

## AYODHYA VERDICT

## To review or not: Muslim Personal Law Board will discuss on Nov 17

SEEMA CHISHTRI  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 10

THE ALL India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB), a body of influential Muslim clerics and scholars, will meet on November 17 to plan the way forward after the Supreme Court's Ayodhya judgment. The meeting will discuss the defeat in the case, and whether a review petition should be filed in the Supreme Court.

On Saturday, AIMPLB advocate Zafaryab Jilani stopped short of saying they would go for a review, despite several members of the Board making it clear that they were "not satisfied" with the Supreme Court's verdict.

Sources said AIMPLB members are puzzled how the five-judge Bench reached its conclusion despite accepting that idols were stealthily placed in the Babri Masjid in 1949, and that the demolition of the mosque on December 6, 1992 was an "egregious" breach of the rule of law.

A source said there was concern that Muslims had been denied their due on the land where the masjid stood simply because "they had not obstructed Hindus from worshipping at the Chabutra and Sita Rasoi".

While the court has awarded a 5-acre plot for a mosque somewhere in Ayodhya, sources in the AIMPLB said that more than the

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NSA Ajit Doval at an inter-faith meeting at his residence in New Delhi on Sunday. PTI REPORT, PAGE 5

## The Day After Verdict: 27 years from Babri, healing and hurting

RAVIK BHATTACHARYA & KAMAAL SAIYED  
KOLKATA, SURAT, NOV 10

FROM A grocery shop owner to a packaging unit labourer, a government employee to an NGO worker. From Kolkata to Surat, Bhopal to Mumbai.

For the families of those who lost their lives in the violence that followed the Babri Masjid demolition on December 6, 1992 — a turning point in the Ayodhya dispute — the Supreme Court verdict on Saturday has meant a surge of mixed emotions.

There is despair over unfulfilled promises and lingering memories, and yet, there is also relief that some sort of closure

## INSIDE

IN DENYING MUSLIM PARTIES' CLAIM, SC QUOTED 2015 ORDER BY JUSTICE NAZEER

JUDGES GET MORE SECURITY  
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has been reached.

"I just pray that peace prevails and no one loses his brother, son, or father again," said Mehmood Alam, 34, who was at his grocery shop in Kolkata when he heard that the court had ordered the disputed land to

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## BULBUL KILLS 8 IN WEST BENGAL

A family in their wrecked home in Bakkhali on Sunday. Cyclone Bulbul made landfall at Sagar Island in South 24-Parganas district. Partha Paul REPORT, PAGE 6

## Chhattisgarh govt sets up panel to probe WhatsApp snoop cloud

DIPANKAR GHOSE  
RAIPUR, NOVEMBER 10

THE CHHATTISGARH government has decided to set up a three-member committee to look into suspicions that NSO, the Israeli company that owns the spyware Pegasus, held a meeting with the state's police "two to three years ago" to sell the product. The committee will also look into allegations that residents of the state have been subject to snooping, officials said.

An order signed by Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel states that complaints have been "received that two to three years ago, the Israeli company NSO had made a presentation regarding their software to the Chhattisgarh Police".

"These kinds of allegations are very serious since they are connected to the freedom of people. It is essential to investigate these complaints," it states.

According to the order, the Principal Secretary (Home) will head the probe committee,

which will include the Raipur IG and Secretary, Department of Public Relations — it will be assisted by the state DGP. "The committee will do a detailed investigation of the entire events, and will present an evidence based report within a month," the order states.

On October 31, *The Indian Express* first reported Facebook-owned WhatsApp had filed a federal suit in San Francisco alleging that journalists and human rights activists had been the

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## THE EDITORIAL PAGE

## A BREATHER, NOT CLOSURE

BY SUHAS PALSHIKAR  
PAGE 8

## Getting threats, say revenue officers in AP and Telangana

SREENIVAS JANYALA  
HYDERABAD, NOVEMBER 10

LESS THAN a week after a Mandal Revenue Officer (MRO) in Telangana was burnt alive by a claimant to a disputed piece of land, over a dozen revenue officers in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh have claimed to have received threats from parties in other disputes.

On November 4, Abdullapurmet MRO P Vijaya Reddy, 37, was set on fire by K Suresh, an autorickshaw driver, who claimed to own land which was disputed. Suresh too, succumbed on November 7.

The Telangana Tahsildhars Association wrote to the Additional DGP (Law and Order) on Friday, seeking security for MROs, especially women MROs, in the state.

"Citing Abdullapurmet MRO's incident, people having land disputes are resorting to threats and blackmail. Some farmers have threatened MROs that they would write suicide

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## India-China business forum called off, no visas for Chinese team

NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN  
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 10

AN INDIA-CHINA business forum that was to take place in Delhi later this week has been called off as the Indian government has not yet issued visas to the Chinese delegation.

The forum, which takes place every year in an Indian city, was scheduled to be held at a five-star hotel in the Capital on November 13 and 14. In invitations that have been sent out, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has been listed as the chief guest and chief economic adviser K Subramanian, and members of NITI Aayog, among the speakers.

International Business Linkage Forum (IBLF), the India-based organisers of the forum along with FICCI, put out a terse message on their website announcing that the meet would not take place as scheduled. "Due to unforeseen circumstances, we have been advised to postpone the Forum for the time being. We apologise for the inconvenience caused. We hope to announce the new event date soon," the message read.

The 70-strong Chinese delegation, sources said, had applied for visas weeks ago, but had not received them yet. The organisers, who appear to have had government backing for previous editions of the forum, tried to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Tackling paedophilia: psychologists open doors for those seeking help

TABASSUM BARNAGARWALA  
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 10

OVER THE last four years, at least 300 people with suspected paedophilic tendencies have reached out for counselling support on an online portal, and another 30 have contacted counsellors through a network of psychologists and psychiatrists based in Mumbai and Pune. Two psychol-

ogists in Mumbai, and four in Pune are slowly trying to expand training amongst experts on treatment of this disorder.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) terms paedophilia as a mental disorder, with patients suffering from persistent sexual interest in children.

In Pune, KEM Hospital Research Centre runs a clinic to assess and counsel such individuals. Thirty individuals have so far reached out to the clinic. The

fear of social stigma frequently scares people away from discussions on the problem, and prevents help from reaching them.

"The disorder cannot be cured, but the behaviour of a person can be controlled. We teach patients coping mechanisms, and give them anti-depressants to alleviate stress," Dr Vasudeo Paralikar, head of the psychiatry unit in KEM, Pune, said. Dr Paralikar counsels such

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## He put fear of God in recalcitrant politicians, was respected by all... Good bye, Mr Seshan



S Y QURAISHI

## SPECIAL TO THE EXPRESS

THE PASSING on of Mr T N Seshan marks the end of a glorious era of resurgence of democracy about three decades ago. The very mention of his name was enough to put the fear of God in the hearts of recalcitrant

T N SESHAN  
1932-2019

I recall the Bihar election in 1996, when I was posted as an observer. Mr Seshan concluded his briefing with these reassuring words: "Don't worry. Nothing will happen — except a bomb on your face and a bullet through your stomach!" Sure enough, I saw two bomb explosions a few yards away. Fortunately I returned with my stomach unpunctured!

The awe and fear he evoked in us bordered on terror. Nobody

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REPORT, TRIBUTES  
PAGE 6

## DAY OF FAST DEVELOPMENTS

## In Maharashtra, BJP says can't form govt; Gov calls Shiv Sena

Sena has time till today evening, Uddhav could be candidate for CM



Senior BJP leaders outside Raj Bhavan after meeting with the Governor on Sunday evening. Ganesh Shirsekar

VISHWAS WAGHMODE  
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 10

SOON AFTER receiving a formal expression from the BJP of its unwillingness to form the government in Maharashtra, Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari on Sunday evening invited the Shiv Sena, and gave it time until Monday evening to inform him if it could form the government.

On a day of rapid developments, Shiv Sena leaders said party chief Uddhav Thackeray and NCP chief Sharad Pawar spoke after the Sena received the Governor's invitation.

"The two leaders spoke after the Governor's invite. The party is likely to stake claim for government formation tomorrow," a senior leader told *The Indian Express*.

The leader, who declined to be named, said the Governor had given the Sena time until 7.30 pm on Monday to respond.

Sources said that Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut was likely to leave for Delhi to meet with Congress leaders.

Sources in the Sena said that party chief Uddhav Thackeray was likely to be nominated chief minister. On Sunday, there were posters outside his home Matoshree saying: "It is the need of Maharashtra that Shiv Sena Chief Uddhav Thackeray should become Chief Minister."

The invitation to the Sena, the second largest party in the Assembly, came after BJP leaders led by caretaker Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis met the Governor at 5.30 pm and turned down his invitation citing the lack of numbers.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## NCP puts conditions: Snap BJP-NDA ties, fix a common agenda

SANDEEP ASHAR  
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 10

WITHIN MINUTES of the BJP informing Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari Sunday that it cannot form the government in Maharashtra, the NCP laid down a set of conditions for backing a Shiv Sena-led ruling formation: Cut ties with BJP, quit NDA, evolve a common programme. Having maintained so far that its mandate is to sit in Opposition, this is the first time when Sharad Pawar's party has indicated its willingness to offer "conditional" support to the Sena.

"If the Governor extends an invitation to the Sena and the party desires support of the NCP and the Congress, it should first snap all ties with the BJP, making an announcement to that effect. The Sena will have to walk out of the NDA. Their minister (Arvind Sawant) in the Narendra Modi government will have to resign," said NCP's national spokesperson and Mumbai party president

EXPLAINED

## New equation, more questions

THE BJP's move leaves the three parties left in the fray with key questions. Will Shiv Sena sever its decades-old ties with NDA? Can NCP convince Congress to come onboard? Will Congress shed its inhibitions to align with the ideology that Sena represents? The answers will define the new political equation in Maharashtra.

Nawab Malik.

"If they are agreeable to these conditions and send us an official

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BUSINESS AS USUAL  
By UNNY

THE GOVERNANCE PAGE

CULTIVATING FISH WITH PADDY  
PAGE 11

INSIDE

P S KRISHNAN, MAN WHO FOUGHT CASTE PREJUDICE, DEAD P 5

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VIDEO OF THE DAY



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BJP-Sena tussle intensifies over Maharashtra CM seat

FULL COVERAGE



**MAHARASHTRA GOVT FORMATION LIVE**  
Will not form govt, Shiv Sena can go ahead with Congress-NCP, says BJP



**EXPRESS AUDIO**

How does the Ayodhya verdict set a historical precedent

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

Unpacking what the Supreme Court said in the verdict, its significance, reactions, and why political parties are recalibrating their stance

# FROM PAGE ONE

## To review or not

land, what the community needed was justice.

