who had a plan to make the countryside hum with life — that is the Gandhi India needs, more than ever



RAJMOHAN GANDHI

THERE ARE AT least three reasons why I need Gandhi today.

One emerges from this true tale. In February 1908, right after a satyagraha that Gandhi had organised in South Africa's Transvaal region, there was a bid to kill him in the region's biggest city, Johannesburg. A man called Mir Alam and his associates were angry with Gandhi's settlement with Transvaal's white government, which for the time being had ended the satyagraha.

Thirty-eight at the time, Gandhi was walking on a street in the heart of the city when a club swung from behind his back hit him on his face. Mumbling "He Raam," he fell and fainted.

Joseph Doke, a white Baptist minister who had walked with him, took Gandhi to his home, where a recovering Gandhi, unable to speak because of stitches on the cheek and mouth, wrote out a request: "Would Doke's little daughter sing *Lead Kindly Light* to him?"

John Henry Newman's 1833 verse, which Olive Doke sang softly at the door, began with these lines:

*Lead, kindly Light, amid th' encircling gloom,
Lead Thou me on;/ The night is dark,
and I am far from home;/ Lead Thou me on;
Keep Thou my feet; I do not ask to see/
The distant scene; one step enough for me.*

Scenes like this from Gandhi's life fortify me in moments of concern or disappointment. Taking a single next step, be it simple or tiny, pleasant or painstaking, raises my morale.

Secondly, I enjoy Gandhi the dissenter. As a lad, Mohan dissented from his mother when she asked him not to touch Uka, the Dalit youngster who came to clean the family home in Rajkot. He dissented again when asked by the mother to avoid Sheikh Mehtab, the wayward athlete in his school. When his caste forbade him from going to London, Mohandas said he would go anyway.

As a law student in London, where he joined the Vegetarian Society, 20-year-old Mohandas unsuccessfully backed the society's controversial dissenter, Thomas Allinson, when its head Alfred Hills, a prominent industrialist, wished to oust the doctor for advocating artificial birth control.

A dozen years later, when Gandhi was in Johannesburg, his readiness to dissent captured a young white associate called Symonds, who teasingly told Gandhi that "he would withdraw his support" if Gandhi was "ever found in a majority".

In August 1942, when the Congress voted overwhelmingly (in Mumbai) in favour of its "Quit India" call, Gandhi praised the dissenters: "I congratulate the thirteen friends who voted against the resolution." His August 1942 remarks also contained these lines: "I have read a good deal about the French revolution. Pandit Jawaharlal has told me all about the Russian revolution. But I hold that though theirs was a fight for the people, it was not a fight for real democracy... My democracy means every man is his own master."

Gandhi thought India's independence would mean little unless it also meant the independence of every Indian. This came across in February 1946, when a mutiny by Indian ratings in ships of the Royal Indian Navy created considerable excitement.

Although no Indian officer joined the mutiny, thousands of workers in Mumbai struck work in sympathy. When he heard that mutiny supporters were forcing people

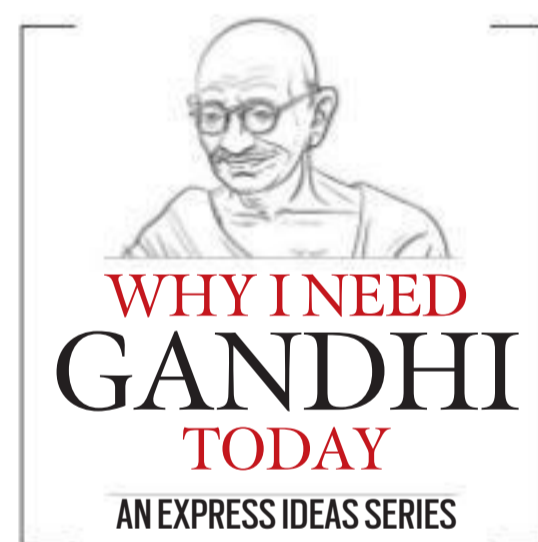


to shout "Jai Hind", Gandhi intervened. If "a single person is compelled to shout 'Jai Hind', or any popular slogan," he declared, "a nail is driven into the coffin of Swaraj in terms of the dumb millions of India".

In 1934, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German dissenter, had written to Gandhi of his wish to travel to India to meet him. Gandhi replied immediately with a welcome, warning, however, that he might be in prison when the German arrived. Unable, in the end, to travel to India, Bonhoeffer was executed in Nazi Germany in April 1945.

There's a third reason why we need Gandhi: His commonsense grasp that if India's vast numbers are to find even minimal comfort, our countryside has to hum with life. The countryside Gandhi envisions in 1937 is sustainable, ultra-modern, egalitarian:

"An ideal Indian village will be so constructed as to lend itself to perfect sanitation. It will have cottages with sufficient light and ventilation built of a material obtainable within a radius of five miles of it. The cottages will have courtyards enabling householders to plant vegetables for domestic use and to house their cattle. Village lanes and streets will be free of all avoidable dust. It will have wells, accessible to all. It will have houses of worship for all, also a common meeting place, a village common for grazing its cattle, a co-operative dairy, primary



When he heard that mutiny supporters were forcing people to shout 'Jai Hind', Gandhi intervened. If 'a single person is compelled to shout 'Jai Hind', or any popular slogan,' he declared, 'a nail is driven into the coffin of Swaraj in terms of the dumb millions of India'.

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"No forcible solution will be accepted by the Kashmiris, and New Delhi, as well as the world powers, must realise that only through a democratic political process can the issue be resolved." —DAWN

Learning from Bhavkhedi

Absence of remorse in the collective response to the murder of two children is a disturbing sign of indifference to the violence against Dalits



KRISHNA KUMAR

THE RECENT KILLING of two Schedule Caste children in Bhavkhedi village in Shivpuri district of Madhya Pradesh brings into focus a larger social reality. A formal inquiry into this incident is likely to proceed along two lines. They are both relevant from a legal perspective and are sure to affect the judicial outcome of the murder case. One line of inquiry is the local history of relations between the scheduled caste families and the higher placed "other backward classes". Reports show that the person who fatally hit the children on their heads belongs to the latter social category. The other line of inquiry will interpret the spate of anger he felt when he saw the two children defecating by the roadside. The prosecution and the defence will look at the anger that the sight of open defecation occasioned in the mind of the accused. Contrasting arguments will enable the case to proceed in a customary manner. We can be sure, however, that the judicial verdict on the crime committed will not cover the deeper ground this incident reveals.

It is a tempting thought that the incident is specific to this particular area of MP. An equally reasonable temptation is to think that the old problem such incidents reflect is now confined to rural areas. Several commentators have taken the second line, but the first is not altogether unpopular. The fact that both lines are reasonable strengthens our endurance for the horrible death of the two children. The basic elements of the story — village, poverty, caste division and dominance — do indeed assure us that we need not feel unwarrantably disturbed or alarmed. As readers, we have gone through several similar reports of terrible cruelty against victims of caste or religious prejudice.

In addition to these familiar social triggers of violent anger, the Bhavkhedi story offers a third basis to comprehend the incident. It refers to the national drive against open defecation. Bhavkhedi has attained the status of an "no open defecation" village. Status tags of this kind are not new. Murderous rage at the sight of two children indulging in an officially eradicated practice is.

Remorse and guilt are important emotional resources available to a society or a nation for recovery after going through a trauma. In the case of atrocities against the Scheduled Castes, public recognition of their trauma is rarely granted. A visit by political leaders is all that happens in a few cases that gain prominence and visibility. Society delegates to its leaders the responsibility to convey remorse. Visits by social activists and journalists sometimes play this role, demonstrating society's formal concern. Expression of collective guilt or *glani* for atrocities on the Scheduled Castes is rare, both at the local and national levels. Society just does not stop its normal activities to find

time, howsoever short, to worry about the absence of any such guilt. The Bhavkhedi incident is no exception. We will just move on, as they say we must, after any outrage.

Both children were studying at the local government school. Correspondents who visited the school have reported that caste discrimination is a routine matter. The teacher in charge is reported to have said that Dalit and OBC children don't sit together or eat their mid-day meal together. A child from the latter category talked about the behaviour he has learnt at home with regard to the presence of Dalits in his class. If he happens to touch them, he said, he is supposed to wash his hands. News reporters have also talked about the display of caste-wise data on the school wall. This practice is not new, and the bureaucracy that governs the school system considers it necessary. If you ask a state-level official, he will tell you that caste-wise and gender-wise display of numbers enrolled and present ensures transparency. The matter is regarded exclusively from the point of view of governance, not in terms of the impact it might make on children.

Similar practices are followed for the monthly distribution of scholarships. The day the scholarship money comes, the teacher calls aloud the names of the Scheduled Caste children, asking them to get up and collect their money. No one thinks this can be done more discretely. Caste is treated as something routine and real, not worth hiding for the sake of higher ideals. Routinised recognition of caste and religion is at the heart of school governance. It helps to conceal prejudice and hatred. In any case, no one has time to encourage empathy in our schools. Local or national happenings that may cause pain are simply ignored. A school runs like an office; reflection on what is happening around it is not among its jobs. Studying the prescribed syllabus and preparing for the exam are.

It is hard not to think of Gandhi in the context of Bhavkhedi incident. It occurred barely a week before Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary. But irony means something only when it is felt. Gandhi is a global icon of non-violence, and his birthday is recognised by the UN as Ahimsa Day. But, of course, it is a date like any other. Last year, a murder that was internationally recognised for its brazen horror occurred on October 2. Even the UN chose to ignore this coincidence perhaps because the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi immediately became a political matter.

As the 150th year of Gandhi's birth progressed, numerous collective killings took place in our country, indicating that the value that Gandhi held dear was not doing well. Nor is his constructive programme for alleviating the suffering of the castes involved in sanitation. Death in a sewer while it was being cleaned has become a familiar episode in our cities. That such deaths fail to evoke even a temporary public outrage indicates a culturally entrenched contempt. The truth of Bhavkhedi is that there is more hatred around than we realise.

The writer, professor of education at University of Delhi, was director of NCERT from 2004 to 2010

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CONG DECLINE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'The withering' (IE, October 8). It is the season of political turncoats changing their colours, so it is unsurprising to see leaders leaving the Congress and joining other parties. What is really unfortunate is that the Congress, which lost badly in the last Lok Sabha elections, has not learnt its lessons. It is tragic that even when Rahul Gandhi has paved way for his mother to lead the grand old party, there seems to be no change in the way the party functions. If Sonia Gandhi is also unable to stop this downside, then its going to be a huge disadvantage to our democracy.

Bal Govind, Noida

TAKE A JOKE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Joker, the Incel' (IE, October 08). A film can't be criticised for portrayal of a violent character. Cinema of any genre represents art. It is the hard work of thousands of people who devote their time, working day and night, for its success. In the end, it depends upon the viewers and how they interpret it. Viewers should always try to understand the crux of the movie rather than pay attention to the possible aftermath.

Aayush Sapra, Ujjain

LAW AND DISORDER

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Two

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 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

wrongs' (IE, Oct 8). There has been an onslaught on the freedom of expression and personal liberty by the current government. It has resorted to a parochial interpretation of the law and, often, conveniently equates dissent to sedition, as it has done with university students. The arbitrariness of the law requires a relook. In the wise words of Justice D Y Chandrachud: "Dissent is like a safety valve of democracy."

Yogesh Singh, New Delhi

and secondary schools in which industrial education will be central, and it will have (a) Panchayat for settling disputes. It will produce its own grains, vegetables and fruits, and its own khadi."

Presented in 1946, Gandhi's picture of "a holistic village worker" is also refreshing: "(He) must know everybody living in the village and render them such service as he can. He will so win over the villagers that they will seek and follow his advice.

Supposing I go and settle down in a village with a *ghani* (an oil-press). I won't be an ordinary *ghanchi* earning 15-20 rupees a month. I will be a Mahatma *ghanchi*! I have used the word in fun. What I mean, is that as a *ghanchi* I will become a model for the villagers to follow.

I will be a *ghanchi* who knows the Gita and the Quran. I will be learned enough to teach their children. The villagers will come to me and ask me: 'Please make arrangements for our children's education.' I will tell them: 'I can find you a teacher but you will have to bear the expenses.' And they will be prepared to do so most willingly."

Who wouldn't want such a person in their village?