"The Waqf has so many acres of land in Ayodhya already, there is no dearth of land, we are unable to maintain it, and people are not able to go there and offer prayers. We do not need more land. What is needed is justice, and an atmosphere which allows the exercise of guaranteed fundamental rights by all in the community," said a source.

"The Honourable five judges of the apex court despite admitting that the placing of idols and destruction of Babri Masjid were serious violations of the rule of law, it gave the land to those who had committed such crimes. This is clear discrimination against the particular community, which was not expected on part of the court. The judgment has shaken the faith of the minorities in the judiciary as they believe that they have been wronged," Maulana Mehmood Madani of the Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind, and also a member of the AIPLMB, said in a statement.

"When the country got freedom and our constitution came into being, there was Babri mosque on the site. People had seen for generations that there was a masjid there and namaz was being offered there. In this case, it is the Supreme Court's responsibility to protect the rights of Muslims, their freedom of worship and freedom of religion guaranteed in the constitution. That too includes their right to worship in the Babri mosque," he said. Madani termed the post-verdict phase as a "testing time for Muslims and other peace-loving citizens".

Dr Abu Saleh Shariff, former-Member Secretary of the Sachar Committee, which looked into the social, educational, and economic status of Indian Muslims in 2006, said the "invocation of extraordi-

nary powers of the Article 142 of the Constitution to grant a larger piece of land to Muslims appears most distressing to say the least".

"It is open to the legal community to consider whether the reasoning adopted in the verdict and principles of law applied to the instant case are valid. Even after exhausting all the remedies, in a democratic society, no institution can claim infallibility and prevent academic discussions," he said.

## Chhattisgarh

target of surveillance by operators using Pegasus.

The report said that NSO has disputed the allegations and claimed that their technology was not designed or licensed for use against human rights activists and journalists — and that they licensed their product only to "vetted and legitimate government agencies."

Reacting to the report, the central government said that they were "concerned at the breach of privacy of citizens of India" and had asked WhatsApp to explain the breach and "what it was doing to safeguard the privacy of millions of Indian citizens".

While WhatsApp pegged the number of those targeted to "at least a hundred members of civil society", The Indian Express had also spoken to several of those affected, including at least three activists residing in Chhattisgarh. These include Bela Bhatia, human rights activist and lawyer based in Bastar, Shalini Gera also a human rights lawyer based in Bastar, and Degree Prasad Chauhan, a tribal and Dalit rights activist based in Raigarh.

## The day after

be handed to a trust to construct a temple and five acres of land in Ayodhya for a mosque.

Alam's elder brother Maqsud was among over two dozen people killed in police firing and riots that broke out the day after the

Babri demolition. Alam says Maqsud, 18, was killed by a stray bullet as he was standing on the terrace of their home.

"After his death, my family was shattered. My father received Rs 1 lakh from the Left Front government then. They also promised a job to a family member. I am still waiting for that. I was able to get my elder sister married but we are in such financial crisis that I have not been able to arrange the marriage of my second sister...she is 38. I left studies after Class 10 to run this shop," said Alam.

Five kilometres away, in the Jorasanko area, Purnima Kothari is surrounded by media cameras and political leaders, including BJP's Kailash Vijayvargiya. Purnima's life after Babri — she lost two of her brothers in the riots — took a different turn.

Today, Purnima is a business-woman, mother of a college-going daughter, and vice president of the local BJP unit, having contested the municipal polls under a party ticket. "I lost my two brothers, Ram (23) and Sharad (20), who were Bajrang Dal members. Later, my father and mother passed away. Everyone left me. The verdict has brought both sorrow and joy...It has taken time but an old wound has healed somewhat," she said.

On the other end of the country, for Imran and Nasim, the two sons of Mohammed Ansari (40) — a telecom employee who was found dead at a ground in Surat's Limbayat during the violence on December 6, 1992 — the verdict is just another headline.

"We don't want to say whether a mosque is to be built or a temple. We lost our future. After his death, we quit school and started doing odd jobs to earn a living. If my father had survived, we would have had a good education. Our mother has still not recovered," said Imran (39), who works as a labourer in the packaging section of a textile unit.

"Our savings got exhausted, we moved to a smaller house in a new locality. Everybody in our new locality knows that my father was killed in the 1992 riots and they have shown sympathy and given their support. My children go to school with other Hindu students and they have good bonding," said Nasim, who works on contract with the telecom department.

About 10 km away, as the violence spilled over to the next day in Surat, Deepak Chaliyawala recalls running for his life from the spot where he and his elder brother Vinod (20) were cornered by a mob. He later came to know that his brother had been stabbed to death.

"The loss of my brother cannot be made good. But our family has distanced itself from news of riots since they only spread negativity. Vinod was my only brother and my children know how their uncle was killed but I told them to move on," said Deepak, who runs the family's provision store in Chauta Bazaar.

Welcoming the Ayodhya verdict, Deepak said: "We have very good relations with the Muslim brothers who own shops in my neighbourhood. In fact, they looked after my shop during the 2002 riots."

At the other end of the emotional band is Nimai Das, from Doboka in Assam's Hojai district, for whom the verdict is a painful reminder of the horror of December 8, 1992, when he lost three family members in the riots — his brother's right leg was amputated below the knee.

According to reports, nearly 40 people were killed in Doboka and neighbouring Jamunamukh. "With Saturday's verdict, a historic wrong has been avenged," said Das, a 37-year-old political worker.

Das's angry reaction finds an echo down the map in Bhopal, where NGO worker Anjum Bano, who lost her cousin Shakeel to ri-

# In Maharashtra, BJP says can't form govt

The Sena, the BJP's pre-poll ally, has refused to budge from its demand for a half-share of the Chief Minister's post, and has been exploring other options to form the government.

State BJP president Chandrakant Patil told reporters at Raj Bhawan: "The state Assembly elections 2019 mandate was for Mahauti comprising BJP, Shiv Sena, Republican Party of India, Rashtriya Samaj Party, Rayat Kranti, Shiv Sangram. As the Shiv Sena has not agreed to government formation, we have taken the decision not to insult the mandate given by

the people. Therefore, we have declined the Governor's invitation to form the government."

Patil added: "It appears the Shiv Sena is keen on forming the government with Congress-NCP. Our best wishes to Shiv Sena."

Soon after this, Raut went into a huddle with the Sena leader at Matoshree. "If Uddhav Thackeray has said there will be a Shiv Sena Chief Minister in Maharashtra, then there will be Sena CM in any case," he said after the meeting.

Earlier in the day, before the BJP leaders met the Governor

and declined the invitation to form the government, Thackeray addressed party legislators who have been put up at a hotel in Madh Island in Mumbai's Malad (West), and reiterated that there would be a Sena Chief Minister.

"Thackeray said that we have carried the palanquin enough for other people. This time, he will ensure that a Shiv Sainik sits inside the palanquin," said an MLA who was at the meeting.

In the 288-member Assembly, the BJP has 105 legislators. The Shiv Sena has 56, and has been managed to get

the support of eight Independents, taking its tally to 64. The NCP and Congress have 54 and 44 members respectively. If the Sena, NCP, and Congress come together, their tally will reach 162, well above the halfway mark of 144.

Earlier in the day, in an apparent outreach, Raut said that the Congress was not an enemy of Maharashtra. "We might have differences on some issues. Everyone has differences on some issues. We also had different opinions with regard to certain decisions taken by the BJP at the Centre," Raut said.

# NCP to Sena: Snap all ties with BJP, NDA

proposal, we are willing to consider it. Our legislators are meeting on November 12, where this can be discussed threadbare and a firm decision taken," said Malik, a former minister who was elected this time from Mumbai's Anushakti Nagar Assembly seat.

Indicating that his party would carry the Congress along, Malik also said the Sena would have to agree to a common minimum programme to get the support of the two "secular" parties.

"Before partnering or supporting the Sena, their leadership will have to spell out how it will be formed, the programmes of the government, and the agendas on which it would function. Without discussion and deciding these, no decision can be taken," he said.

After the Governor's invite to Sena's legislative party leader, Eknath Shinde, senior leaders in the Congress and

NCP went into a huddle to review the evolving situation.

The Congress high command, which had been hesitant to back a Sena-led government, has decided to rush senior leaders Madhusudan Mistry and M Veerappa Moily to Jaipur to interact with its newly elected MLAs. The party had shifted most of its 44 MLAs to the Buena Vista resort in Congress-ruled Rajasthan, after accusing the BJP of poaching.

AICC general secretary Mallikarjun Kharge, who is already in Jaipur, was closeted with MLAs and top leaders, including former chief ministers Ashok Chavan and Prithviraj Chavan and MPCC president Balasaheb Thorat through the day. Sources said Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and AICC's Rajasthan in-charge Avinash Pande, who is from Maharashtra, also met the MLAs.

Sources confirmed that a

majority of the MLAs want the party to back a non-BJP formation in the state. Following a fresh round of deliberations with the MLAs, senior leaders are now expected to brief party chief Sonia Gandhi about the situation.

While the Congress leadership is wary of aligning with the Sena and the fallout on its support base at the national level, party MLAs have been pushing to back a formation that keeps the BJP away from power. During interactions with Kharge, sources said, some MLAs even wanted the party to join the government along with the Sena and NCP.

The Congress high command, too, wants the Sena to walk out of the NDA before any meaningful talks can be held. Some AICC leaders, however, are not convinced about the idea of having any tie-up with the Sena. Sonia Gandhi, too, is said to be not in favour of any

such arrangement. Other options being considered are providing outside support to an NCP-Sena government or abstaining from voting in the event of a confidence vote.

Pawar was locked in discussions with senior party colleagues, including former minister Praful Patel, at his south Mumbai residence. Although he has maintained that the "Congress-NCP's mandate is to sit in Opposition", sources said the NCP chief is agreeable to partner with the Sena, and keen that the Congress formally joins the formation to make it more "stable".

Asked about the possibility of a Sena-NCP-Congress formation, Pawar said: "I haven't received any formal proposal from the Shiv Sena or the Congress." Sources said Pawar and Sonia Gandhi might have a discussion regarding strategy on Monday.

(WITH MANOJ CG IN DELHI)



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ots on December 8, 1992, says the only consolation is this: "Had the decision gone the other way, there wouldn't have been the peace that prevails today."

"Also, it's a decision, not justice. Courts should follow the Constitution not feelings. We the people' includes everyone, irrespective of religion," said Bano.

"My cousin ran a workshop and was the sole breadwinner of the family when he was killed. His family went through a tough time for a decade. His mother lost her mental balance and they shifted to another locality to leave the bad memories behind. But after Shakeel's younger siblings grew up and started earning on their own, they felt more secure and returned to their old home," said Anjum.

In Mumbai, the ripples of the demolition was felt for well over a month. Among those killed was Tahir Wagle's 17-year old son, Shah Nawaz, who was a science student in a city college and was killed on January 10, 1993, allegedly in police firing below their house in Mazgaon.

"We ran from pillar to post, governments came and went, but there has been no justice for us," said Wagle. However, the 67-year-old is clear the Supreme Court's decision on Ayodhya should be respected by all. "At least now, I hope the victims of the riots will receive some attention."

(WITH MILIND GHATWAI/BHOPAL, ABHISHEK SAHA/GUWAHATI & ZEESHAN SHAIKH/MUMBAI)

## Chinese team

push the visas for the Chinese delegates till the last minute but have been told that they will not be issued for now, the sources said.

The IBFL describes itself on its website as "a platform that opens the floodgates of international markets for its members through

its network, resources and presence in the various countries". It held its inaugural conference in Beijing in 2003. This year's was the eighth "India China Forum".

Last year's event was held in Pune, and was hosted by the Maharashtra government. More than 200 Chinese delegates participated in the event. In 2017, the Forum was hosted by the Karnataka government in Bengaluru.

Sources said the organisers were told last Friday by the Ministry of External Affairs that they could not issue the visas without approval from the Ministry of Home Affairs. With the weekend intervening, and delegates booked on flights leaving China over the next two days, the organisers decided to call off the event.

The cancellation comes less than a month after the Mamallapuram summit, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping discussed how to improve trade relations, among other matters.

## Paedophilia

patients to stay away from jobs such as those of teachers or schoolbus drivers, where there is frequent association with minors.

Prof Klaus Beier, director of the Institute of Sexology and Sexual Medicine in Berlin's Charité University, estimates that at least 1 per cent of the male population suffers from paedophilia, with symptoms manifesting since adolescence.

In 2005, Beier started a clinic to counsel paedophiles in Berlin. In 2015, a similar initiative was started in India. He has so far held workshops for over 50 psychologists to raise awareness on treatment.

Sexual crimes against minors is a punishable offence under The Protection of Children From

Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. The network of psychologists is currently focussed on helping people at the lower threshold of the disorder, and have not been booked under the Act.

"A lot of psychologists and psychiatrists have never heard of paedophilia treatment. They don't know how to tackle if a patient with this disorder turns up. It is not taught in books. Paedophilia is different from child abuse, and can be controlled through medication and counselling," Beier told *The Indian Express*.

Last year, the Pune clinic received a 60-year-old salesman from rural Maharashtra who complained that he fantasised about young boys and was afraid of ruining his marital life. "He knew it was wrong, but remained in dilemma. We gave him anti-depressants and counselled him. He travelled 800 km to seek our help. His wife didn't know about this," Dr Beier said. The 60-year-old remains on regular follow-ups.

Mumbai-based psychologist Janhvi Doshi said stigma compels patients to not disclose their condition to their families or therapists. "Sometimes they may not understand they are paedophiles at all. We have to make careful diagnosis. We are encouraging people to reach out anonymously through our online portal. People suffering from paedophilia suffer from stress and severe depression," Doshi said.

The portal, called 'Troubled Desire', allows a person to anonymously log in and undergo therapeutic counselling sessions. In severe cases, a physical session is advised, and patients are given medication. In 2018, a hotline (number 18001238905) was started for those who wanted to seek help by telephone.

Treatment generally involves long-term psychotherapy and

drugs to alter sex drive and reduce testosterone levels. Dr Shubhangi Parkar, head of the psychiatry department in KEM Hospital, Mumbai, who is monitoring several government mental health programs, has treated only two patients of paedophilia in her entire career. "They were both brought by their families, who did not recognise the disorder but found something wrong in the behaviour of the men," she said, adding that due to low awareness, diagnosis is often difficult.

## Revenue officers

notes naming them for cause of their suicide and self-immolate themselves outside the MRO offices. MROs are living in an atmosphere of fear, intimidation and suspicion ever since the Abdullahpurmet incident," V Lachi Reddy, President of Telangana Tahsildars Association, said.

DGPM Mahender Reddy said security would be provided wherever required based on the threat perception.

■ M Rajani, MRO of Velair in Warangal, has lodged a complaint stating that a sarpanch, G Raji Reddy, had threatened that she would end up like Vijaya Reddy if she did not release the land ownership passbook in his name.

"He called up and asked if I knew what happened to the Abdullahpurmet MRO. He warned me that I would meet the same fate if I did not give a clear title in his name of a disputed piece of land in the village," Rajani said, adding that she was scared of going to work now.

■ The Revenue Divisional Officer of Kamareddy, K Rajendra Kumar, said he had received an anonymous call warning of dire consequences if land disputes in the mandal were not resolved quickly.

"The caller taunted that I must have heard what happened to

Abdullahpurmet MRO and then warned that all the land disputes should be resolved in favour of farmers," Kumar said. A call warning Kumar was also made to the district helpline.

■ S Purshottam, MRO of Chevella, said he received a warning on his mobile phone on November 5. In September, a video had gone viral in which two farmers were seen falling at the feet of Purshottam pleading that after updating and digitisation of records, their four acres of land was shown in someone else's name. Purshottam said the caller was not either of the farmers, but someone else.

■ The MRO of Ibrahimpatnam in Ranga Reddy, R Geetanjali, has complained to the district collector that she has been receiving calls reminding her of the fate of the Abdullahpurmet MRO.

■ The MRO of Maripeda, K Venkateshwarlu, has claimed to have received a similar call.

Revenue Department officials said rising land prices, the Rythu Bandhu farm investment support scheme, and the regularisation of land records were the reasons for several land related disputes landing in offices of MROs.

"Land prices are rising all over the state, but mainly on the outskirts of Hyderabad. Farmers and landowners who earlier did not bother to check whether their titles were clear, or whether they had proper documents, are doing so now. If they find that they do not possess the documents proving their ownership, they are approaching the MRO. In some cases, they find that the land is actually registered in someone else's name leading to disputes. In many instances, the dispute is within the family. People often accuse MROs of taking sides," an MRO who asked not to be named, said.

Telangana took up the massive exercise of digitisation and checking of land records of about 2.56 crore acres in the state. "It has been found that about 16-17 lakh acres are entangled in disputes like multiple ownerships or wrong names, etc. In Ranga Reddy district in areas located on the outskirts of Hyderabad, land prices have risen from Rs 20 lakh per acre to over Rs 1 crore. People fiercely contest land ownership," an MRO said.

## Seshan

had the guts to argue with him, not to speak of falling foul of him. Yet, behind a tough exterior he had a soft heart. Once I was posted as observer in the Maoist area of Jharkhand, I had just got up from a slipped disc, and could not have stood the bad roads in the tribal belt. In the briefing he had called, I gathered the courage to request a change of my posting to an urban constituency because of my medical condition. Very sweetly, he ordered that I be exempted altogether.

When I became the CEC myself, I went to his house in Chennai to seek his blessings. He was extremely affectionate, and asked his extremely gentle wife to give me some present. She brought a few things from which I picked up a sandalwood Ganesh, a souvenir I have cherished.

A few months ago, I published a book titled The Great March of Democracy: Seven Decades of India's Elections. It carries a chapter written by Mr Seshan about the problems he faced to turn things around in the electoral system. Interestingly, it also carries a chapter on Mr Seshan by a French professor, Christophe Jaffreiot. I am happy I dedicated the book to two legends, Mr Sukumar Sen, the first CEC, and Mr TN Seshan, who took the Commission to new heights of authority, credibility and visibility.

I pray we get to see another Seshan in my lifetime.

(The writer is former Chief Election Commissioner of India)

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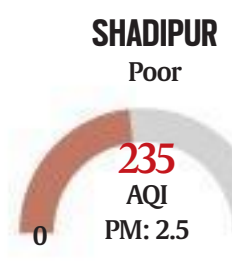
0-50 Good



51-100 Satisfactory



101-200 Moderate



201-300 Poor



301-400 Very poor

401-500 Severe

## 'ACCUSED LEFT CONFESSION NOTE AT HIS HOUSE'

# Faridabad doctor, family found dead at home, accused on run

JIGNASA SINHA  
FARIDABAD, NOVEMBER 10

A 65-YEAR-OLD doctor and his three family members were found dead at their Faridabad Sector 7 house Saturday afternoon — over 12 hours after a man allegedly known to the doctor's son stabbed them, police said.

The accused, who is absconding, has been identified using CCTV footage as Mukesh, a gym trainer in Sector 7. Police said they are also probing if close relatives had any role to play.

Dr Praveen Mediratta was found in a pool of blood on the couch in the basement, where the clinic he ran is located. Police said he had stab injuries, while his wife Sudesh (61) was found with a deep cut to her neck in a bedroom on the first floor.

Faridabad Police PRO Sube Singh said, "In the second bedroom on the same floor, their daughter Priyanka (30) and her



Victims Praveen Mediratta and his wife Sudesh; (right) their daughter Priyanka and her husband Saurabh. *Express*



husband Saurabh (36) were found in a pool of blood with multiple stab injuries." Police said that while the doctor and his wife lived at the house, their daughter and son-in-law lived in Ghaziabad and had come to visit.

Police added that they found no signs of robbery or forced entry into the house. The accused is absconding and the Faridabad Police Crime Branch is investigating the matter.

"Footage from a CCTV camera outside the victims' house shows

a man arriving at 10.20 pm Friday on a grey scooter and leaving at 11.50 pm. We narrowed down four suspects and called them to the police station. When Mukesh didn't show up, we went to his house and found a pair of blood-soaked trousers, a blood-stained key and a note that his wife handed over to us," said ACP (Crime Branch) Anil Kumar.

The ACP said the note, which was allegedly written by Mukesh, said he went to the Mediratta house to rob them but

"ended up killing the four members". "I am sorry, I have left my house and might commit suicide," the note read, as per police.

A neighbour, A K Sardana, said: "Mediratta takes his dog for a walk every day around 7-8 am, but I didn't see him on Saturday. The newspapers were still outside and I heard their dog barking from inside. I knocked on the door but nobody answered, even though I could hear the TV playing. I finally called police."

Mediratta's son, Darpan (28), who lives in Gurgaon, said, "I was working the late shift on Friday.. Around 2 pm on Saturday, I received a call from police about the incident. I reached Faridabad an hour after that." Police said Darpan told them he knew Mukesh, and that he had visited their home in the past.

Police are ascertaining the reason behind the crime and have registered a case of murder and under sections of the Arms Act against the accused.

## Daughter visited them during weekends: Kin

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 10

PRAVEEN MEDIRATTA (65), who was killed along with his family on Friday, used to work at AIIMS and had been running an X-ray diagnostic centre from his house for the last 10-15 years.

His daughter Priyanka shifted to Indirapuram in Ghaziabad after she got married in 2013. She worked with HCL Technologies in Noida, while her husband Saurabh worked at Virtusa, a digital engineering firm in Gurgaon.