The writer is research professor at Centre for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign

NO MODI MEDIA

WITH TV MEDIA being regularly criticised for its over-the-top pro-government reporting, allegedly under pressure from the powers that be, the latest issue of *Panchjanya*, the Hindi mouthpiece of the RSS, has defied the government. In an article titled 'Silent Public Interest Media', the magazine has alleged that the almost "laughable" reporting by the TV channels on the Narendra Modi government is more a result of the PM's popularity among the masses than any pressure from the government. It has argued that the media was, in fact, not criticising other governments for their misdeeds enough.

Pointing to TV programmes titled "World Cup Dilayenge Modi" and "Chand Par Modi Modi" shown by certain Hindi TV news channels, the article said, "When viewers criticised such laughable content, the editors began spreading the lie that they were under pressure from the government. In fact, such unrealistic and laughable programming causes more damage to the government than doing it any good. Narendra Modi was popular even when media used to criticise him day and night."

The article said that TV channels are doing this because adding Modi to any programme garners higher TRPs.

Compiled by Deeptiman Tiwary

values are the practices that are nurtured in the name of secularism," the editorial claims.

It also accuses the Congress of being hand-in-glove with the communists. "The communists who put Lenin and Stalin above Gandhi or any other Bharatiya hero, who considered Mao even above Nehru have been the ideological torchbearers of the Congress. Sonia Gandhi is battling for. Piggybacking with the communists, standing with the breaking-Bharat forces and speaking for the corrupt dynastic practices are definitely not the ingredients of the Gandhian legacy," the editorial asserts.

It suggests that the Congress rise above party politics and let the RSS take the lead on Gandhi's ideas.

"If RSS is showing the right path for this let it be; do not kill Gandhi again just because you desist RSS. As a revenge perhaps, Congress should claim legacy of Dr Hedgewar, the founder of RSS, who himself was the Congress member," the editorial said.

ILLIBERAL LEFT

AGAINST THE BACKDROP of Union minister Babul Supriyo being allegedly roughed up in Kolkata's Jadavpur University and MoS PMO Jitendra Singh facing protests in JNU over Kashmir, *Organiser's* latest cover story is titled 'Liberally Fascist'.

Talking about the opposition faced by Singh in JNU while speaking on Kashmir, the article accuses the Left of "intellectual fascism". "A protest to register point of view is

natural in democracy, but what is being preached and practised by Communists not just in JNU but wherever they are dominating is nothing but continuation of the communist tradition, intellectual fascism," the article says.

The article claims that the Left is not ready to hear the other point of view. "AISA and other students' organisations once again have shown their mindset where they do not want to listen to any viewpoint they do not agree with... If they are so serious about rights, democracy and free speech, why they do not stand for the rights of Jammu and Ladakh people and many communities of Kashmir Valley who were discriminated through Article 370, is the natural question being asked on the campus. In the process, communist organisations reminded (sic) the recent incident at Jadavpur where they had a violent scuffle against another Union Minister Babul Supriyo and exposed themselves," the article claims.

On the Jadavpur incident, another article sees the Left aggression as a response to the rise of the ABVP: "Having seen an upsurge of ABVP, the Left students' wings have become restless; they are fighting their existential wars in the campuses. Their patrons who are teachers are more worried. Their forte is under threat. That is why they are using the violent method in sheer rage of losing the battle. For the left intellectuals campuses were their shops...The compromises were being made between the Congress and Left parties. The Congress was given the parlia-

12 THE WORLD



MEANWHILE RUSSIA HONOURS US ASTRONAUT

Russia has decorated NASA astronaut Nick Hague with one of its highest honours, the Order of Courage, a Kremlin decree said on Tuesday. Hague, along with Russian cosmonaut Aleksey Ovchinnikov, had a close brush with death when their Soyuz rocket failed minutes after blast-off from Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan in October last year.

TOP OF THE WORLD



ANTONIO GUTERRES
UN Secretary General

UNITED NATIONS UN may run out of money by end of the month, says Guterres

United Nations: The United Nations is running a deficit of \$230 million, Secretary General Antonio Guterres has said, and may run out of money by the end of October. In a letter intended for the 37,000 employees at the UN secretariat, Guterres said on Monday that unspecified "additional stop-gap measures" would have to be taken to ensure salaries and entitlements are paid. "Member States have paid only 70 per cent of the total amount needed for our regular budget operations in 2019... We run the risk of depleting our backup liquidity reserves by the end of the month," he wrote in the letter.

Britain says Brexit deal essentially impossible, EU slams blame game

German Chancellor made unacceptable demands in phone call with UK PM: Downing Street official

GUY FAULCONBRIDGE, ELIZABETH PIPER & MARINE STRAUSS
LONDON, BRUSSELS, OCTOBER 8

THE EUROPEAN Union accused Britain of playing a "stupid blame game" over Brexit on Tuesday after a Downing Street source said a deal was essentially impossible because German Chancellor Angela Merkel had made unacceptable demands. With just 23 days before the United Kingdom is due to leave the bloc, the future of Brexit remains deeply uncertain and both London and Brussels are positioning themselves to avoid blame for a delay or a disorderly no-deal Brexit. In a sign that Johnson's last-ditch proposals to bridge the impasse have failed, a Downing Street source said Merkel and Johnson spoke on Tuesday morning and she made clear that a deal was "overwhelmingly unlikely". The Downing Street source said that if Merkel's position on Northern Ireland remaining in the EU's customs union was the bloc's position, then a deal was impossible. "If this represents a new established position then it means a deal is essentially impossible not



Merkel made clear to Johnson that a deal was 'overwhelmingly unlikely', a Downing Street official said. Reuters

just now but ever," the Downing Street source said. A spokesman for the German chancellor confirmed the call had taken place but declined to comment further. The EU was scathing. "Boris Johnson, what's at stake is not winning some stupid blame game," European Council President Donald Tusk said on Twitter. "At stake is the future of Europe and the UK as well as the security and interests of our people. You don't want a deal, you don't want an extension, you don't want to revoke, quo vadis?"



Boris Johnson, what's at stake is not winning some stupid blame game. At stake is the future of Europe and the UK as well as the security and interests of our people. — DONALD TUSK EUROPEAN COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Such abrupt remarks indicate the Brexit blame game has begun in earnest, and that now both London and European capitals are preparing for an acrimonious and potentially chaotic Brexit for which neither side wants to be held responsible. A disorderly Brexit could rip apart the United Kingdom, hurt global growth and shape the future of the European Union which was built on the World War Two ruins of Europe. Merkel said that for a deal, Northern Ireland would have to

Starmar, Brexit spokesman for the Labour Party, adding that the British Parliament needed to unite to stop him. "Boris Johnson will never take responsibility for his own failure to put forward a credible deal. His strategy from day one has been for a no-deal Brexit." A separate Downing Street source told Reuters that unless the European Union compromises and does a Brexit deal shortly, then the United Kingdom will leave without a deal. "If the EU doesn't do a deal shortly, then we leave without a deal," the source said. "We are leaving the European Union." Johnson has consistently said the United Kingdom will leave the EU on Oct. 31 with or without a deal, though a law passed by parliament demands he write a letter to the EU asking for a delay if he cannot strike an exit deal by Oct. 19. He has said he would abide by the law but Britain would leave the EU by the end of the month, without explaining that contradiction. The *Spectator* magazine quoted a source in Downing Street as saying Britain would take an aggressive stance towards the EU if Brexit talks break down, possibly even by withholding security cooperation. **REUTERS**

IMPEACHMENT PROBE



Trump with Gordon Sondland, the US ambassador to the European Union, in Brussels last year. Sondland has become enmeshed in the burgeoning scandal into how the President sought to push the Ukrainians to investigate political rivals. AP

Trump orders top diplomat not to speak to House investigators

MICHAEL S SCHMIDT & NICHOLAS FANDOS
WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 8

THE TRUMP administration directed a top US diplomat involved in its pressure campaign on Ukraine not to appear Tuesday morning for a scheduled deposition with House Democrats conducting an impeachment inquiry, according to two people briefed on the matter. The decision to block Gordon Sondland, the US ambassador to the European Union, from speaking with investigators is certain to provoke an immediate conflict with potentially profound consequences for the White House and President Donald Trump. But in making the decision Tuesday, hours before he was scheduled to sit for a deposition in the basement of the Capitol, the Trump administration appears to be making the calculation that it is better off risking the House's ire than letting Sondland show up and set a precedent for cooperation with an inquiry they have strenuously argued is illegitimate. Sondland has become enmeshed in the burgeoning scandal into how the President sought to push the Ukrainians to investigate his political rivals. Although Ukraine is not in the union, Trump instructed Sondland — a wealthy hotelier

EXPLAINED Dems eye another charge: obstruction

WITH AMBASSADOR Gordon Sondland ordered not to appear before a scheduled deposition with House investigators, Democrats are eyeing multiple plans of action. They are first likely to subpoena the diplomat, but Sondland will be forced to not comply with it due to the State Department order. He can then be held in contempt of the House, but Democrats are more likely to use the instance as evidence of obstruction of justice by the Trump administration, which they see as an impeachable offence. Sondland's lawyer has made it clear that his client was eager to testify, but was "disappointed" he was ordered not to do so.

and campaign contributor — to take a lead in relations between the Trump administration and the country. Democrats consider him a key witness to what transpired between the two countries. **NYT**

Senate panel chairman says to probe Giuliani allegations

REUTERS
WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 8



Senator Lindsey Graham is a Trump ally and heads the Senate Judiciary Committee

THE REPUBLICAN chairman of the US Senate Judiciary Committee on Tuesday opened the door to a Senate investigation into unproven allegations regarding Ukraine raised by President Donald Trump's personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani, inviting the attorney to testify. "It is time for the Senate to inquire about corruption and other improprieties involving Ukraine," Senator Lindsey Graham said in a series of tweets, mentioning specifically the firing of Ukraine's former prosecutor Viktor Shokin. Giuliani and his allegations are central to the Democratic impeachment inquiry in the House of Representatives, which followed a July 25 phone call in which President Donald Trump pressed Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to investigate 2020 Democratic presidential candidate

Joe Biden and his son, Hunter. Senate Democrats welcomed the chance to question Giuliani under oath about his role in pressuring Ukraine to investigate the Bidens. The House Intelligence Committee had subpoenaed Giuliani to provide documents on Sept 30. He and others have made claims that when Joe Biden was vice president, he had a prosecutor fired to halt an investigation into a Ukrainian gas company that Hunter Biden was involved in between 2014 and 2018.

AFGHANISTAN Bomb goes off in classroom, wounds 19

Kabul: An Afghan official said a bomb has gone off inside a classroom in eastern Ghazni province, wounding at least 19 university students. Arif Noori, spokesman for the provincial governor, said 12 of the wounded are female students of Ghazni University, located on the outskirts of the provincial capital, the city of Ghazni. Noori added that two of the wounded are in critical condition. No one immediately claimed responsibility for Tuesday's attack.

U.S. BEGINS TO PULL BACK TROOPS

Turkey says ready for Syria offensive, Kurds signal Damascus talks

Trump invites Erdogan to White House

DAREN BUTLER
ISTANBUL, OCTOBER 8

THE TURKISH military carried out strikes targeting the Syrian-Iraqi border overnight to prevent Kurdish forces using the route to reinforce northeast Syria, as Ankara prepares to launch an offensive there, two Turkish officials told Reuters on Tuesday. Turkey says it has finalised preparations for a military push into northeast Syria, after the United States began pulling back troops from the Turkey-Syria frontier area in a move widely criticised in Washington as a betrayal of America's allies. The US move will leave Kurdish-led forces long allied to Washington vulnerable to attack by the Turkish Armed Forces (TSK), which brands them terrorists because of their links to Kurdish militants who have waged a long insurgency in Turkey. Giving details of the overnight strike, a security official said one of the main goals was to cut off the transit route between Iraq and Syria "before the operation in Syria". "In this way, the group's transit to Syria and support lines, including ammunition, are shut off," the official said. US President Donald Trump meanwhile denied the Kurds had been abandoned by the US pull-back, praising Turkey as a trade



A woman holds a portrait of a Kurdish fighter who was killed while fighting IS militants, during a protest in Qamishli, Syria. AP

partner and NATO ally in a softening of his tone hours after threatening Ankara's economy if it acted "off limits" in Syria. "So many people conveniently forget that Turkey is a big trading partner of the United States... They have been good to deal with," he tweeted. Trump has also invited Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to the White House. A White House spokesperson said Erdogan would visit the US on November 13. Signalling a further potential shift in the region's power balance, the Kurdish-led forces said they might start talks with Damascus and Russia to fill a security vacuum in the event of a full US withdrawal from the Turkish border area. US forces evacuated two observation posts at Tel Abyad and Ras al Ain on Monday. **REUTERS**



A worker cleans graffiti from a Bank of China branch that had been previously boarded up to prevent damages during protests in Hong Kong. Reuters

Hong Kong leader says not ruling out Beijing help as economy suffers

CLARE JIM & NOAH SIN
HONG KONG, OCTOBER 8

HONG KONG'S embattled leader Carrie Lam on Tuesday did not rule out asking Beijing for help, as the Asian financial hub struggles to deal with months of often violent anti-government protests that are damaging its economy. Lam said Beijing wanted Hong Kong to solve its own problems, but under its mini-constitution, known as the Basic Law, Hong Kong could ask Beijing for help. "If the situation becomes so bad, then no options could be ruled out, if we want Hong Kong



Carrie Lam said Beijing wanted Hong Kong to solve its own problems. Reuters

to at least have another chance," Lam said at weekly news conference after a long weekend of violence crippled the city.