His son, Darpan (28), an engineer working in Gurgaon, said: "I was shocked and couldn't understand what had happened. When I spoke to my parents last night, they said they were meeting my sister and her husband."

Pradeep Mediratta, the doctor's elder brother who lives in Hyderabad, said, "Darpan called around 2.30 pm on Saturday. He said his parents and sister were dead. When I asked him how, he didn't answer and started



Outside the family's home in Faridabad Sector 7, Sunday. *Gajendra Yadav*

criying. I tried to console him but he cut the call. I kept calling him and finally reached him at 4 pm. He told us that someone had murdered the family."

Rashim Narula, a relative, said Priyanka and her husband would go to Faridabad over the weekends.

Meanwhile, police said they are investigating the case from all angles.

"Darpan told us he knew the accused, Mukesh, who is a gym trainer. We are checking call detail records of the accused to establish more facts," said a senior police officer at sector 8 station in Faridabad.

## By year-end, new facility for OPD services at AIIMS

ASTHASAXENA  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 10

BY THE end of December, OPD services at AIIMS will be shifted to a new facility in Masjid Moth — a move expected to ease the rush at the country's top medical institute.

At present, OPD services are operational from Raj Kumari Amrit Kaur OPD block that caters to over 9,000 patients a day. According to officials, the new OPD will be able to cater to 10,000 patients daily. As per the plan, once the shift is complete, the ground floor of the existing OPD block will be extended for emergency services, and the first and second floors will house chambers for faculty members and for academic purposes.

"Patient services will be available by the last week of December at the new facility. Most formalities have been completed and we are soon going to start the shifting process. In the first phase, OPD services and a blood collection centre will be made operational. Lab services will be shifted in phases," said a senior AIIMS official. "By April

2020, we will also move the surgical OPD, burn and plastic surgery departments into the new block," added the official.

The newly constructed building in Masjid Moth has received clearances from the fire department. The hospital administration, in coordination with the New Delhi Municipal Council, has initiated work to fill up job posts.

Meanwhile, the institute has plans to change the face of the existing campus. As per the redevelopment plan, a convention centre, a guest house with 40 rooms, a hostel with over 4,500 rooms, and 500 residential units with allied car parking will be built. Once completed, existing residential facilities at East Ansari Nagar to New Rajnagar (Trauma Centre) campus, Ayurvigyan Nagar and West Ansari Nagar will be relocated nearby.

Spread over 213 acres, the institute was established in 1956. At present, it has more than 2,400 beds and sees a daily footfall of almost 15,000 patients and attendants.

The estimated cost of the master plan is around Rs 10,345 crore, including Rs 1,000 crore for hiring manpower.

# At Eid gathering in Old Delhi, leaders across parties reiterate call for peace

ABHINAV RAJPUT  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 10

A GATHERING to celebrate Eid-e-Milad-Un-Nabi near Old Delhi's Bara Hindu Rao mosque saw senior leaders of the BJP, AAP and Congress share the stage and make appeals for communal harmony.

The gathering, organised by Eid-e-Milad-Un-Nabi Anjuman committee, had BJP National Vice-President Shyam Jaju, Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Vijender Gupta, Delhi BJP Vice-President Jai Prakash, AAP Minister Imran Hussain and Congress leaders Alka Lamba and Jagdish Tytler in attendance.

Amid heavy police presence in the area in the wake of the Supreme Court's Ayodhya verdict a day earlier, most leaders stressed on Hindu-Muslim unity.

Stating that the country's atmosphere has been peaceful in the past five years of the BJP government, Jaju said: "In the morn-



BJP's Shyam Jaju (centre) at the gathering. AAP Minister Imran Hussain and Congress leaders Alka Lamba and Jagdish Tytler were also in attendance. *Express*

ing, I took part in a Guru Parv of Guru Nanak Dev ji... now I am here and in the evening, I will take part in a kirtan at Connaught Place's Hanuman Mandir. This is the beauty of our country."

Referring to the Ayodhya judgment, he said people and religious heads have stressed on maintaining peace.

Prakash said: "When children are born, their names are decided later... first, they are born

human. I am convinced that with the blessings of Allah, we will take the country forward."

After the speeches, the gathering of over hundreds marched from the mosque, passing through Lahori Gate, Khari Baoli and stopping at Jama Masjid.

Hazi Mohammad J Ahmed, president of the committee, said the platform has seen politicians from different parties in attendance for years. On the verdict, he

said, "We will follow the decision, we respect the court's order."

Committee vice-president Bhai Meherban added: "Today, Minister Imran Hussain said Islam teaches us that one should go as far as possible to seek good education and spread brotherhood."

On the sidelines of the event, Lamba, who recently joined the Congress from AAP, said: "There are people of all religions on stage, and we are taking forward the message of Prophet Hazrat Muhammad Sahib, which is peace and brotherhood."

"If you go to India Gate, you will see people from all religions in the list of martyrs. The blood of people of all religions is in India's soil," she said.

Terming the judgment as "unprecedented and historic", Delhi BJP president Manoj Tiwari Saturday said he had asked the state unit to avoid making controversial comments on the issue. In a meeting, the Delhi Congress also passed a resolution saying the party honoured the judgment.

## 6 of family killed in crash on Eastern Peripheral e-way

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NOIDA, NOVEMBER 10

SIX MEMBERS of the same family, including a teenager, died after their car was hit by a vehicle from the rear on the Eastern Peripheral Expressway Sunday night. According to police, the victims were in a Maruti Eeco car. Police are yet to identify the vehicle that hit them.

"We received information that a car has been hit by another vehicle on the part of the Eastern Expressway which comes under Site 5 police station. The car was damaged considerably, and some of its oc-

cupants had died on the spot. There were 13 people in the car, including seven children. Four persons are being referred to AIIMS, while three others are admitted at a nearby hospital," said a senior officer.

The victims have been identified as Shamsheera (60), Yaseen (48), Sumaila (15), Shakir (25), Rihana (18) and Farzana (28). The family was travelling from Ballabhgarh to Meethapur when the incident took place, police said, adding that they were returning home from a wedding.

Police have filed an FIR against unknown persons for alleged rash driving and death due to negligence.

## As talks with police fail, lawyers back on strike

ANAND MOHAN J  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 10

THE IMPASSE between lawyers and police in the capital continues, with bar associations deciding to go on strike from Monday following a meeting with senior officers at the L-G's house Sunday.

This comes after the Delhi Police did not accept the associations' demand for the immediate arrest of the officers responsible for opening fire at two advocates in Tis Hazari court on November 2.

N C Gupta, Delhi Bar Association president, said, "Police refused to accede to our demand for arrest of the errant policemen... The L-G could not help us in the meeting. We will continue our strike..."

This was the second meeting between police and lawyers after the Delhi High Court advised a joint meeting. In the first meeting, lawyers walked off after they found only a JCP present. At Sunday's meeting, two Special CPs, Satish Golcha and Praveer Ranjan, JCP D C Srivastava and DCP (North) Monika Bhardwaj were present.

The meeting began with both sides narrating their version as to what tran-

spired on November 2, when a parking dispute with a lawyer took a violent turn. Advocate Dheeraj Kumar said, "Police said they did not arrest the lawyer accused of beating a policeman outside Saket district court to avoid escalation. We did not agree with their point."

Bar association members also pointed to instances of civilians arrested for firing in the air, and asked police why they did not act against their own men.

Police offered to make a presentation on how the firing took place, which was not heard by the associations. Police also pointed to videos showing DCP Bhardwaj running as a group of lawyers chased her. The associations asked police who leaked the videos to the media and escalated the situation. With no headway being made, N C Gupta and other coordination committee members left.

Additional PRO Anil Mittal said: "During the meeting, officers explained that since the judicial enquiry is underway, further action should be taken against the alleged persons only on the basis of its outcome. The L-G also appealed to both sides to continue holding talks and resolve issues amicably."

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# 4 HARDLOOK

## TIS HAZARI CLASH



At Tis Hazari court during the November 2 clash, which left 20 police personnel and eight lawyers injured. *Praveen Khanna*

# Disquiet in the ranks

With wounds from the Tis Hazari clash still fresh, Delhi Police is striving to quell anger in a force otherwise known for its discipline. **MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL, SOMYA LAKHANI & ANAND MOHAN J** report on what it'll take to rebuild the trust

"Simon go back."

The 1928 boycott cry against the British empire reverberated through the grey skies of Delhi last week as 2,000-plus police personnel shouted the slogan in unison. The scene played out Tuesday outside the ITO headquarters of the Delhi Police, as senior IPS officer Ranveer Singh Krishnia attempted to address their demonstration, only for his appeals to be drowned out by slogans. More senior officers followed, including Commissioner of Police Amulya Patnaik. Each time, the result was the same.

After a parking row at the Tis Hazari district court on November 2 escalated into a clash between police and lawyers, the Delhi Police has found itself facing an unprecedented crisis — of policemen and women questioning their leadership, and making their displeasure with them known.

Several personnel *The Indian Express* spoke to said they were dissatisfied with the way they were "abandoned" and "under-represented" by the leadership following the November 2 clash, in which over 20 personnel, including a woman DCP, were assaulted and manhandled, with many landing up in the hospital with serious injuries.

A 32-year-old policeman who was injured in the clash said he was let down in the days that followed: "No one stands up for us when we are treated unfairly. *Kabhi public se maar, kabhi vakilo se maar...* We haven't heard a strong statement from any IPS officer here about ensuring justice for us. Action is taken very swiftly against us, not for us."

A day after the incident, the Delhi High Court had sought a judicial enquiry into the matter and called for action against some officers present at the scene. It also directed that no coercive action be taken against the advocates "in pursuance of FIRs (lodged) with regard to the incident".

This, personnel said, led to further discontentment since they felt that while the Bar Council moved swiftly to represent lawyers, the Delhi Police had dragged its feet. "We thought lawyers would have to face the consequences. But then we were told two assistant sub-inspectors had been suspended. It was infuriating," said a policeman.

A 31-year-old constable who suffered injuries to his face, head and stomach, said: "After being discharged from the hospital later that night, I went home with a bandaged face and got a call from my seniors to reach a police station in the North district to record my statement. The Special CP and sen-

iors made me wait all night. No one asked me how I was doing. The next morning, I went home and was asked to return. I was hurt because it was insensitive of them to make me run around with injuries all over my body. I refused to go and asked them to come to me if they needed a statement."

Five days after the 20-odd personnel landed at the hospital with injuries, Patnaik visited two at their homes and met some at the office of the DCP (North). A DCP-rank officer told *The Indian Express*, "The lower staff is hurt because they feel there's a lack of empathy. This relationship will require a lot of mending."

### Boiling point

Two days after the clash emerged a video of a lawyer slapping and assaulting a constable on a bike outside Saket court. That's when Delhi Police personnel decided they had had enough.