"But at this moment, I and my team, we are still very committed in making sure we can use our own instruments... to try and restore calm and order in Hong Kong," she said, adding there were no plans to expand emergency laws introduced on Friday. "But I would appeal (to) everyone in society to join hands to achieve this objective." The protests, which show no sign of abating, pose the biggest popular challenge to Chinese President Xi Jinping since he came to power in 2012 and are Hong Kong's thorniest political crisis since Britain returned it to China in 1997. **REUTERS**

'WE WELCOME THE CHINESE CENSORS INTO OUR HOMES AND INTO OUR HEARTS,' SHOW'S CREATORS SAY IN MOCK RESPONSE

South Park is pulled in China after episode mocking govt censors

DANIEL VICTOR
HONG KONG, OCTOBER 8

SOUTH PARK, the long-running Comedy Central cartoon whose mockery has spared few touchy topics, was erased from major platforms in China after an episode last week taunted Chinese censors and the far-reaching effect they often have on American entertainment. The government's censors, who routinely quash news and commentary deemed undesirable by the ruling Communist Party, wiped out video clips and discussions of the show, which premiered in 1997 and has lasted 23 seasons. Once known mostly

for the raunchy humour coming from the mouths of its elementary-school-age main characters, the show has in recent seasons focused on political and cultural satire, without abandoning its boundary-pushing ways. Last week's episode, called "Band in China", appeared to cross a new line for the Chinese authorities. On Baidu Tieba, a popular discussion platform, searches for *South Park* on Tuesday returned the following message: "According to the relevant law and regulation, this section is temporarily not open." Searches for the show were also fruitless on Youku, a video hosting service, which similarly cited "the relevant law and reg-

ulation". On Weibo, the country's most popular social network, posts mentioning the show could not be found. The censorship occurred as the NBA was unintentionally demonstrating how protecting business interests in China can chill speech back in the United States. The basketball league has scrambled to contain a backlash in China since Daryl Morey, the general manager of the Houston Rockets, tweeted support last week for the Hong Kong protests, which are reviled by the Chinese government. Though the league has supported political expression by its players, it was less supportive of Morey, prompting accusations



South Park, which has lasted 23 seasons, has in recent years focused on political and cultural satire.

that it valued its business in China more than free speech. Whereas the NBA has struggled to respond to the geopolitical fracas, the creators of *South Park* appeared to relish the fight. The

show's creators, Trey Parker and Matt Stone, put out a fake apology on Monday, poking fun at the NBA while insulting Xi Jinping, China's President. "Like the NBA, we welcome the Chinese censors into our homes and into our hearts," the tongue-in-cheek statement read. "We too love money more than freedom and democracy. Xi doesn't look just like Winnie the Pooh at all." That last part makes more sense in the context of the episode, which had two plot lines related to China. Spoilers ahead. In one, the character Randy Marsh flies to China hoping to expand his marijuana business there, only to be arrested at the

airport. In a work camp, he meets Winnie the Pooh, who, the show explains, was banned after Chinese social media users pointed out his resemblance to Xi. Meanwhile in Colorado, the South Park children form a band, and a manager wants to make a biopic about them — but insists that their life story be told in a way that will be acceptable to Chinese censors, so they don't lose access to the market. He instructs the boys to cut references to the Dalai Lama (seen by the Chinese government as a separatist), organ transplants (China has been accused of harvesting prisoners' organs) and homosexuality (nothing is

wrong with that subject "unless you want to make money in China," he says). Eventually, the boys tire of the ordeal. "I want to be proud of who we are, guys, and anyone who would betray their ideals just to make money in China isn't worth a lick of spit," says one of them, Stan. The NBA is hardly the first international business to make concessions to China's political sensitivities as it seeks access to its lucrative market, or to forcefully apologise after running afoul of them. Movie studios, especially, have worked to ensure that their scripts aren't at odds with state censors, lest they lose billions in potential business. **NYT**

BOEING V AIRBUS

Plane clash

America is preparing to hit \$7.5bn-worth of European imports with tariffs



In a sector like aircraft manufacturing, where subsidies are ubiquitous, it has always been clear that America and the EU needed to agree to mutual disarmament. Instead, they have talked past each other, each complaining at various points that the other was unwilling to negotiate. Reuters

MOST MUSEUM exhibits are beautiful—or at least old. But an exhibition in 2015 at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) included 60 cardboard boxes of documents. The point was to give a sense of the scale of two of the body's longest and largest legal disputes, over American and European subsidies for aircraft manufacturers. Now the fight is moving out of the paperwork phase. That means tariffs are coming.

On October 2nd the WTO published its decision to allow the Trump administration to put tariffs on \$7.5bn-worth of imports from the European Union. That is intended to match the harm done to Boeing, an American manufacturer, by the EU's subsidies for Airbus, Boeing's European rival. It is the largest retaliation the WTO has ever approved. Senior officials at the United States Trade Representative (USTR) called the victory "historic".

The dispute has been long and bitter. In October 2004 America complained to the trade body about loans offered by EU governments to Airbus on easy terms. The following June the EU filed a complaint about the harm to Airbus from subsidies to Boeing, in the form of tax breaks and generous contracts with the Department of Defence. Since then there has been enough legal back-and-forth to bore the most ardent plane-spotter. The WTO ruled against both subsidisers. Each made some adjustments supposed to resolve the other's complaints—but neither was satisfied. The latest judgment comes as the EU's claim of compliance is still being assessed. In around eight months, the WTO is likely to authorise the EU to put tariffs on American imports, completing the tit for tat.

In a narrow sense, this is the multilateral rules-based trading system working as

intended. Both parties went through the proper channels to receive an official judgment. Neither took matters into its own hands. The tariffs America is about to impose on Europe are not unilateral bullying, but an enforcement mechanism of last resort. They would probably have been applied by any president, even one less tariff-happy than Donald Trump.

In a broader sense, it shows how vulnerable those multilateral rules are to time-wasters. In a sector like aircraft manufac-

ture, where subsidies are ubiquitous, it has always been clear that America and the EU needed to agree to mutual disarmament. Instead, they have talked past each other, each complaining at various points that the other was unwilling to negotiate. Most recently it has been the EU that has submitted proposals to America, only to be rebuffed. Meanwhile, the boxes have been piling up and the lawyers raking in fees.

The Trump administration wasted no time in starting the formalities at the WTO

On October 2, the WTO published its decision to allow the Trump administration to put tariffs on \$7.5bn-worth of imports from the European Union. That is intended to match the harm done to Boeing, an American manufacturer, by the EU's subsidies for Airbus, Boeing's European rival

that will allow it to apply the tariffs. That means the EU can expect tariffs on October 18th. As well as tariffs of 10% on large aircraft and 25% on agricultural and industrial goods, the list the USTR published on October 2nd included Italian Parmesan, Scotch whisky and German waffles. Even if a product is not on the list it may still be hit, as items could be shuffled in and out.

For all the fuss the dispute will generate among connoisseurs of European cheese, the biggest impact will be on aircraft, of which America imported \$5.1bn-worth in 2018, mostly from France and Germany (the USTR has said that only a portion will be hit). It could have been worse—the Americans could have applied a tariff of up to 100%—but even one of 10% will bite. American airlines fear that tariffs will raise the price of Airbus aircraft, and that Boeing will lack the capacity to expand supply.

Perhaps the WTO will find that the EU has removed its subsidies, and the Americans will stand down. Or in eight months' time, when the WTO authorises the EU to place retaliatory tariffs on American imports as part of the Boeing dispute, the two sides might finally negotiate away their differences. By then Mr Trump's appetite for tariffs may have been sated, and he might abandon separate threats to put tariffs on European cars and car parts. But it is also possible that trade disputes between the two sides become fiercer. America is blocking the appointment of judges to the WTO's court of appeals. If either side makes a move that the other judges an infraction, and a complaint to the WTO cannot be heard for lack of judges, that could be the end of playing by the rules.

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SPACE TRAVEL

Move fast and build things

SpaceX's Starship is a new kind of rocket, in every sense

IT LOOKED for all the world like something that might have graced the cover of a 1950s comic book. On September 28th, on a warm Texas evening, Elon Musk, the boss of SpaceX, a rocketry firm, unveiled his company's newest machine, Starship Mk1. It stands 50 metres tall and is made from shiny plates of stainless steel. Despite its name, it is not in fact an interstellar spacecraft. But it is a prototype of an interplanetary one. Mr Musk hopes, one day, to use its successors to ferry passengers to the Moon or to Mars—or perhaps even, according to one piece of SpaceX concept art, all the way to Saturn.

In the 17 years since its founding, SpaceX's cheap, reusable machines have revolutionised the rocket business. The firm's ultra-low prices have seen it grab a dominant share of the commercial satellite-launching market. Along with Boeing, an American aerospace giant, SpaceX is responsible for ferrying supplies to the International Space Station. It may soon fly astronauts there as well. But all of this commercial success is merely a necessary first step in Mr Musk's bigger plan, which is to make humanity into a "multiplanetary species" by establishing colonies elsewhere in the solar system.

That is where the Starship comes in. The prototype on display in Texas is only one half of an enormous rocket stack designed with planetary colonisation in mind. When paired with

In the 17 years since its founding, SpaceX's cheap, reusable machines have revolutionised the rocket business. The firm's ultra-low prices have seen it grab a dominant share of the commercial satellite-launching market.

a Falcon Super Heavy booster, which is also being developed, the result should be capable of lifting around 150 tonnes into orbit. That would make it the most powerful rocket ever built, squeaking ahead of the Saturn V, which propelled astronauts to the Moon in the 1960s and 1970s. And unlike the Saturn, whose three stages were abandoned to the sea or to space as their fuel was used up, the Starship and its booster will be reusable, which should keep costs down.

It is a bold plan. Mr Musk's shorter-term plans are bold too. Besides designing a new spaceship and booster, SpaceX's engineers are busy working on a new, more efficient engine to power them. Called Raptor, it is designed to

burn super-cold methane rather than the kerosene that fuels the company's current Merlin engines. The Starship will sport six Raptor engines. But each Super Heavy booster will need somewhere between 24 and 37. The result will be a plumber's nightmare.

Mr Musk has said, perhaps optimistically, that a Starship prototype might be ready for a test flight all the way to orbit (albeit without its booster stage) within six months. That would be of a piece with its frenetic development schedule. The rocket-building industry is used to generous government contracts that are about job creation as much as rocket creation. SpaceX has brought a different sensibility, closer to the rapid-fire development practices of the software industry.

The Starship prototype, for instance, was welded together in a matter of months. It was built out in the open, rather than in a carefully controlled factory environment. The firm has two teams competing against each other to produce the best design. Ideas are tested quickly, taken forward if they work, and scrapped if they do not. The Starship was originally to be made of a carbon-fibre composite. But the company soon abandoned that idea, destroying its production tools. Steel, noted Mr Musk, has a higher melting point than carbon fibre, making re-entry easier. It is also an order of magnitude cheaper.

To see the contrast, look at the Space



Elon Musk has said that a Starship prototype might be ready for a test flight all the way to orbit within six months. Reuters

Launch System (SLS), another super-heavy rocket designed to ferry astronauts to the Moon and Mars, but which is being built by NASA, America's space agency. The SLS has had around \$14bn of taxpayers' money since it was

authorised in 2011—and that understates the true cost, since the SLS incorporates technology from old, abandoned rocket projects. It is due to make its first flight in 2020, though NASA has hinted that date may slip. Mr Musk claims

that less than 5% of SpaceX's resources are dedicated to Starship. Yet it stands a good chance of beating the SLS into orbit.

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15 TALK ART, MUSIC, STYLE, FOOD



ONE MAN SHOW

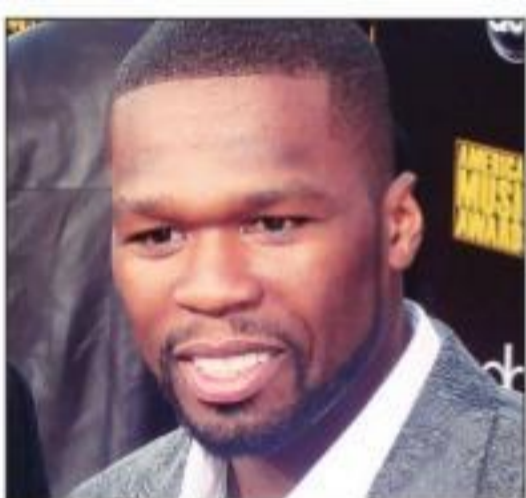
The New York Public Library is opening an exhibition centred around the reclusive author, JD Salinger (pictured), October 18 onwards. Among the 200 items on display is the original typescript of his 1951 classic *The Catcher In The Rye* and some family photographs.

SNAP SHOTS



A Life in Pictures

POPSTAR RIHANNA'S rollercoaster journey beginning from her childhood spent in Barbados to present day is the subject of her upcoming "visual" autobiographical book titled *After Her Name*. The book of 500 pages, to be published by Phaidon, will include 1,000 photographs that have not been printed previously, covering her world tours, intimate moments with friends and family and iconic fashion statements made by the singer. Keith Fox, Phaidon's CEO, said, "Rihanna is such an important and ground-breaking artist, style icon, and entrepreneur and we are looking forward to sharing her life with a larger audience." The book will hit the stands on October 24.



Legal Angle

AMERICAN RAPPER 50 Cent is bringing a docu-series on the legal troubles faced by renowned celebrities, featuring Snoop Dogg, Tekashi 6ix9ine and himself. *A Moment in Time* will document the downfall of the now imprisoned rapper Tekashi 6ix9ine, who is accused of conspiracy, narcotics trafficking and firearm offences among many other charges, and the murder trial that Dogg had to come face to face with at the peak of his career in the '90s. The production company G-Unit Film & Television of rap mogul 50 Cent, whose real name is Curtis Jackson, will produce the project. The series will debut in early 2020. A statement on the show read: "Each season will showcase historical moments in hip-hop culture and revolve around a different music icon, sports hero, infamous drug organisation."



Tough Love

ACTOR Adil Hussain will play the lead role in Bauddhayan Mukherji's *Marichjhapi*, which zooms into the events of January 1979 when refugees on Marichjhapi island — perched in the Sundarbans delta between India and Bangladesh — found themselves surrounded by police boats. Written by Abhinandan Banerjee and Mukherji, the film unveils the relationships that sprout against the backdrop of refugees being shot at, the burning of huts and fisheries and incidents of rapes. To be shot in the Sundarbans, the film is one among the new projects that were introduced at the Busan International Film Festival's Asian Project Market this week.

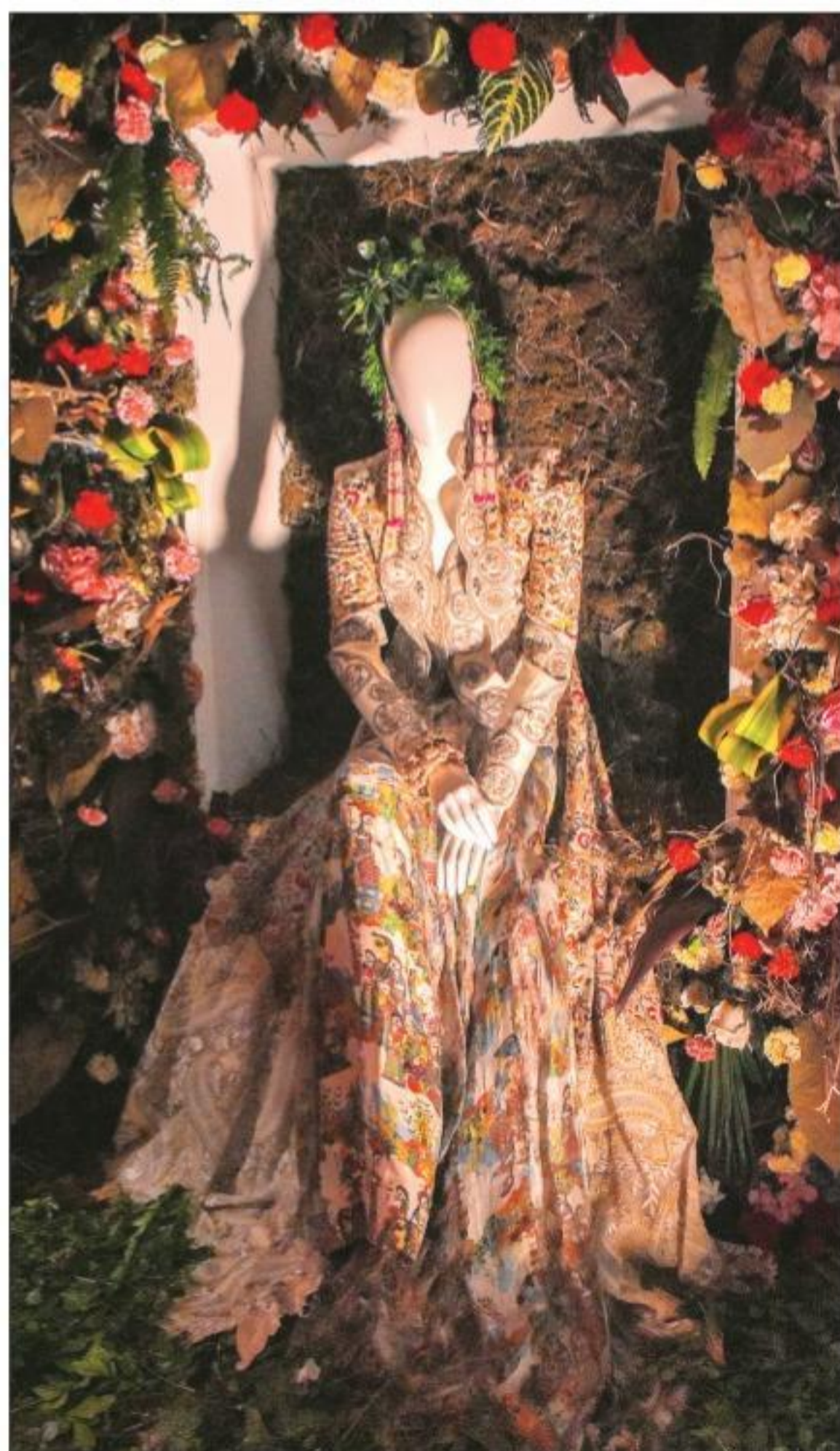


Becoming Again

FORMER US First Lady Michelle Obama's memoir *Becoming* from 2018 will now have company. Penguin Random House imprint Viking is publishing *Becoming: A Guided Journal for Discovering Your Voice* on November 19, which will include an introduction by Michelle, accompanied by 150 questions to enable readers to think back to their own journeys and family history, their challenges, hopes and vision for the future. It hopes to encourage readers to draw from their own personal journeys of becoming.



(Clockwise from above) Sonam Kapoor in an Anamika Khanna creation; a design from her previous collection; the designer



EKTAA MALIK

I HAVE become a lot more braver, experimental and fluid. And well, it's been more than 20 years in the industry," says designer Anamika Khanna, over the phone from Kolkata, when we finally catch her. Khanna has had a busy week, with Pujo celebrations and whole of the city being shut, and she having to design back-to-back collections. Khanna is showcasing at the finale of the Lotus Make-Up India Fashion Week Spring Summer 2020, presented by the Fashion Design Council of India. Khanna shall be presenting on the theme of #MyFashionMyTribe, where she will be joined by Manish Arora, Wendell Rodericks and Rajesh Pratap Singh for the grand finale, which takes place on October 12.

The Kolkata-based designer was quite taken with the theme. "Don't we carry people with us? And they leave their mark on us and our style. We all curate our own looks, and we are identified by that — it could be western, Indian or a mix. We invoke our own tribe with that. And today, we all carry bits and pieces of the people who surround us, our family, a favourite colleague, they all form our tribe. This forms a big organisation in our head, and they form an umbrella of sorts," says Khanna.

"I wanted to extend the organisation — the said tribe — and bring the world into it, and create a melting pot of sorts. In a single garment, I have used the craftsmanship from Gujarat and other Indian regions and presented it in a very contemporary silhouette and cut. The collection is extremely eclectic and experimental. And there are no underlying rules," she adds.

Khanna promises this is something that we haven't seen before from her label. "I was feeling a lot more freer, and expressive. In a way I feel I have created new fabrics, by the sheer layers of embroidery. And of course there is silk, tulle and organza in

The New Global Desi

Designer Anamika Khanna on invoking global silhouettes for her fashion week collection, and the need to invest in timeless, classic pieces



the work," she remarks.

A global silhouette with a very local Indian aesthetic is something of a calling card for Khanna. Over the years, she has successfully blended Indian artisanal handiwork with western silhouettes and drapes. A flowy embellished cape, paired with a jumpsuit, a long jacket, where sleeves touch the floor, worn with a lehenga. A bolero-cut jacket with a long train, worn with a saree. There is a distinct boho-nomadic vibe to Khanna's work.

I knew that ethnic Indian fashion may not be something that people all over the world would wear. A lehenga-choli or a Banarasi saree might not be feasible for working women in New York. But our textiles, weaves and craft is much appreciated. We need to make it relevant to a global world

ANAMIKA KHANNA, DESIGNER

"That was my starting point. I knew that ethnic Indian fashion may not be something that people all over the world would wear. A lehenga-choli or a Banarasi saree might not be feasible for working women in New York or Japan. But our textiles, weaves and crafts are much appreciated. So why should we limit ourselves, we need to make it relevant to a global world. And we in India ourselves don't wear a lehenga to work. A salwar-kameez works better, right? I have always wanted

ON THE RAMP

The Lotus Make-Up India Fashion Week Spring Summer 2020 kicks off today, at Delhi's Major Dhyan Chand Stadium. Here are the highlights:



■ **Ikai By Ragini Ahuja** (pictured) is the opening show of the fashion week. October 9, 3 pm

■ **HUEMN**, the designer label run by Pranav Mishra and Shyma Shetty, known for their strong socio-political themes. October 9, 9.30 pm

■ **Mumbai-based Falguni and Shane Peacock** being Bollywood's favourites, you never know which A-lister will be the showstopper. Oct 10, 9.30pm

■ **Young Guns**, a show that gives new and younger labels such as Bareek, Countrymade, Notebook and Sameer Madan a platform. October 12, 3 pm

■ **Designer Stockroom**, where you can get designer wear at bargain prices. October 13, 11am-7 pm

to take these beautiful crafts to the world," she adds.

Khanna was one of the first Indian designers to have an international label, Anamika, and a subsequent show at the Paris Fashion Week in 2007. Since then she has become a global name. Her global recall value went through the roof when Bollywood actor Sonam Kapoor wore her work at the Cannes red carpet. And Khanna has since become Kapoor's go-to designer. Kapoor wore Khanna again at Cannes, this time in a red and yellow swim suit. Even at her own wedding reception, Kapoor chose Khanna, who designed a white and beige lehenga, which gave out a distinct chevron print look.

"It was all hand-embroidered with zardozi. I used to cringe when someone said it's a print. But then, I was like if they think it's a print, we have done it well," says Khanna.