By evening, a message on WhatsApp asked personnel to gather outside the PHQ for a protest the next morning. It read: "We would like to inform the citizens of Delhi that on November 5 and 6, Delhi Police will not be able to serve you. To save our *astitva* (identity), we won't be working for two days. At 9 am tomorrow, all police personnel will gather outside the ITO PHQ and meet the Commissioner of Police... Before you say no, remember that even if you didn't get beaten up at Tis Hazari, why are you hurt?"

At first, many didn't take the message seriously. Soon, official police and media groups were flooded with the same message. "We reached the PHQ early next morning, took photos and videos and sent it to our friends, who then joined us and the crowd swelled," said a sub-inspector from the Eastern range.

The police personnel received support from SHO- and even DCP-rank officers, with many permitting them to join the protest. "We do have strong grievance redressal mechanisms in place but despite that, if such a protest happens, it means the staff has not found relief," said an IPS officer.

Believing that assurances would quell the protest, a DCP-rank officer was sent to address the crowd. A joint CP and a Special CP too were quickly sent out, but the protesters were in no mood to listen. By the time Patnaik arrived, his assurances were barely audible.

A sub-inspector with the East district said, "It is CP *saheb's* duty to keep the force safe. Like the judiciary got the Additional



During the protest at the Delhi Police HQ last week. *Prem Nath Pandey*

## 'Staff are encouraged to raise grievances'

*New Delhi:* Speaking to *The Indian Express* in the wake of the Tis Hazari clash, Additional PRO Anil Mittal said the Delhi Police is a professional and disciplined force and is "known not only for raising the level of its performance but also for acting with restraint in due cognizance of its responsibilities in demanding times".

On addressing grievances of personnel, he said: "We have a mechanism for our staff to express grievances by approaching senior officers, including the Commissioner of Police. On that day, too, a group of policemen came to express their feelings about the current issue. Our senior officers, including the CP, assured them their grievances will be addressed at the appropriate platform. It is important to keep in mind that even when this group of policemen had come to the Police Headquarters, others were performing their duties diligently at the

duty points."

"We also have 'Sampark Sabhas', held regularly by senior officers to address grievances. If any staff has a personal problem, our system encourages that he/she meet the officer concerned or even the CP. To boost morale of field functionaries, Delhi Police regularly organises '*bara khanas*' (get togethers) where senior officers interact with staff and commend them for performing hard-pressed duties," he added.

Stating that police and lawyers are "critical parts of the Criminal Justice Administration System", Mittal said: "We are making all necessary efforts to sort out the issue amicably, following directions of the Hon'ble High Court."

He added: "Since a judicial inquiry has been ordered by the HC, and SIT, Crime Branch, is investigating the case, it would not be appropriate to comment on anything pertaining to the incident at this stage." **ENS**

DCP and Special CP of North district transferred, Delhi Police should also order arrests of the culprit lawyers."

Many seniors had sent at least five policemen from every police station to join the protest. In the evening, calls from senior of-

ficers went out, asking them to return after a day of sloganeering. "We wanted an assurance about the investigation and action being taken; instead, we were told to stop the protest," said a woman constable posted in the Central district.

Tuesday's protest, senior officers admitted, was a wake-up call for the force. "In the force, discipline is of utmost importance and we are taught not to question seniors. But after this protest, there is a possibility our subordinates will protest for everything," said an IPS officer heading a district.

It is also learnt that the Home Ministry did not take a favourable view of the protest, or how things leading up to it had been handled.

### Return to 1966

The last time Delhi Police saw such an unrest was 1966, when over 6,000 personnel walked till Rashtrapati Bhavan demanding better wages and the right to unionise. The Khosla Commission, under Justice GD Khosla, was formed and reforms were rolled out.

Nikhil Kumar (78), who served as Commissioner of Police from 1995-97, said, "After the unrest, the Sampark Sabhas also came up — subordinates could express their grievances to their seniors and be assured they would be addressed."

A minor police-lawyer standoff also took place during the year-long tenure of T R Kakkar (79), who served as CP from 1997-98.

"There was some trouble between my men and the lawyers, and I believed my men were right. I sent senior officers to lawyers' bodies to tell them that their rules won't prevail, and I met the Home Minister and explained to him that the force will be demoralised if a weak stand is taken. He told me I was in-charge and that he will support me," said Kakkar.

Maxwell Pereira, who retired as Joint CP over 15 years ago, said, "The HC direction of not allowing coercive action against lawyers was a trigger point... but history shows that the court protects their own. This has happened in the past too, and police has to work with such constraints."

Kakkar recalled another instance of a former Delhi Chief Minister "badmouthing" the force after his nephew was embroiled in a murder case. "I had to tell the former CM not to express such views. The force is not allowed to express their grievances publicly, so we are the custodians of their grievances," said Kakkar, adding that "had Tuesday's protest gone on for a day longer, the city would have gone to the dogs".

B K Gupta, who served as Delhi CP from 2010-12, said: "Nowadays, videos go viral on

social media. The protest by the police is a cause of concern but they have been driven to the wall and are resorting to this. Sampark Sabhas are important to ascertain the brewing problems."

### Calls for calm

How did a parking row snowball into a standoff in which 20 police personnel and eight lawyers were injured? Several high-ranking members from the coordination committee at Tis Hazari court told *The Indian Express* that the bar association elections, slated to be held on November 5, could be one of the factors that led to the situation spiralling out of control.

And then there was the flashpoint: The issue of parking that has, even in the past, been the cause of arguments between police and lawyers.

Former president of the Delhi Bar Association, R N Vats, said, "The parking issue has been a source of constant fights between the two sides."

With a parking space for over 1,700 vehicles, the Tis Hazari court sometimes runs out of space, and advocates rushing to court hearings and policemen producing prisoners occasionally jostle for the same spot.

A policeman tasked with handling security at Tis Hazari court recalled another tense situation in the complex recently: "When Unnao rape accused Kuldeep Singh Sengar was produced in court for the first time, lawyers chased us, shouting for his death penalty. Such tense situations arise and we have to be aggressive in tackling them."

Amid appeals by the Bar Council of India to lawyers to maintain calm and not resort to violence, former District and Sessions Judge at Rouse Avenue court O P Saini said that "lawyers calling a strike is not the way forward. There are some lawyers who create trouble, not all of them are involved in such activities."

Senior advocate Vikas Pahwa said the entire judicial system has come to a standstill: "Undertrials could not travel to courts as Delhi Police has abstained from working, like the lawyers. Lawyers and police should work in tandem with each other."

Senior Advocate Rebecca John said that while lawyers and police "are in an adversarial role (in the courtroom), that is not necessarily a bad thing". "We challenge each other in court, but that does not mean we resort to violence," she said.

**WITH INPUTS FROM JIGNASA SINHA**

### EXCESSES OUTSIDE THE COURTROOM

**1988** Lawyers protested after one of their colleagues was arrested for an alleged theft and produced in Tis Hazari court in handcuffs. They faced off with Kiran Bedi, then DCP (North), at her office and a lathicharge was ordered on them. Lawyers went on a two-month long strike, demanding Bedi's resignation

**2009** Four advocates allegedly assaulted Additional District Judge (Rohini) Pankaj Gupta, following verbal arguments. An FIR was registered against the advocates; the HC issued notices to them and an enquiry was set up

**2010** Delhi Bar Council member Rajat Mishra alleged he was assaulted by members carrying a pistol, during a discussion over recognition of another bar council group which escalated

**2014** Thirty lawyers from Tis Hazari court allegedly assaulted a woman lawyer and her two clients inside the court complex. The clients, members of the North East Union, and the woman lawyer had gone to court to file a criminal case against another lawyer who had allegedly molested a Delhi University student from Nagaland

**2016** Former JNUSU president Kanhaiya Kumar and journalists were beaten up by lawyers at Patiala House court. Police recorded statements of witnesses and chargesheeted the accused lawyers. A group of lawyers supporting Kumar were also thrashed by another group of lawyers



# 5 GOVT & POLITICS



## HOME MEET

IN A break from a practice he himself introduced, Prime Minister Narendra Modi held the BJP's Central Election Committee meeting at his official residence on Saturday. Modi, according to party sources, is particular that the party's official meetings and discussions should be held in the BJP headquarters only. However, on Saturday, he did not want to burden the Delhi Police, who were busy in ensuring security following the Ayodhya verdict. The meeting got delayed not just because of the Prime Minister's hectic day — he was in Punjab for the inauguration of the Kartarpur Corridor during the day — Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das also arrived late as he was busy monitoring the situation following a warning that Cyclone Bulbul may affect parts of his state.

## PERSONAL TOUCH

IT APPEARED to be a gesture of thanks giving. After addressing the media, following the Ayodhya verdict, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat made it a point to personally thank the lawyers who had argued for the deity. Bhagwat and RSS general secretary Suresh Bhaiyyaji Joshi visited senior advocate and former AG K Parasaran, who had argued for Ramlalla Virajman, at his residence after addressing the media. Former solicitor general Ranjit Kumar and former additional solicitor general P S Narasimha, the other lawyers of the deity, were present there. Parasaran, aged 92, had even rejected an offer from the CJI to sit and argue, saying he would hold the tradition of getting up and putting forth the arguments.

## THE BACKLASH

A DAY after the Congress said it respects the Supreme Court's verdict on the Ayodhya issue and favoured construction of a Ram Temple there, the party on Sunday landed in a soup after the National Herald, a newspaper patronised by the party, published two articles — one slamming the verdict and another asking questions like can God reside in a temple built by force, violence and bloodshed. With the articles fuelling a backlash on the social media, with barbs coming from even Congress sympathisers, and triggering an attack by the BJP, the newspaper took down the articles and issued an apology. The articles, sources in the Congress said, did not go down well with the party leadership.

### AFTER AYODHYA JUDGMENT

# Shah gets new task at hand — and new opportunity

LIZ MATHEW  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 10

IN LESS than 70 days after it returned to power, the BJP-led government with Amit Shah as the Home Minister implemented one of its three core agendas — scrapping of Jammu and Kashmir's special status under Article 370, building a Ram Temple and bringing in a Uniform Civil Code — that it had kept on the backburner in its earlier term. The Home Ministry is now set to be entrusted with setting up a trust that will build the Ram temple in Ayodhya, giving Shah the opportunity to add another feather to his cap.

The judgment by the five-member bench of Supreme Court says: "The central government shall, within a period of three months from the date of this judgment, formulate a scheme pursuant to the powers vested in it under Sections 6 and 7 of the Acquisition of the Certain Areas at Ayodhya Act 1993. The scheme shall envisage the setting up of a trust with a Board of trustees or any other appropriate body under Section 6. The scheme to be framed by the Central Government shall make necessary provisions in regard to the functioning of the trust or body including on matters relating to the management of the trust, the powers of the trustees including the construction of a temple and all necessary, incidental and supplemental matters."

The order says possession of the land is to be handed over to the Board of Trustees. This Act was piloted by S B Chavan, then Home Minister, a month after the demolition of Babri Masjid in 1992. According to the Act, the central government has the power to appoint a trust or body for managing the 60.70 acre land surrounding the disputed land of 2.77 acre. After the demolition, the P V Narasimha



Amit Shah

**EXPLAINED**  
**Under the spotlight**

HOME MINISTER Amit Shah's speech in Rajya Sabha explaining the government's decision to scrap J&K's special status saw him emerge as the man of action in the party. He led the government from the front, establishing himself as a bold leader in RSS and BJP circles. The Supreme Court verdict in Ayodhya case gives him a chance to cement this image.

Rao government had acquired the land, planning to build a "a Ram temple, a mosque, amenities for pilgrims, a library, museum and other suitable facilities" in Ayodhya. This empowers the Home Ministry to act on the order.

The scrapping of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir had long been a top agenda of the BJP and RSS and Shah's move on the issue in less than 70 days after he took charge saw him emerge as a decisive Home Minister. Following the verdict in Ayodhya case and the task cut out for the Home Ministry, Shah will now play a crucial role in fulfilling another long-pending agenda of the BJP.

Party leaders said the government would now move towards bringing in a Uniform Civil Code.

# On Muslim parties' claim, SC quoted '15 Justice Nazeer order

KAUNAIN SHERIFF M  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 10

ONE OF the central arguments presented before the five judge Constitution Bench by the Muslim parties in the Ayodhya matter was that they had "perfected" their claim to the title by "adverse possession". The Bench, however, rejected the claim — holding that the Muslim parties had failed to meet the requirements of adverse possession. In reaching this conclusion, the five-judge Bench relied on an order passed more than four years ago by Justice S Abdul Nazeer, a member of the Ayodhya Bench who was then a judge of the Karnataka High Court.

In his order passed on July 22, 2015, Justice Nazeer had ruled that adverse possession "must be adequate in continuity", and "must be actual, visible and exclusive".

In the Ayodhya title suit appeal, the Muslim side had argued that the Muslims, by virtue of their "long, exclusive and contin-



uous possession" from the time the mosque was built to the time it was desecrated, had perfected their right to the title by adverse possession.

Rejecting this argument, the Constitution Bench said: "The plaintiffs in Suit 4 plead adverse possession in the alternative... In a judgment rendered in 2015, one of us (Justice Abdul Nazeer) as a Single Judge of the Karnataka High Court succinctly identified and laid down the pre-requisites of a claim to adverse possession."

Justice Nazeer's 2015 judgment related to property dispute in which a regular second appeal had been filed by legal representatives of one of the plaintiffs

(Subbamma). The suit had sought cancellation of the gift deed (the land), and permanent injunction restraining the defendants from interfering with the possession of the disputed property.

"The concept of adverse possession contemplates a hostile possession i.e., a possession which is expressly or impliedly in denial of the title of the true owner. Possession to be adverse must be possession by a person, who does not acknowledge others' rights but denies them. Possession implies dominion and control and the consciousness in the mind of the person having dominion over an object that he has it and can exercise," the Bench cited Justice Nazeer's 2015 judgment.

"To prove title to the land by adverse possession it is not sufficient to show that some acts of possession have been done. The possession required must be adequate in continuity, in publicity and in extent to show that it is adverse to the owner. In other words, the possession must be actual, visible, exclusive, hostile and contin-

ued during the time necessary to create a bar under the statute of limitation," the Bench further cited the 2015 judgment.

Hence, the Constitution Bench concluded, it "was impossible" for the Muslim parties "to set up a case of being in peaceful, open and continuous possession of the entire property".

"Dr Dhavan (counsel for the Muslim parties) repeatedly asserted that the Muslims were obstructed in their offering worship at the mosque as a result of the illegalities of the Hindus. For this purpose, Dr Dhavan refers to the incidents which took place in 1856-7, 1934 and 1949 — the last of them leading up to the preliminary order under Section 145. The events which are associated with each of the above incidents constitute indicators in the ultimate finding that in spite of the existence of the structure of the mosque, possession as asserted by the Muslims cannot be regarded as meeting the threshold required for discharging the burden of a case of adverse possession," the Bench concluded.

## 3 SC judges laud CJI Gogoi over Ayodhya ruling

ABHISHEK SAHA  
GUWAHATI, NOVEMBER 10

THREE SUPREME Court judges on Sunday praised CJI Ranjan Gogoi for the Ayodhya verdict at an event in Guwahati attended by CJI Gogoi and next CJI Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde.

At the release of the *Assamese translation of Courts of India: Past to Present*, a Supreme Court Publication, Justice A K Mishra lauded CJI Gogoi's quality of "taking everybody together". Justice Mishra said, "He (Gogoi) has achieved the impossible...1000-page judgment within three weeks, two weeks. I tell you, this is rather impossible...shows determination to decide that case...what SC is capable of doing... you have made name in history."

Speaking about the NRC, Justice Mishra said CJI Gogoi "had the courage to make a beginning".

Justice S Ravindra Bhat said that when the court speaks, it has the weight of the Constitution, Executive and the Legislature. "So, if the court spoke in one voice, it spoke like Parliament, because when Parliament makes a law, it is not spoken by different people. So the court spoke in one voice, and it is a unique moment which we must savour."

Justice Roy said, "To speak in one voice...you need the leadership of judging...that has been displayed in yesterday's judgment..."

## Security enhanced

**New Delhi:** The Central government has enhanced the security of the five Supreme Court judges who delivered judgment in the Ayodhya case. As per sources not only the security detail at their residences has been increased, but they have also been given mobile security. The security is being provided by Delhi Police, sources said.

The enhanced security has been put in place since Saturday. "Security of the honourable judges has been enhanced as a precautionary measure. However, there has been no specific threat against any of the judges," a senior official said. **ENS**



NSA Ajit Doval at an inter-religious faith meeting, at his residence in New Delhi, on Sunday . PTI

# Day after verdict, Doval meets religious leaders

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 10

NATIONAL SECURITY Advisor Ajit Doval on Sunday held a meeting with 30 religious leaders from Hindu and Muslim communities in the wake of the Supreme Court verdict in Ayodhya case.

The meeting, sources said, was used as an opportunity to establish communication between the two communities and to ensure peace and order.

Hindu leaders at the meeting included Yoga guru Ramdev, Swami Advdeshanand and VHP leaders Champat Rai and Surendra Jain. Among the Muslim participants were Navaid Hamid of All India Muslim Majlis-e-Mushawarat, Mohammed Mahmood Ahmed Khan Darybadi of All India Ulema Council, Engineer Salim of Jamaat-e-Islami Hind, Shia leader Kalbe Jawad and

Sirajuddin Qureshi, president of the India Islamic Culture Centre.

Participants in the meeting said Doval appealed to all to maintain peace and said that external forces want communities in India to fight among each other and both sides should watch out against it. He also said that if some communities have grievances, the government will address them.

Jain, VHP's international joint general secretary, said, "The meeting was good. Everyone said they respect the Supreme Court order and resolved to maintain order. The Berlin Wall of division has fallen and now everyone has to come together."

Hamid, the president of All India Muslim Majlis-e-Mushawarat, said the government should immediately reconstitute the National Integration Council. "I said in the meeting that it is important to recognise the fact that despite grave disagreements with the

judgment, the Muslim side has behaved very responsibly and there has been no attempt to disrupt peace as was their commitment. If meetings such as this continue, a lot of misunderstandings would automatically go away."

Swamy Chinmayananda Saraswati said, "There has been a decision but there is no division."

Professor Akhtarul Wassey, president of Maulana Azad University, said the meeting emphasised on peace. "There were people from VHP and other Hindu organisations too. Nobody was blamed. It was just a free and fair exchange of ideas that went on for nearly three hours."

Meanwhile, the VHP in a statement on Sunday expressed gratitude to all saints who participated in the Ram Janmabhoomi movement and asked the government to promptly implement the Supreme Court order in the case.

# BJP, Cong release first list of candidates for Jharkhand polls

ABHISHEK ANGAD  
RANCHI, NOVEMBER 10

THE BJP and Congress have released its list of candidates for the upcoming Jharkhand Assembly polls. While the BJP released the names of candidates in 52 constituencies, Congress has released names in five constituencies.

Jharkhand goes to polls in five phases starting November 30. In the first phase, polls will be conducted in 13 seats which includes four Scheduled Tribe and three Scheduled Caste reserved seats.

Prominent faces in Jharkhand BJP, like Chief Minister Raghubar Das and state BJP president Laxman Giluwa will contest from Jamshedpur East and Chakradharpur seats respec-



tively. However, in 10 seats, sitting BJP MLAs did not get tickets to fight. The seats include: Boreo, Godda, Chatra, Sindri, Jharia, Ghatshila, Gumla, Simdega, Manika and Chattarpur.

BJP working president J P Nadda said the list mainly focuses on the first phase of the polls, but there are some candidates in it who would be contesting the elections in the other four phases.

"Jharkhand was previously known for the higher side of corruption and lower side of stability. Today, it is known for stability and development under the

leadership of (Chief Minister) Raghubar Das. Corruption has been curbed," he said at a press conference.

The Congress has announced its candidature from Lohardaga, Manika, Daltonganj, Bishrampur and Bhawanathpur. Congress state president Rameshwar Oraon will fight from Lohardaga.

Three days ago the Opposition announced Mahagathbandhan with Congress, JMM and RJD contesting from 31, 43, 7 seats respectively

The alliance between BJP and All Jharkhand Students Union (AJSU) still remains unclear. Sources said that AJSU leader Sudesh Mahto had gone to Delhi, however, there has not been any consensus on number of seats. AJSU had indicated that they are "strong" in 25 seats.

# P S Krishnan, bureaucrat behind landmark social justice legislation, dies

AMRITH LAL  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 10

EARLY IN his career in the civil services, P S Krishnan received an entry in his confidential report that he would read out as the perfect summation of his career.

It read: "Undue partiality to depressed classes, strident advocacy of inter-caste marriages, uses his knowledge of Sanskrit to debunk religion, trusts the words of the villagers rather than village officers, acts in a manner that helps subversive elements."

Till his last, Krishnan, who died in Delhi Sunday aged 86, remained partial to the depressed classes and worked towards the destruction of the caste order, relentlessly exposing its institutional manifestations.

He impressed upon all the importance of caste-based reservation because he counted caste as the primary social marker in Indian society and felt that reservations were necessary to end caste privilege.