On her bonding with Kapoor, Khanna says, "We were one of the first people for whom she walked the ramp. We have evolved together. She knows the ins and outs of fashion more than any stylist. She is clear with what she wants, and yet she carries off anything with panache. When she says, 'I am thinking long, thinking red,' I know what she wants. Then I am like, 'I am thinking trousers.' She gets me. We work well together. But she has the attitude and the flair and she is very inspiring."

In today's times when there is a lot of talk about sustainability and the need to be more eco-friendly — especially where fast fashion and high-street brands are concerned — Khanna is optimistic, that at least conversations around the subject have started. "I am glad dialogues on sustainability have started. It might not be imperative that I literally use sustainable fabric, but if I give you something of such fine quality in my clothes that you can repeat it for the next 10 years, that's equally sustainable. We need to invest in timeless, classic pieces, which will last," she says.

Remains of the Day

A sound and movement concert takes audiences on a meditative journey



During the concert in Mumbai

PARTH KHATAU

PATRONS LINING up for the premiere of sound and music concert, interestingly titled *Do you want me to stay for anything in particular?*, had to do something that choreographer Sujay Saple feels is "the need of the hour". They had to deposit their phones before entering the auditorium. This, Saple said, would go on to elevate the experience for the next 60 minutes.

Saple says, "I wanted to make sure the audience has full attention on the show for its entire duration." The experience, he adds, is something most people will relate to. "Audiences can expect a poetic and meditative experience. It is intense, emotional and sometimes haunting, but will take everyone on their individual journeys. The show speaks about loss and absence, and I think most of us have experienced that. It does get quite emotional too," he says.

The show is a choreographed sonic experience involving just one musician and one performer, with a limited number of spectators placed in intimate proximity to the artistes and to each other. Its title, Saple says, is open to interpretation. "The question on most people's mind after a loss is about what is left behind? And that is from where the title comes in," he adds.

The work is a collaboration between Saple and Japanese sound artist and musician, Mitsuaki Matsumoto, who, along with Mallika Singh, performs throughout the show. Sharing his experience of performing in India, Matsumoto says, "It's nice to come to India to do something different. Usually, I only play and do concerts, my own thing. For me, it's an extension (of my own practice) to work with choreographers and theatre artistes." Matsumoto plays a self-modified string instrument, entirely fashioned and designed by him using remnants and dismembered parts of other musical instruments — mainly the Japanese Biwa and the cello.

Saple says that "it has been two parallel tracks for him in life", with his interest in music as well as sound. "My earlier show, *Lullaby Strange*, was also playing with sound and vibrations, and the audience had to lie down to experience it. I love creating these peaceful experiences where audiences can go out feeling rejuvenated," he adds.



Stills from *Nooreh* (left) and *Hellaro*



India in a Nutshell

Nooreh, the story of a girl from an Indo-Pak border village in Kashmir, and Gujarati feature film *Hellaro* to open the Indian Panorama at IFFI, Goa

ALAKA SAHANI

AS THE International Film Festival of India, Goa, gets ready to celebrate its 50th year, the short film it selects to open its non-feature section under Indian Panorama is a grim reminder of the reality of Jammu &

Kashmir. Directed by Ashish Pandey, *Nooreh* is about its titular eight-year-old protagonist who lives in a Kashmiri village on the India-Pakistan border. One night, Nooreh discovers that the frequent gunbattles that rage near her home start when she falls asleep and stop once she's awake. "The primary reason why I thought of the

movie was that I was a bit concerned about the future we are creating for the next generation. There is so much violence across the world. The sight of an armyman holding a gun might not seem peculiar to a child in Mumbai, but this is very normal in Jammu & Kashmir," says Pandey, adding that he was "pleasantly surprised" when the announcement was made.

Pandey, a Mumbai-based independent filmmaker, says if one goes to any nook and corner of Jammu & Kashmir, one would come across army men on duty. "The deployment of army personnel is higher in border villages. However, their relationship with local people is not as strained as in those areas compared to other parts of Kashmir. A child going to school crosses

checkposts and chats with security personnel. This is very disturbing yet interesting. Though in the classroom these children might recite a poem about a heavenly place full of love, the reality is a stark contrast to that," says Pandey, whose 22-minute short film touches upon this aspect.

Pandey says he felt the need to show this "irony" through *Nooreh*, his third short film. "My endeavour was to show what future the child wishes vis-a-vis what the reality is. I try to do that through the story of Nooreh," he adds.

The film was shot in Chuntiwari and Izmarg villages, which are more like clusters of houses, in the Gurez valley. In the film, the characters speak in the local Shina language, apart from Kashmiri and Urdu.

During its making, the crew got a lot of support from the local volunteers. That made its filming much easier. Every time the crew requested them for help, the locals would say, "Ho jayega. Aur bataayie (It will be done. Tell us what else you need)."

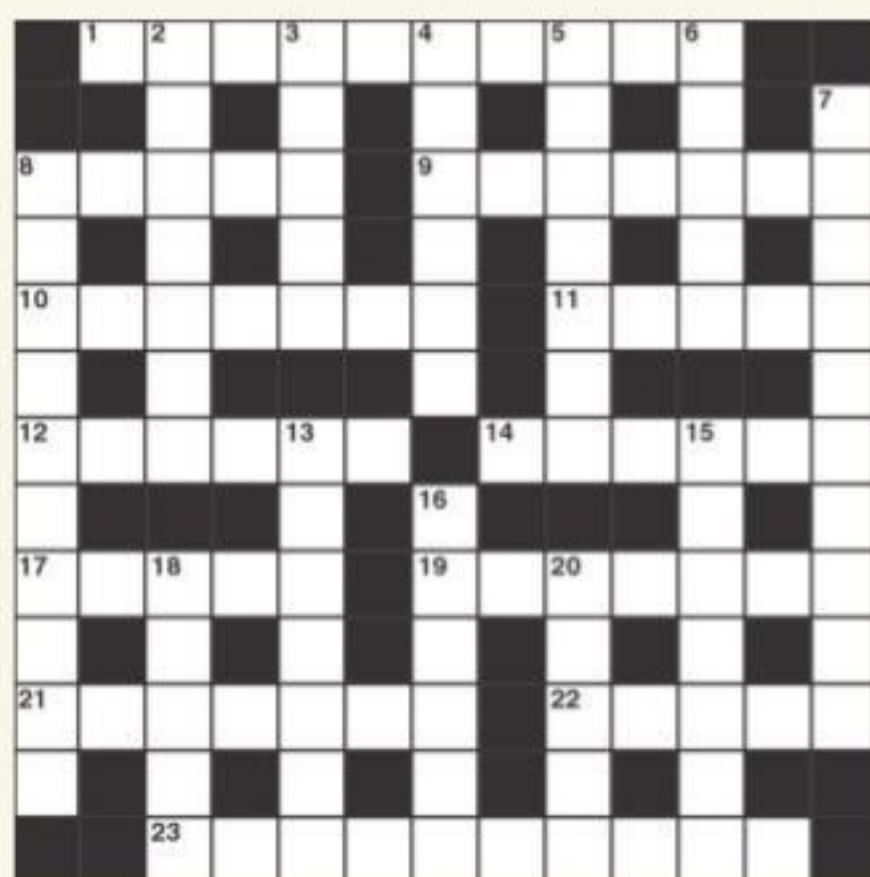
Last July, Pandey screened *Nooreh* at a local school. "The children loved the film. It was very interesting for them to see their world on the screen," he recalled. The army personnel also took a copy of the movie from him. They wanted to show it during the *sadbhavana* (goodwill) meets they have with the villagers.

"Sadly, a day after the screening, these border villages witnessed heavy shelling, after a gap of nearly two decades. We had to leave the area at 9 pm and reached Srinagar at 1.30 am," says Pandey, recalling his last visit to the area, adding, "It's as if the film became their reality."

The 50th edition of IFFI, to be held from November 20 to November 28, will showcase over 200 films from 76 countries. There are 26 feature films and 15 non-feature films selected for the Indian Panorama section. Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar announced in New Delhi that feature film *Hellaro* (Gujarati), directed by Abhishek Shah, will open Feature Film of Indian Panorama 2019.

Hellaro, which talks about self-expression of women, will release in theatres on November 8, and has also bagged the National Award for Best Film. The features section will screen *Gully Boy*, *Uri*, *Badhaai Ho*, *Jallikattu*, *Anandi Gopal* and *Uyare*, among others.

CROSSWORD 3932



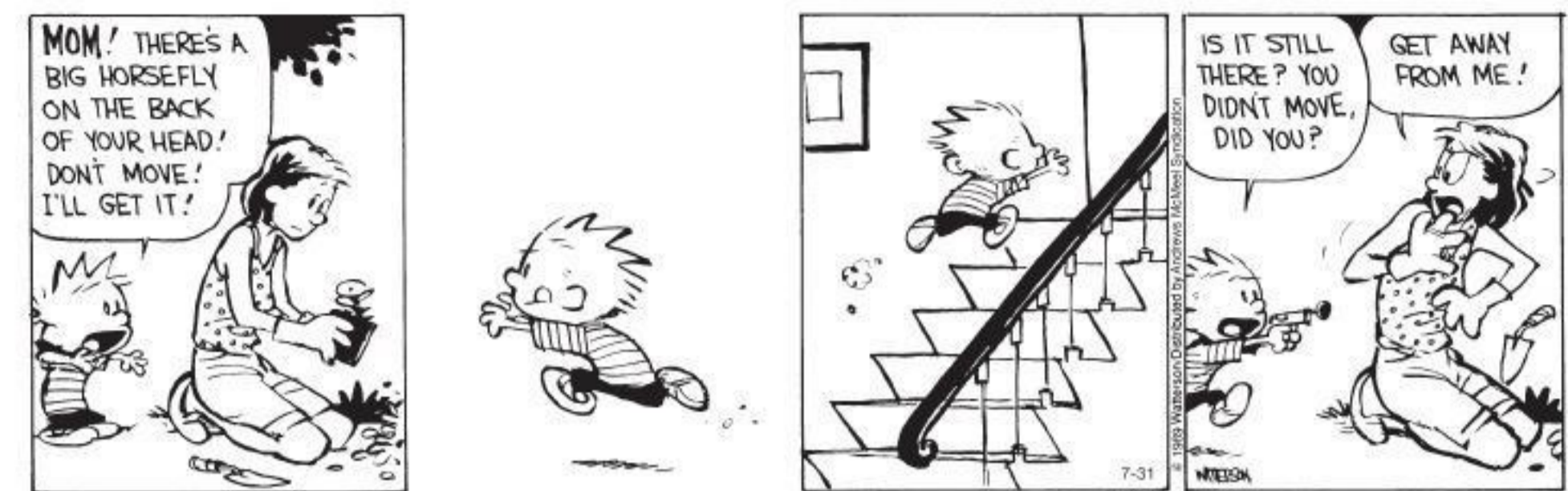
- ACROSS**
- Noted tranquilliser (6,4)
 - Quietly get the cane out, of hickory (5)
 - Is stout perhaps, so doesn't dance (4,3)
 - There's no let-up for the rich (7)
 - First sign of the Greeks (5)
 - Fancy us to be stupid (6)
 - Old sailor goes backwards, gaining publicity (6)
 - Norma is about to describe capital (5)
 - Guide one's behaviour (7)
 - Classical admission of guilt (7)
 - Start to live on alcohol (5)
 - Catches and understands what's said (10)
- DOWN**
- Tell the likely outcome of a closely fought election? (7)
 - A bun before this social occasion would be plenty (5)
 - Tears out the last letter; it's only a substitute (6)
 - To argue like this is a crime against humanity (7)
 - Pop's executors? (5)
 - Tear things to pieces - and put them in order again (10)
 - A positive result (10)
 - Presumably one gets a light tan from it (7)
 - Somehow grudging not being fully conscious of events (7)
 - Lively turn I've put on (6)
 - The aim of many a pilgrimage (5)
 - Splendid old coin (5)

Solutions Crossword 3932: Across: 1 Strips, 4 Gambit, 9 Petunia, 10 Auric, 11 Indri, 12 Antique, 13 Cliffhanger, 18 Earnest, 20 Rival, 22 Op art, 23 Shunted, 24 Lascar, 25 Teller. Down: 1 Sophia, 2 Rated, 3 Pontiff, 5 Avast, 6 Baroque, 7 Ticker, 8 Parachutist, 14 Lariats, 15 Nurture, 16 Recoil, 17 Glider, 19 Extra, 21 Vital.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLLED WORDS

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

Living in a ___sucks - Adrienne E. Gusoff (6)



Answer: Living in a vacuum - Adrienne E. Gusoff

SUDOKU 3994

Difficulty Level 4s
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 3993



Rajasthan State Road Development And Construction Corporation Ltd., JAIPUR
No. NIT/2019-20/0370-79
Date: 07.10.2019

क्र. सं.	कार्य का विवरण	अनुमानित खर्च (रु.)
1.	Construction of Laboratory Block-I at Govt. Engineering College, Bhanuagar, (#roadside east of Crossover E18X No.-RBC1932940309407)	205,00,000/-

WESTERN RAILWAY
SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF TELECOM MATERIAL
No. W/118/NIT/e-tender/2019-20/S&T/13/WA Dated 04.10.2019
"IMPORTANT"
Notice Inviting e-Tender The Divisional Railway Manager (S&T), Western Railway, Bhavnagar Para invites e-tenders on behalf of the President of India for the following work: (1) Tender No. 24/2019 Name of work Supply Installation and commissioning of Telecom material in connection with following sanctioned works. (i) Bhavnagar Division: Block providing by Axle counter with UFSBI (21 Block section) (ii) Provision of Ring Earthing for Telecom equipments in Bhavnagar Terminus-Dholia Jn. and Palitana-Sihor section (10 locations). (Estimated Cost ₹ 1,20,01,099/- The bidders have to apply on line through link i.e. www.irps.gov.in only for further detail. Please visit website www.irps.gov.in Last date for online apply 1/11/2019 up to 15.00 hrs. 168
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भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER (ID No.: 2019_AAI_32544_1)
Item rate tenders are invited through e-tendering portal by AGM Engg. (Civil) CHQ-NER, Airports Authority of India, Operational offices, Rangpuri, New Delhi-110037 on behalf of Chairman, AAI from the eligible contractors for the work of "Extension of Apron & Construction of New Link Taxiway at Civil Enclave, Silchar" for an estimated cost ₹16.36 Crore with a period of completion 18 (Eighteen) months including 03 (three) months considered for rains. Last date and time of submission of bid document is 04.11.2019 up to 1800 hrs. For detailed information log on to CPP Portal: https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/aap or www.aaiaero. Further clarification/corrigendum, if any, will be notified through CPP Portal/AAI website. N-58/2019-20

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"Navratna" - Government of India Enterprise
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Corp. Office : Block-1, Neyveli-607 801, Cuddalore District, Tamil Nadu.
CIN No.: L93090TN1956G0003507, Website: www.nlcindia.com

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING
BRIEF NOTICE INVITING BID
Sealed Bid in English (One original and seven identical copies) are invited by NLC India Limited (NLCIL), Neyveli on behalf of NLC Tamilnadu Power Limited (NTPL) for "ADDITIONAL DESALINATION PACKAGE INCLUSIVE OF TWO STEEL TANKS AND OUTFALL HDPE PIPING FOR FLUE GAS DESULPHURISATION (FGD) PLANT OF NTPL 2 x 500 MW COAL BASED THERMAL POWER PLANT" LOCATED AT TUTICORIN, TAMIL NADU, INDIA. Bids are invited in two part system on International Competitive Bidding Basis, followed by Reverse bidding (Details of Reverse bidding is available in the Tender document) as per the details given below:
Tender No: CO / CONTS / 0025H / NTPL (2x500) / DSAL / 2019, Date: 04-10-2019.
B.G. Amount : ₹ 86,00,000/- (or) USD 1,21,280 (or) EURO 1,11,435
Cost of Tender Documents : ₹ 20,000/- (or) USD 285 (or) EURO 260
Tender Document Sale Period : 11-10-2019 to 02-12-2019
Last Date & Time of Receipt of Bid : 03-12-2019 Up to 14.30 Hrs. (IST)
Date & Time of Opening of Bid (Part-I) : 03-12-2019 at 15.00 Hrs. (IST)
Date & Time of Pre-Bid Meeting : On 23-10-2019 at 11.00 Hrs. (IST) at Corporate Contracts Division, Corporate Office, NLC India Limited, Neyveli.
For further details such as Qualifying Requirements and other details of tender etc., please visit our website: www.nlcindia.com or Central Public Procurement Portal (CPPP) of Government of India website www.eprocure.gov.in or contact the Executive Director / Contracts & Purchase, Corporate Office, NLC India Ltd., Neyveli-607801, Cuddalore District, Tamil Nadu, India. Telephone No. : 04142-252210 & 251620 Fax No. 04142-252026, 252645 / 252646. email id: gmconts_co@nlcindia.in / cgmcconts_co@nlcindia.in / gmconts@gmail.com
FOR FURTHER DETAILS / CORRIGENDUM VISIT : www.nlcindia.com
"Integrity - A way of Life"

Public Work Department
Government of NCT Delhi
NOTICE INVITING (e-Tendering)
The Executive Engineer (E)-I, PWD (CCTV Wi-Fi and Street Lights, Division-1, 13th Floor, MSO building, New-Delhi-110002 (Ph. No. 011-23319475), e-mail ID eelcctvppddelhi@gmail.com invites on behalf of President of India online item rate tender in Two Bid System (Eligibility cum Technical Bid and Price Bid) from the reputed firms having work experience in the field of Providing Wi-Fi, for the following work:- Providing free Wi-Fi to the citizen of Delhi (Bus Stops & parks etc).
NIT No. 06/Pr.CE(P)/PM(CCTV)/PWD/2019-20.
Estimated Cost: Rs. 80,66,79,600/-
EMD: Rs. 90,66,796/-
Date and Time of Pre-Bid Meeting 14/10/ 2019 at 11:30 AM, in the O/o Pr. CE(P), PWD, 9th floor, MSO Building, New Delhi-02. Last Time and date of submission of bid 17/10/2019 upto 3.00 PM.
The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in> vide Tender ID No. 2019_PWD_181684_1.

Delhi Agricultural Marketing Board
(Govt. of NCT of Delhi)
9, Institutional Area, Pankha Road, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058
Tel:- 28524421, 28524045
NOTICE of E- TENDER
The item rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for the following works:

S. N.	Name of Works	Estimated Cost/ Earnest money (In Rupees)	Last date & Time for Receipt of Tender through e-procurement	Tender ID No.
1	Comprehensive AMC & Operation of all type electrical fixtures, pump sets, High masts, i/c whole network of electrical panels and feeder pillars at NGM Najafgarh.	Rs. 12,45,331/- Rs. 24,910/-	15.10.2019 up to 13.00 hours	2019_DAMB_176633_3
2	Rewiring of first floor (Secretary office) and S & F of L.E.D Light Fixtures and wall, Ceiling & Exhaust fan at first & second floor of APMC Office at F & V Market, Keshapur	Rs. 7,38,925/- Rs. 14,780/-	15.10.2019 up to 13.00 hours	2019_DAMB_181295_1

The Terms-conditions and other details of the tender may please be seen on the website <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>
Executive Engineer(E)
DIP/Shabdarth/0789/19-20

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DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
Personal plans matter most, so don't let authority, society or other external pressures distort your judgment. Give a high priority to domestic plans and be aware of a tendency to stick your head in the sand at work. You can ignore intimate problems, but you can't make them go away.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)
It's time to be more forthright about your ambitions, including professional aspirations. Also, bear in mind that you can no longer shrug off partners' desires, for there appear to be deeper issues at stake than you once thought. Not that it's a bad thing, mind you.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)
It's a useful day to travel, make contact and extend discussions which may have got off to a faltering start. Good communication is of the essence, and anyone attending interviews or other important meetings has a right to be confident.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)
You may check out the legal situation, putting the emphasis on your own rights, but not forgetting other people make the running when it comes to setting standards, for their view of what should and shouldn't be done is less rigorous than yours.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
For the next month or so you will be a walking social contradiction, apparently tremendously open and upfront but, in reality, keeping all your most important and intense feelings deeply hidden. However, consider this: if you want to communicate with loved ones you might have to be a little more direct.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)
This is an adventurous moment, and you should know now that you can't be held back by social taboos which have lost their meaning. Your competitive instincts must be released if you are to come out on top. However, it's not so much a matter of finishing first, as of doing the best job.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
It's time to take control and insist that other people see things your way. This doesn't mean that you should ignore their interests, but it's about time you had a fair and unbiased hearing. Perhaps you should spend a little longer preparing your case.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)
Partnership affairs are central to your life today, so you really should attempt to reach a compromise. Partners and colleagues may be muddled, or they may be unable to express themselves clearly, but that doesn't diminish the relevance of their message.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)
Daydream to your heart's content, and don't let other people make you feel strange for wanting to spend time by yourself. At work, it's very much who you know rather than what you know that carries you through. There's nothing wrong in exploiting personal contacts — is there?

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)
There's so much planetary activity in the lower reaches of your chart that maximum change must be expected at home. It could be about another twelve weeks before you're clear about what your part must be. People could be coming and going, but what you really need is security.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
You should rummage around in the recesses of your character, searching out those qualities which are businesslike, organised and efficient. Then you'll be able to divert extravagant stars into the cause of boosting your income. And I can think of no more worthwhile exercise.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)
Your social stars become stronger, which means that even at work it is personal relationships which count for the most. Look at the long-term, making every effort to broaden your horizons. Besides, there's a surprise just around the corner.



"We don't ask for the kind of wickets that we get. For us to be the No. 1 team in the world, any conditions that come your way, you have to accept it as home conditions."

BHARAT ARUN, BOWLING COACH

Ice baths, fresh shirts kept Shami going during his hot streak on Day 5



Mohammed Shami's 5 for 35 in the second innings broke the back of the South African batting line-up. **PTI**

SRIRAM VEERA
OCTOBER 8

"One isn't enough, you have to take five" (*Ek kaafi nahi hai, paanch chahiye!*) was the call from Ravi Shastri and Bharat Arun when Mohammad Shami rushed in to the dressing room at the end of his first spell on the final day, after he had removed Temba Bavuma with a skimming skidder. "*Haan, ley lenge.*" (Yes, will do) said Shami in his non-chalant drawl.

Everything was ready in the change room. The bucket of ice bath, fresh T-shirt, already soaked in ice water and dried up on a chair (he went through at least four-to-five changes through the day). There is perhaps nothing more important than the ice-bath dunk in terms of recovery in the change rooms across the world, the Indian team certainly swears by it.

The theory is simple: Too much lactic acid build-up leads to muscle fatigue and the chilly ice bath makes the blood vessels to tighten which helps in draining the lactic acid out of tired muscles. It helps the muscles in making an immediate recovery.

The temperature in the bath is carefully monitored by the physio and it depends on

The temperature in the bath is carefully monitored by the physio and it depends on the heat on that day. In Vizag, on the final day, Shami's ice baths ranged from 8 to 15 degrees to suit to the time of the day when he took it. He had one ice bath after the first spell and then another later in the day.

the heat on that day. In Vizag, on the final day, Shami's ice baths ranged from 8 to 15 degrees to suit to the time of the day when he took it. He had one ice bath after the first spell and then another later in the day. The players get 10 minutes of dressing-room rest time in a match day these days. Legally allowed, barring any injuries and such. And so, a great deal of planning goes into using those 600 seconds as wisely as possible.

As soon as Shami came in, he was dunked into the bath, fresh clothes are kept ready, socks changes if any are done and he is back to the field. Since it's Shami who rushes only

when he is in the mood, when he senses something is on offer on the pitch, and sprints in his run-up, there is always a quick shout of encouragement and reminders about his talent and what he needs to do on field during these change-overs. "Haan, ley lenge" is one such laconic response that broke South Africa's back.

Madan Lal, the former India pacer, was on Shastri's mind on that last day. Not that Shami's bowling reminded him of Madan, but the skidding deliveries had him thinking of December 1981 Test against England when Madan and Kapil Dev took five wickets apiece in the fourth innings to win the game. Something, in the way the balls were skidding at Vizag, had Shastri talking about Madan in the dressing room. Of his five wickets, Madan had two lbws and two bowled as the deliveries skidded through a touch low.