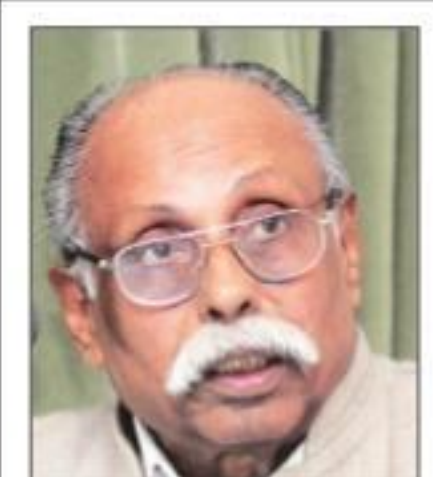
Born in Thiruvananthapuram to an upper caste Hindu family, Krishnan studied at the Maharaja's Science College — known today as University College — and was influenced by the progressive politics that prevailed in the erstwhile Travancore state in the 1930s and 1940s. Like many progressive-minded people of that generation, he never mentioned the caste he was born in, rejected the caste order in its entirety and worked tirelessly for the uplift of its victims.

In his memoirs, he speaks about coming across Babasaheb Ambedkar's stringent criticism of caste as a child and his father endorsing those words. The anti-caste politics initiated by social reformers, Ayyankali and Sree Narayana Guru that found an outlet in newspapers like Kerala Kaumudi, left a deep imprint on him and shaped his outlook towards life.

Krishnan was selected to the IAS in 1956 and served in Andhra Pradesh. As a bureaucrat, he sought to take the government to the people, especially the Dalits, Adivasis, minorities and other oppressed communities. While working at the Centre, he was involved in formulation and implementation of many landmark enactments for furthering the removal of caste-centric inequalities.

In 1979, he was associated with the appointment of the B P Mandal Commission that recommended 27 per cent job reservation for OBCs in government. A decade later, he headed the social welfare ministry when the V P Singh government decided to implement the Commission's recommendations.

He also worked on the formulation of other landmark legisla-



P S KRISHNAN  
1932-2019

tion, such as the granting of Constitutional status to the National Commission for SCs and STs, and the SC and ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1989.

Krishnan's advocacy for social justice legislations made many of his fellow and superior officers believe he was a Dalit. In fact, he once recounted an instance of this confusion to explain the deep-seated prejudice of bureaucracy.

After listening to him speak at a meeting, a top bureaucrat told others in the room that Krishnan was very intelligent despite being a Dalit. When some officers pointed out that Krishnan wasn't a Dalit, the same bureaucrat said this explained his intelligence.

Krishnan was a Constitutionalist and a believer in Ambedkar's radical project of annihilating caste. However, he also drew energy from the thoughts of Mahatma Gandhi and Karl Marx. He counted Swami Vivekananda among those who influenced him. He believed in a tradition of social justice that also included radical bhakti poets like Sant Ravidas and Basaveswara. According to him, a dialogue within tradition, and among Gandhi, Marx, Ambedkar and Periyar, was essential to strengthen anti-caste politics.

Krishnan was also convinced that a social revolution could be achieved within the ambit of the Constitution. His method was not about engaging in polemics but working the system, identifying legislation loopholes and orders that allowed caste system to flourish. He campaigned for change, reading Budget papers and official documents closely to spot any fall in allocation for schemes targeted at the non-privileged. He would help in drafting laws, and then assist the state legally if the legislation was challenged in court.

Neetirajan, an activist-publisher from Chennai who published Krishnan's memoirs 'A Crusade for Social Justice', describes him as "Ambedkar 2.0".

Last month, Krishnan was hospitalised for a heart valve replacement. He told friends that he would be back. However, he died 5.30 am Sunday, leaving behind a legacy of commitment to justice.

**FULL REPORT ON**  
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Online applications are invited in the prescribed Application Form at web-link <a href="https://colrec.du.ac.in">https://colrec.du.ac.in</a> from eligible candidates for appointment to the post of Assistant Professor in Education in the Academic Pay Level 10 of 7 <sup>th</sup> Central Pay Commission Pay Matrix, for B.Ed. programme in the College. The last date for receipt of application is 09.12.2019 or two weeks from the date of publication of the advertisement in the <i>Employment News</i> , whichever is later.									
S. No.	Name of the Post	Assistant Professor in Education							
		UR	SC	ST	OBC	EWS	PwBd	Total	
1.	Assistant Professor in Education • Perspectives in Education or Foundation Courses - 2 • Curriculum & Pedagogic Courses (Physics, Economics, Geography) - 1 each • Visual Arts - 1	04	-	01	01	-	-	06	
<b>Total</b>		<b>04</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>06</b>	
<b>Note:</b> UR - Unreserved, SC - Scheduled Caste, ST - Scheduled Tribe, OBC - Other Backward Classes, EWS - Economically Weaker Section, PwBd - Persons with Benchmark Disability. The details regarding qualifications, publications, experience, screening guidelines and indicative proforma etc. are available on the College website <a href="http://www.mvce.ac.in">www.mvce.ac.in</a> and the University website <a href="http://www.du.ac.in">www.du.ac.in</a> along-with this advertisement. The applicants are required to read these details before filling up the form. Any addendum/corrigendum shall be posted only on the College website. <span style="float: right;">PRINCIPAL (Offtg.)</span>									



# Seshan, who cleaned up elections, dies in Chennai home at 86

**ARUN JANARDHANAN**  
CHENNAI, NOVEMBER 10

FORMER CHIEF Election Commissioner T N Seshan died on Sunday at his residence at St Mary's Road in Alwarpet, Chennai. He was 86. A cancer survivor, Seshan had been suffering from age-related ailments for a long time. Sources close to him said he suffered a cardiac arrest around 9.30 pm on Sunday.

The 1955-batch IAS officer was CEC from 1990 to 1996 and was known for his fight against electoral malpractices such as bogus voting and booth capturing.

Born in 1932 at Thirunellai, now in Kerala's Palakkad district, Seshan completed his education from Government Victoria College, Palakkad, Madras Christian College and Harvard University.

Before being appointed CEC, he held positions in the government and Planning Commission.

The reforms brought by him include mandatory use of photo



Outside T N Seshan's Chennai home. *Arun Janardhanan*

ID cards and the poll panel taking control of the administration and police during elections. He also asserted the autonomy of the EC by running a system free from influence of the political executive. He won the Ramon Magsaysay award in 1996. In 1997, he unsuccessfully contested the presidential election as an independent candidate against K R Narayanan.



**Shri T N Seshan was an outstanding civil servant. He served India with utmost diligence and integrity. His efforts towards electoral reforms have made our democracy stronger and more participative. Pained by his demise. Om Shanti.**

**NARENDRA MODI,**  
PRIME MINISTER

**"Saddened by the demise of former Chief Election Commissioner, Shri T N Seshan ji. He played a transformative role in reforming and strengthening India's electoral institution. The nation will always remember him as a true torchbearer of democracy. My prayers are with his family."**

**AMIT SHAH,**  
HOME MINISTER

**Sad that former Chief Election Commissioner T N Seshan has passed away in Chennai. He was my father's classmate at Victoria College Palakkad — a courageous & crusty boss who asserted the Election Commission's autonomy & authority as no CEC before him had done. A pillar of our democracy."**

**SHASHI THAROOR,**  
CONGRESS MP

**The Election Commission of India deeply mourns the passing away of Sh T N Seshan. Expressing his condolences, CEC Sh Sunil Arora said, "T N Seshan was a legend. He will always be a source of inspiration to us and all CECs & ECs to come."**

**SPOKESPERSON,**  
ELECTION COMMISSION

# 8 killed as Bulbul leaves behind trail of destruction in Bengal

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
KOLKATA, NOVEMBER 10

CYCLONE BULBUL left a trail of destruction in south Bengal districts after making landfall in Sagar Island on Saturday night, killing at least eight people. North 24 Parganas was the worst-hit district with reports of five deaths in the district. The other affected districts are South 24 Parganas, East Midnapore and West Midnapore.

The state government has initiated relief efforts in the areas affected by the cyclone with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee likely to conduct an aerial survey on Monday to assess the damage.

"Due to the severe cyclonic storm Bulbul, I have decided to postpone my North Bengal visit in the next week. Instead, I would conduct an aerial survey of the affected areas around Namkhana and Bakkhali. I am also planning to visit the cyclone-affected areas of Basirhat in North 24 Parganas on November 13 (Wednesday)," the Chief Minister, who spent Saturday night at a control room set up state secretariat in Kolkata to monitor rescue work, wrote on Facebook. She will also be meeting officials on Monday at Kakdwip to review relief and rehabilitation measures.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah spoke to Banerjee and assured all possible assistance from the Centre. "Reviewed the situation in the wake of cyclonic conditions and heavy rains in parts of eastern India. Spoke with West Bengal CM regarding the situation arising due to Cyclone Bulbul. Assured all possible assistance from the Centre," Prime Minister Modi tweeted.

According to sources, a primary report has been given by the state government to the Centre in which it has been mentioned that a total of 7,815 houses were damaged and 870 trees uprooted in the cyclonic storm.

Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar, who has been at loggerheads with the Chief Minister, on Sunday praised her for 'leading from the front'.



At Bakkhali village in West Bengal on Sunday after Cyclone Bulbul made landfall. *Partha Paul*

# In cyclone-hit village, day of despair after night of horror

**SANTANU CHOWDHURY**  
FRASERGANJ, NOVEMBER 10

SINCE SUNDAY morning, 16-year-old Ranjit Halder has been frantically searching for his books inside his damaged home at Amarabati village in West Bengal's Fraserganj area. He found only two books and they too were soaked.

The Class X student, whose exams start on November 29, now has neither books nor notes. "I don't know how I will study for the exam. All my books are damaged," says Haldar, who studies in Narayanitala Dhaneshwar Sikhsa Sadan.

Bhaskar Bhowmick, a farmer from the same village, is cutting trees for the past two hours to clear the road leading to his house, or what is left of it. "I have never seen a storm like this. I was scared and fled to the pucca house of our neighbour with my three daughters, mother and wife. In the morning, we found that a tree had fallen on our house. There is no government assistance here so far. We have been left on our own," the 49-year-old told *The Indian Express*.

About 125 km from Kolkata, Amarabati and the nearby seaside town of Bakkhali are one of the worst-hit in South 24 Parganas district after cyclone Bulbul made its landfall on Saturday night.

The village has been cut off from main road as over 50 trees have fallen on the 2 km approach road. Many houses have been damaged, cattle killed and mobile and electricity towers uprooted in the storm that caused winds touching 120 km/hr. Although no resident is reported dead in the village, the scale of damage is immense and people wait helplessly for assistance.

With electricity and phone lines snapped and no relief material yet, villagers are outraged. "We heard so many arrangements have been made by the state government. But so far, not a single government official has visited us. There were two nurses and one doctor in the primary health centre, but they have fled," says Anima Haldar, as she spreads out rice on a mattress to dry.

Deep inside the village, many houses are inundated. Thirty-nine-year-old Bikash Mandal is trying to catch fish in the waist-

deep water.