Madan Lal doesn't himself remember that day all that clearly. "I would say Shami's effort in Vizag was really great. The Bombay pitch that time did help spinners but the way the pitch was up-down, we knew we seamers were in a real chance. Shami's effort at Vizag was really special I would say," Madan says. That game did run a similar script in terms of Indian bowling. Like Ashwin, Dilip Doshi took a five-for in the first innings be-

fore the seamers took total control in the second innings.

These days, as Shami has shared it in the past, he and his fellow seamers get to decide the extent of spells. "The captain lets them (seamers) do what they want. He gives freedom to choose whether they want a short spell or a long spell. Bowlers are aware how they could be lot more effective and convey it to the captain," Arun said on Tuesday.

Arun also talked about the lines they chose at the Vizag Test on the last day. "Even though the wicket was abrasive, the ball didn't reverse that much as it normally happens on Indian wickets. You then adjust your line and length when the ball is not reversing. The particular wicket tended to keep a bit low, and we realized that it has to be more stump line and not outside the off-stump. Shami got four out of his five wickets bowled, so the line changes, how quickly a bowler is aware of what is happening gives the chance of success," Arun said.

38 years after Madan's heroics, more of the same happened; the spinner in the first innings and the pacer doing the damage in the fourth. Except for the ice bath, of course. Back then, the players would probably have had ice only in their drinks on match evenings.

BRIEFLY

Stokes, wife rubbish report of cricketer choking her

Bristol: Star all-rounder Ben Stokes' wife Clare on Tuesday rubbished reports that the England cricketer tried to "choke" her during a party, terming it as "non-sense". According to *The Independent*, Guido Fawkes website had published photographs where Stokes had his hand on his wife's face during the Professional Cricketers' Association Awards Fiftieth Anniversary party. The photos soon triggered allegations of physical altercation, forcing Clare to clear the air. "Unbelievable what nonsense these people will make up!", Stokes' wife Clare wrote on her Twitter handle. "Me and Ben messing about squishing up each other's faces cos that's how we show affection and some pap tries to twist it into a crazy story! And all before we then have a romantic McDonalds 20 mins later!" Stokes, who was England's World Cup hero, re-tweeted Clare's post with a kissing face emoji. The photographs were taken during the Awards function held at the Camden Roundhouse on October 2. Clare later posted a smiling photo of the couple at the event, where Stokes was conferred with the PCA Player of the Year award, and another where she appeared to be squishing her husband's face. **PTI**

Warner, Smith in T20 squad

Sydney: Australia on Tuesday named Steve Smith and David Warner in their Twenty20 squad for home series against Sri Lanka and Pakistan as selectors firm up plans for next year's World Cup on home soil. Australia host Sri Lanka in three T20 internationals starting in Adelaide on Oct. 27 before facing top-ranked Pakistan in three matches next month. Smith is set to play his first T20 international since 2016 and will look to continue the fine form he has shown since his return from a one-year ban for his role in a ball-tampering scandal in South Africa.

T20 SQUAD: Aaron Finch (captain), Ashton Agar, Alex Carey, Pat Cummins, Glenn Maxwell, Ben McDermott, Kane Richardson, Steve Smith, Billy Stanlake, Mitchell Starc, Ashton Turner, Andrew Tye, David Warner, Adam Zampa. (Reporting by Shrivathsa Sridhar in Bengaluru; Editing by Peter Rutherford) **PTI**

From Maharaj to commoner

Left-arm spinner needs to tweak his approach to succeed in India; South Africa hiring a local spin coach would help

SANDIP G
PUNE, OCTOBER 8

AFTER A wicketless day during South Africa's tour of Sri Lanka last year, then Protea spin bowling coach Claude Henderson woke up to a midnight thud on his door. He opened, groggy-eyed, only to see Keshav Maharaj bowling to the team video analyst in the hotel corridor. One of his deliveries had slipped out of the fingers and banged his door.

South Africa's figurehead spinner, some reckon he's the best to have emerged from the country since reintegration, had endured a torrid wicketless day on what was a typical turner and he couldn't sleep. Seeing the coach, he posed him an existential query which several, even more famous spin-bowling predecessors have wondered: "Why can't I get wickets in conditions that I'm supposed to get wickets?"

After all, before his first exposure to Asian conditions, he had wreaked havoc, among the least spinner-friendly climes, Dunedin and Wellington, and had left Australia and England with his reputation enhanced, a four-for at Lord's, a three-for at Perth, three apiece in two innings in Nottingham. But here, in the subcontinent, he was, cutting a forlorn, flaccid figure.

The coach had no answers, he merely told him to catch some sleep and shut the door, though inwardly he felt quite chuffed at his ward's alacrity. Later, he told in a press conference: "That was the night I saw a fire raging in him." That fire raged on and consumed 16 wickets in his next three outings, including a best of 9/129, the best by any South African. Typically, he played down the record and offered a disclaimer: "I think I'm still a beginner, and have to perform consistently here to say that I have cracked the code (of bowling in Asia). Maybe, India next year."

Those words seemed prophetic, as he endured a difficult Test in Vizag, where he resembled a worn-out imitation of the resurgent spinner he was in Sri Lanka, especially in the first innings.

As much as the hideous figures of 5 wickets for 318 runs, bleeding 5.86 runs in the second innings, on the fourth day, where the spinners are expected at least to stem the run-flow, the benevolence of his bowling is what would rattle him. Though there were sporadic instances of that raging fire within him blazing, like the Rohit Sharma dismissal in the first innings, one of the few instances he combined flight, drift and bite off the surface, he was more often bland and unimaginative, as if being the lead spinner was an immovable burden.

So much so that his mind seemed as cluttered as his action. He seemed like just lum-



Maharaj had taken 9 for 129 in a Test in Colombo last year but in Visakhapatnam his plans came undone. **AP**

bering in and bowling—he wasn't getting any body into his action, which naturally hampered the pivot that's fundamental to a finger spinner's action. This meant he was hardly purchasing any turn, he is not a massive turner, but here he wasn't getting any whatsoever. His arms weren't coming through freely either—the action thus seemed hindered at the point of release. He wasn't getting drift either.

While bowling faster on a slow turning surface could be beneficial if he can also make the ball turn, as had Nathan Lyon when he toured here last time, here he was merely looking to push the ball in, relying on just his fingers. Relying, primarily, on over-spin.

Battle-hardened spinners would say just one facet of spin-bowling can't guarantee foolproof success. Overspin, for instance, could be highly beneficial on bouncier surfaces, like the one in Mumbai in 2012 when

Monty Panesar and Graeme Swann tied a famed batting firm in knots. But those are exceptions than a thumb rule.

It's an instinct rather—looking for overspin induced extra bounce. Even Lyon in his first tour to India in 2013 erred, but in his latest trip, he was a much rounded-bowler.

He developed the ability to bowl faster—more than half of his deliveries in that series were above 88km/h, where less than a quarter used to be—but, critically, he did not lose loop or dip when he sped up, which made him difficult to nullify.

Different plans vital

They, like Maharaj, can't be entirely faulted either, for its the way they have practised their craft throughout their life, a fundamental disparity between how spin is traditionally served up in Asia and outside.

What reaps rewards there doesn't here, and vice versa. So what worked for the South African spinner on bouncier decks in Australia, England and New Zealand didn't in Vizag. He admitted as much: "It's probably one of the toughest surfaces I've bowled on in terms of it being a lot slower and not biting as much. You got slow turn but the ball didn't really kick off the wicket."

It's an identical crisis when Asian seamers travel abroad—they expect a better harvest, before they stumble on one challenge after the other. Likewise, in South Africa and Australia, finger spinners are taught the virtues of overspin, whereas in India they look to primarily undercut the ball because these are the methods that are most successful in their respective conditions.

Though there have been fine purveyors of overspin like Anil Kumble and Harbhajan

For much of his career he was not the primary bowler of his team, more of a stock bowler to tidy an end up while the pacemen did the bulk of the striking duties. And suddenly, you switch roles and responsibilities and end up bowling twice as many overs in insanely hot climes.

Singh, it was not overspin alone that brought them wickets, but a confluence of several niceties. Ravichandran Ashwin too can be bracketed alongside them in his consummate mastery of spin-bowling nuances and improvisations of pace and release points, awareness of lengths and speeds on a particular surface. For even among turners, there are all sorts—some are crusty, some others flaky, some offer bounce and turn, some are low and slow, some others have variable bounce, some others don't bounce at all. Heck, the surfaces change colour in a matter of days, sometimes sessions. Each one calls for different skill-sets, thus filtering out one-dimensional spinners.

In Vizag, Maharaj was one—and then suddenly he finds himself as the focal point of his side's attack. For much of his career he was not the primary bowler of his team, more of a stock bowler to tidy an end up while the pacemen did the bulk of the striking duties. And suddenly, you switch roles and responsibilities and end up bowling twice as many overs in insanely hot climes. The 77 overs he bowled in Vizag is the second most he has in a Test—the most he has was in Colombo wherein he expended 81.1 overs, close to an entire day's play. It can leave the fingers battered, the mind wracked and the body drained. India's spinners, on the other hand, are used to such shifts from the time they burst into the scene. So the biggest challenge for him will be to pose a threat to the Indian batsmen within the framework of his gifts and limitations.

It's in times like these that South Africa would have rued the absence of a spin consultant from the subcontinent, like most other teams in the world. England and West Indies have benefitted from Saqlain Mushtaq and Mushtaq Ahmed, Sridharan Sriram, more of a batting all-rounder in his playing days, has improved Australia's spin stock. Maharaj doesn't have wise counsel to lean on. He might just hit the hotel corridors in unseemly hours, though keeping that inner fire raging on.

ALMOST FAMOUS

Selfies, chief guest invitations, ads ... the busy life of this Kohli lookalike

DEVENDRA PANDEY
PUNE, OCTOBER 8

WHAT IF you look like the Indian captain Virat Kohli? If luck shines, you can be the star attraction at political rallies, be the promotional face of new business ventures and even be the chief guest at local cricket tournaments.

Saurabh Gade, as a junior engineer with JCB, a multinational company that manufactures earth movers, is a Kohli lookalike. His life changed earlier this year when a local MLA spotted him and roped him for a rally. Very recently, a local manufacturer that does job-work for a clothing brand that Kohli promotes wanted to showcase one of their products. They chose Gade for a photo shoot.

It all started last May, when a candidate aspiring to be Ramalinga Gram Panchayat's sarpanch in Maharashtra's Shirur district

promised his voters that Kohli would be campaigning for him. Hoardings went up, the word spread about the May 25 rally that would have the Indian captain. Selfie and autograph hunters poured in. Of course, the real Kohli, didn't turn up but Gade was there, with his impeccable Virat-like beard and spectacles.

He gives the back story. "My friend in college used to say that I look like Kohli. One of my friends had taken a photo which was seen by one of the MLAs in Shirur. He called me and asked me to go to the sarpanch rally as he knew the candidate." After the rally, more hoarding came up, these had the candidate with the real Kohli. "I sent the MLA's team pictures but the quality wasn't up to the mark. So the MLA photoshopped Kohli's picture," Gade told *The Indian Express*.

The 26-year-old didn't realise that his brief appearance at a political rally would usher in fame. So much so that back in his

village Yelawadi Dehu, situated 25 kilometres from Pune, he is called 'Dehu's Virat'. A son of army man and a teacher mother, and whose elder brother is pursuing medicine in Russia, Gade is enjoying his new-found fame.

Fans write to him, asking for autographs and photographs. Advertisement offers land up and he is always in demand as a guest at family functions and of course, in cricket tournaments. In Pune, a bakery signed him up and now use his face to sell cakes. With assembly elections round the corner, various political parties have been again calling him to campaign.

As luck would have it, Gade hasn't yet met Kohli. Last year, he came close when India played West Indies in Pune. He was waiting for his hero not too far from the place the team bus was parked. MS Dhoni spotted him and told him that Virat was about to board the bus.

"By the time I reached, the bus had

moved. I am still eagerly waiting for the day I meet Virat."

Though he couldn't meet Kohli that day, he had his share of fame. On the match day, cricket fans kept taking selfies with him in the stands. Such was the commotion that the police had to intervene and come to his rescue. "There were lots of people gathered around me and police came and said it could be law and order issue. They told me to go sit in the enclosure in the stands specifically reserved for physically disabled so that I can be a bit free. Two constables and an inspector too were there for my security. Later a top police officer called me over and asked for my picture!" Gade says.

On Tuesday, Gade walked in to the cricket stadium in Pune in hope but was once again left disappointed as Kohli had opted out of the optional training session. Gade says he will try again in the coming days. The doppelganger awaits his big moment.



Saurabh Gade, a junior engineer with a multi-national company, was roped in by a sarpanch during an election rally. **Express**

Uganda

57th National Day

HER EXCELLENCY Ms GRACE AKELLO
HIGH COMMISSIONER OF UGANDA TO NEW DELHI



INDEPENDENCE DAY MESSAGE

THE ENORMOUS challenge in South Asia, is to serve the interests of one-fifth of humanity or the interests of over 20% of the 7.7 billion people in our world today. Of these, the country which mandated me to serve her interests, my homeland Uganda, accounts for only half a percentage point. The megacity of New Delhi, where I am resident, with its 29.5 million people is indicative of the large numbers of humanity to be found in this part of South Asia. Given these large numbers of people and their various interests and aspirations, I always feel highly privileged to serve in this part of the world. My service thus far has been marked by great support and encouragement across all the capitals: from New Delhi to Singapore to Kathmandu. I have had the honour to present my credentials in all the six splendid capitals: New Delhi, my home base, Dacca, Male, Kathmandu, Singapore and Colombo.

From my interaction with all key officials in these cities, it is clear that there is a lot of work to be done. In each capital, I have come back with the clear message that all these countries share mutual bilateral as well as multilateral interests with Uganda. Each of them sees her as an important player in all strategic arena of national, regional and international diplomacy. This is not a surprise since our countries share many histories: of colonialism, of the struggle for freedom and independence, of the solidarity and struggle against oppressive policies such as apartheid and racial discrimination in pre-independent South Africa and Zimbabwe; and of the struggle for international recognition and respect at the United Nations and other international bodies and fora.

Today, Uganda's overriding interest, to be shared with these countries, is how to leapfrog from a peasant economy and poverty-riddled social base to a modern prosperous economy. This over-arching interest derives from the socioeconomic transformation agenda which the country is pursuing. The work to be done in this regard is at the heart of my assignment — the heart of the country's commercial or economic diplomacy. The impetus and pace for this work is laid out in our Strategic Vision 2040, whose principal aim is to transform Uganda from a predominantly peasant, low income country to an upper middle income one by 2040.

Along this route we have so far implemented two of the five-year strategic plans into which this Vision is divided. The activities spelt out and implemented in the first two five year development plans of the Vision, have ensured that essential infrastructural basics such as security, power, connectivity and IT are in place. Now we are embarking on the third development plan with one singular aim: to cause industrialisation. I could not wish for a better environment in which to push this agenda than India and the other countries to which I am accredited.

In this part of Asia, examples for the keen transformation student abound. Singapore today is unrecognisable from the Singapore which got independence in 1965, three years after Uganda. Then Uganda and Singapore were comparable in their levels of economic development or underdevelopment. Today, Uganda has barely moved from the level of economic development at independence. Singapore on the other hand, is a first world economy with a per capita income greater than that of many developed countries.

Another good example is my current home base. India has battled famine and food shortages occasioned by a peasant agricultural mode, and has been so successful in transforming her agricultural sector that three or four harvests can be realised in one year; and that sector has spawned many SMEs. That is the dream that Uganda is chasing in her third national development plan aimed at agriculture-led industrialisation. As in agriculture, so has India been successful in transforming other sectors of the economy too; especially through her MSME model. We will want to take lessons. And it is from these countries that we invite investment into all economic sectors.

Uganda's engagement with India: a relationship of development

UGANDA ENJOYS warm and friendly relations with each of the six countries in which I have the honour to serve as her envoy. The many reciprocal high-level visits by leaders of these countries, as well as by top-level Ugandan leaders to these countries, mark the depth of these relations. The highlight of these visits during my tenure was the 2018 state visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India to Uganda.

Narendra Modi's visit to Uganda while cementing the excellent bilateral relations between India and Uganda, also opened a new door to closer ties between India and the continent of Africa. As Modi addressed the Ugandan Parliament, he enunciated India's new policy towards the continent. The Indian leader pledged to make his country's engagement with Africa top priority, and outlined nine other points constituting the new Indo-Africa engagement principles. These include development policies being set by Africa and not dictated upon her; open door trade with the continent; helping Africa harness the digital revolution for her development; and helping the continent to commercialise its agriculture for increased productivity. Speaking in a



Photo Credit: PIB

country where the inimical impacts of climate change cause damage bigger than the budget for the Ministry of Environment, Modi declared that India would stand shoulder to shoulder with Africa in the fight against climate change. Three other principles in the new India-Africa policy include forging a unity of purpose in the fight against terrorism, keeping the waterways, especially the eastern Indian Ocean, free for international trade; and working with the continent in all

fora for a just, representative and democratic global order.

Recently the Indo-Africa Forum Summit projects were subjected to close scrutiny by both Africa and India. It is to be expected that the spirit and letter of these new rules of engagement between India and Africa will be reflected in the next set of pan-African projects.

For Uganda, during this visit, the country benefited from an essential cancer machine, medicines of all

of the Minister of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives to Kolkata. Uganda's Attorney General paid a visit to Singapore, partly to endorse the UN Convention on International Settlement Agreements Resulting From Mediation or more simply the Singapore Convention on Mediation. Apart from this multinational activity in Singapore, the Attorney General also took time to meet his counterparts in the Ministry of Justice.

Business and party delegations' visits reflect the development aspect of existing warm bilateral ties. For example in late July, a high-powered multi-stakeholder business delegation led by the Ugandan Minister of State for Trade visited India and Sri Lanka to learn more about the cotton, textile and apparel industry in those countries. Meanwhile, at about the same time, a high-powered business delegation organised by the Hon Consul in Bangladesh, travelled to Uganda. During this visit, the delegation met the Vice President and the Minister of State in charge of general duties in the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. With the latter, the delegation discussed a wide range of matters to do with investment and collaboration in economic matters.

Calling for investments for industrialisation

Confident of the country's economic growth prospects, the Government of Uganda is calling upon the investor community to take advantage of the many opportunities in its economic sectors. The President set the tone for the forthcoming drive to industrialise the country, in his State of the Nation Address of June 6, 2019. HE President Yoweri Museveni welcomed investments in industrialisation along the value chains of agriculture, in light manufacturing and processing of minerals into finished products and investments into promising new lines within all sectors of the economy. He further said that his government is prioritising investment in industrial parks which will help drive the industrialisation process and create jobs.

In line with her Vision 2040 Uganda is calling for investment in many sectors of her economy as she gears on to creating an industrial economy. Industrialisation is the singular focus of the country's Third National Development Plan covering the financial years

2020/21 to 2024/25. The National Budget Conference of 12th September, encapsulating a budget strategy for 2020/21, was the first of the budget consultations to be called for under the Third National Development Plan. By looking into the future, it is easy to see where investment opportunities lie in the new economic direction which Uganda is pursuing.

First and foremost, investments will be needed in the industrial and manufacturing sectors which hold enormous potential to employ young people, and drive faster economic transformation. Elaborating on the theme of industrialisation, the Minister for Finance, Planning and Economic Development emphasised that government will pursue a resource-led industrialisation agenda. Investments will therefore be required in commercialising peasant production modes: in agriculture as well as mineral exploration and exploitation. The investment needed should target commercialisation and value addition in the five areas which are

considered to have the highest transformative potential — (i) agro-based industrialisation, (ii) mineral beneficiation, (iii) petroleum resource exploitation, (iv) manufacturing and trade; and (v) scientific research and innovation.

Despite Uganda having huge deposits of iron ore, copper and limestone, the economy has not benefitted from these minerals to-date as most are extracted and exported in their raw forms. Investment is welcome in the area of beneficiation of such minerals.

Finally in all these areas, the challenge of producing enough volumes to meet local and external demand is of fundamental importance to the growth of the Ugandan economy. Access to markets is available to Uganda under the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) comprising 25 markets in this block of countries; the Africa Growth Opportunity Act (AGOA) granted by the US; and of the Economic Partnerships Agreement (EPA) negotiated with the EU.

Touring Uganda like a king

The Chairman of the Travel Agents Federation of India (TAFI) sat under a tree in the luxurious mountain undergrowth, apparently determined not to move another inch.

"Come on, my dear brother!" I urged. "You have only a few more steps!"

"Yeah," echoed our tour guide. "Just round the corner, ladies and gentlemen. I can hear them. The gorillas are just a few metres away!"

Beckoning us as he gingerly found his footage among the tangling foliage of the mountain slope, our gorilla-trekking guide of three hours, cajoled the long line of TAFI and Bollywood producers and film-makers. This time round, the gorillas were indeed just round the corner, as our guide said. All of us were sceptical about the proximity of gorillas because he had used the same words to encourage us before.

The February 2019 gorilla trek in Uganda was the crown of a tour adventure for TAFI and Bollywood illuminaries, sponsored by the Hon Madhusudan Agrawal, our Honorary Consul in Mumbai. Government of Uganda met most of the costs on the ground. This group was also lucky to attract the attention of the President of Uganda, who donated his helicopter to ease movement across the many attractions in the country.



Uganda's tourism attractions are more than gorillas. They are to be found in the lofty 16,762 foot Ruwenzori range of mountains, in the largest volcanic lake atop the 14,177 foot Mt Elgon in the east; in the undulating River Nile which starts its journey to Egypt in Jinja in Uganda, and in the wide spaces of the African savannah where every genre of tropical animal roams free. Of these the widest and most unadulterated is Kidepo National Park in the north of the country. But teeming with animal life as well are the Murchison Park and the Queen Elizabeth National Park, the latter with its famous tree-climbing lions.

So when are you travelling to this Pearl of Africa? Let us know and we will do a special Ebwola dance for you. Reserved for kings, this Acholi dance from our people in northern Uganda, is a fitting welcome to all who wish to tour Uganda.

From the desk of the Honorary Consul

"I OFFER my best wishes to the people of Uganda as they celebrate the 57th anniversary of its Independence. I wish and hope that the year to come will bring happiness, good health, and success for all the residents of Uganda.

I am working relentlessly towards strengthening business engagement between Uganda and India, by bringing in investments, promoting tourism and creating job opportunities for the youth of Uganda."

The efforts of Mr Madhusudan Agrawal Hon Consul of Uganda in Mumbai, to promote Uganda in India, started when the Rt Hon Rugunda Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda, came on a business tour to Mumbai in March 2017. Since then, Mr Agrawal has been speaking extensively on all platforms about the natural beauty of Uganda and its abundant flora and fauna. He has highlighted that Uganda is home to 50% of the world's Gorilla population and is truly the 'Motherland of Gorillas'. Through his efforts, prominent Bollywood personalities, TAFI and Indian media personalities visited Uganda between 27 February to 06



March 2019, accompanied by Mr Vishal Saria Vice Consul of Uganda. The visit was jointly sponsored by the Honorary Consul, the Uganda High Commission in New Delhi and by the Government of Uganda through the Uganda Tourism Board. One of the most important outcomes of the joint Bollywood-TAFI visit was that the 2020 Annual TAFI Convention is scheduled to be held in Uganda. This event should not only help promote Ugandan

tourism but it should also be a big boost to the country's forex earnings. His Excellency President Yoweri Museveni has accepted to chair the conference.

The Honorary Consul has also donated a mobile cancer van to help fight cancer in Ugandan women. This was during the visit of Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Uganda in July 2018.

Ugandans owe exceptional gratitude to their Honorary Consul in Mumbai for the way he has mobilised resources, including qualified specialist doctors and other medical personnel to carry out free eye screening and cataract surgery. This activity has already been carried out in 56 camps where 21,850 patients were screened, 1,100 underwent cataract surgery and three patients had highly specialised procedure of cornea transplant. These surgeries have been done in association with NICA.

The Honorary Consul, working with UWESO, an organisation headed by the First Lady, has championed the provision of pads to schoolgirls from poor background communities in order to reduce the trend of their dropping out of school.



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Congratulates

THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

ON ITS
57TH NATIONAL DAY

Purushottam B. Agrawal
Founder & Chairman of
Samta Group of Companies

Madhusudan B. Agrawal
Hon. Consul of Uganda, Mumbai
Co-founder & Vice Chairman Ajanta Pharma Ltd.