"All vegetables and rice have been damaged and we have no hope of getting relief materials soon. So this will be the only source of food today," said Mandal, showing his catch.

Many residents are worried over the loss of important documents. "We have been hearing a lot about NRC and now we have lost our documents like property deeds and identity cards. We are very scared," says farmer Sanjay Haldar. Beside Amarabati is the Fraserganj fishing harbour. Hundreds of fishing boats have been parked in Edward Creek for the past few days following alerts about the storm.

The fishermen there recount a night of horror. "For a moment, we thought the boat might overturn as it was swaying in water despite being tied to the bank. The night was horrible. I have been fishing for 40 years but I have never seen a storm like this here," said fisherman Durgaprasad Mistry (60).

Later in the day, Coast Guard personnel from Fraserganj station visited the fishermen in the creek and took stock of the situation.

# Nearly 3.5 lakh security personnel in J&K, Ladakh

**KRISHN KAUSHIK**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 10

THE TOTAL number of security personnel in the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh is nearly 3.5 lakh, senior Army sources have told *The Indian Express*. This is the number of security personnel in the region since August 5, when the government decided to bifurcate the erstwhile state of J&K and scrap its special status.

Though the Army officially does not share the actual number of troops in the two Union Territories, sources said the number is much lower than what Pakistan claims at various international forums. The neighbouring country, sources said, has been trying to "sensationalise" the matter by claiming that India has 9 lakh troops in the region.

# Uttarakhand to tag wild elephants with radio collars

**LALMANI VERMA**  
DEHRADUN, NOVEMBER 10

FACED WITH a rising number of reports of wild elephants straying into human habitats, leading to crops being damaged and at least two deaths in two villages last week, Uttarakhand's Forest department is moving to resolve the conflict — with radio tags.

As a first step, officials said, the state government is tying up with Wildlife Institute of India (WII) to tranquillise about 6-8 elephants and fit GPS-enabled radio collars around their necks starting December 1. The objective: monitor their movements in real-time and set up an "early warning system" for residents in about 30 villages near the Rajaji National Park, and Shyampur and Rasiyabad forest areas.

Officials said the government took the decision after an elephant trampled two persons to death in Jiyapota and Panjanhedi villages near the Haridwar-Laksar road on November 2. Officials said they hope to have a comprehensive system in place before the next Maha Kumbh in 2021, when thousands of pilgrims are expected to camp in the Haridwar area.

A WII team will track the elephants and record their location after every hour. The information will be shared with forest staff and guards, and village volunteer groups through a mobile application.

"The direction will also be predicted using the radio-collar system. Our officials and WII experts will map and time their movement during different weather seasons over the next year," said Rajiv Bhartari, Chief Wildlife Warden.

"As the Kumbh Mela will be organised in winter, we will be studying movement patterns over the next few months to identify the spots from where elephants enter human habitats at this time of the year," said Bivash Pandav, the WII scientist who is leading the team from the institute.

This is not first time when elephants will be radio-collared in Uttarakhand. "But this is first time when they will be used to prevent conflicts with humans," he said.

# Nearly 3.5 lakh security personnel in J&K, Ladakh

According to the sources, there are 2.3 lakh security personnel from the Army and the Central Armed Police Forces in the "hinterland" in the Union Territories and an additional 1.13 lakh personnel along the Line of Control.

Army sources also said there isn't a "massive mismatch" in the strength of Indian and Pakistan troops along the Line of Control. Pakistan, the sources said, have nearly 90,000 personnel along the LoC as compared to 1.12 lakh Indian troops.

Of the 90,000 Pakistani soldiers, 28,000 belong to the infantry and are stationed opposite Indian Army's 15 and 16 Corps, they said. Sources said there are over 2,000 troops of Pakistani special forces along the LoC, which is "much more" than what India has. Pakistan uses them to push terrorists into India.

## TEMPLE WILL BE BUILT WITH PINK SANDSTONE

# Spotlight back on him, Ram temple architect says work will take up to 3 yrs

**LEENA MISRA**  
AHMEDABAD, NOVEMBER 10

CHANDRAKANT SOMPURA, the Ahmedabad-based architect who had started work on the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya for the VHP, says it will take between two-and-a-half and three years to construct the entire temple once work restarts.

Nearly 40 per cent of the work on the temple stands completed, Sompura said.

Estimated to cost Rs 50 crore to Rs 60 crore, the temple will be built with pink sandstone, to be mined and brought from Bansī Paharpur, Rajasthan.

The same stone was used to build the Akshardham temple in

Gandhinagar, Gujarat, also a work of Sompura. In fact, he has built over 100 temples, including Swaminarayan temple in Neasden — said to be the largest temple in the world.

Sompura turned 77 on Friday, a birthday he shares with BJP veteran L K Advani, who led the Ram Mandir movement. Saturday's Supreme Court verdict has meant the bouquets of roses and orchids that came on his birthday has been pushed to the background.

On Saturday, the desk in his home-office stood covered with copies of maps, a 3D image and visual representations of the Ayodhya Ram temple.

Sompura didn't say much on the SC verdict, limiting himself

to a one-liner — "The best thing about the verdict is that it has been fair to both parties" — and is waiting to get back to work: "Now it is up to the government - what it decides in three months (to set up a committee), how much funds will come...all that will matter."

The project was so far being handled by the VHP, and had been planned as per directions of Ashok Singhal, the organisation's late president. But with the SC now directing for setting up of a trust, it is not clear whether the VHP will be a part of it.

Sompura, who does not have any formal training in architecture and, according to his son, Ashish, learnt everything from his father Prabhashankar, a



**Chandrakant Sompura**

Padma Shri awardee who designed the Somnath temple, made the first drawings of Ram temple in 1989 and finished designing it in six months. He last visited the site five or six years ago. In 1996, when his son Ashish graduated from the school of architecture at Vallabh Vidyanagar in Anand, he was

immediately made a part of the Ram temple project team. "Work was on in full swing after the kar seva. I was just out of college and felt proud handling the prestigious project. We have a team at the site even now, but with funds drying up, work was stalled," Ashish said.

According to Sompura, the unique feature of the temple will be its *ashtakon* (octagonal) characteristic, a rarity among temples, the Surya mandir in Ranakpur, Rajasthan, being one such. It will also be the first public temple of Ram Lalla (infant Ram) and will have two storeys, he said. "The ground floor will have the Ram Lalla sanctum, and on top will be the Ram darbar (with Ram, Sita, Lakshman and

Hanuman idols)," he added.

According to Ashish, work on the temple started in 1993, soon after kar seva (which followed the Babri Masjid's demolition on December 6, 1992), when the Sompuras were given an approximation of how much area it would occupy. "The temple will be built as was planned. What can change are the peripherals," Ashish said.

### Temple details

To be built in the Nagar style, the original design has the main temple, four other temples dedicated to Sita, Lakshman, Ganapati and Hanuman, and four gates — one facing each direction — to access the temple complex. Each gate would be de-

signed as per the architectural styles of the region it faces. "For instance, the south gate would be like a gopuram," Sompura said.

A walk-through exhibition, sant niwas, kala kunj to host Ram kathas, dining area, staff quarters, administration block and library and research centre are part of the original plan.

Measuring 135x240 feet, the Ram temple will be on a raised platform, with all four features typical of a Hindu temple — the chauki (verandah), nityamandap (semi-covered porch), gudh mandap (covered porch) and garbha gruha (sanctum sanctorum) — in one axis.

The entire construction is expected to use 2.5-3 lakh cubic

feet of sandstone, Ashish said.

He did not disclose the number of columns the temple will have, but said its distinguishing feature will be the 16 statues to be carved on each column. The idol in the sanctum will be made of marble.

Sompura's website details the temple as having a giant plinth of 270 feet in length, 126 feet in width and 12'3 feet in height. The total height of the temple is to be 132 feet. The sanctum sanctorum will be 20x20 feet, where Shri Bal Swarup Ramji's idol will be installed, and there will be a Shri Ram Darbar under the dome on the floor above.

The temple will have a total of 212 pillars, as per the plan.





## 7 THE WORLD

## TOP OF THE WORLD



Amazon had said Allen breached a deal by making insensitive remarks about the #MeToo movement.

## USA

## Woody Allen and Amazon end legal battle

*New York:* Woody Allen and Amazon.com have ended their legal battle. The filmmaker had sued Amazon in February after the online giant ended his 2017 contract without ever releasing a completed film, *A Rainy Day in New York*. Amazon had responded that Allen, whose daughter Dylan has accused him of molesting her when she was a girl, breached the 4-movie deal by making insensitive remarks about the #MeToo movement. Allen has repeatedly the allegations made by his daughter. In papers filed Friday in US District Court, Allen and Amazon agreed that the case should be dismissed without prejudice. Terms were not disclosed.

## CAMBODIA

## Govt lifts house arrest curbs on Oppn figure

*Phnom Penh:* Cambodia has freed a prominent opposition figure from house arrest more than two years after he was charged with treason, a court spokesperson said on Sunday, after attempts by his colleagues to return to the country were thwarted. Kem Sokha was arrested in 2017 and accused of plotting to overthrow the government of strongman Hun Sen, who has ruled since 1985. He was sent to a remote prison, then confined to his house and the surrounding block and prohibited from talking to the media.

## SOUTH KOREA

## 'US actively asking N Korea to return to talks'

*Seoul:* The US is "very actively" trying to persuade North Korea to come back to negotiations, South Korea's national security adviser said on Sunday, as a year-end North Korean deadline for US flexibility approaches. South Korea was taking North Korea's deadline "very seriously", the adviser, Chung Eui-yong, told reporters, at a time when efforts to improve inter-Korean relations have stalled. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in April gave the US a year-end deadline to show more flexibility in their denuclearisation talks.

## RELIEF FOR INDIANS WHO ARE BIGGEST BENEFICIARIES OF OBAMA-ERA RULE

## US court refuses to strike down work permits for spouses of H-1B holders

Trump administration has said it wants to revoke rule that it claims has adverse effect on US workers

LALIT K JHA

WASHINGTON, NOVEMBER 10

IN A temporary relief to thousands of Indians living in America, a US court has refused to strike down, for the time being, an Obama-era rule that allowed spouses of H-1B visa holders to work in America.

The H-1B visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows the US companies to employ foreign workers in specialty occupations.

A 2015 rule issued by US President Donald Trump's predecessor Barack Obama allowed work permits for certain categories of H-4 visa holders, primarily spouses of those having H-1B work visas waiting for their Green Card, to work in the US.

Indians were the greatest beneficiary of this rule, which



A 2015 rule allowed work permits for certain categories of H-4 visa holders, primarily spouses of those having H-1B work visas waiting for their Green Card, to work in the US

has been challenged by several American workers with the current Trump administration supporting their cause, saying that it wants to rescind the rule.

A three-judge bench of the US

Courts of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit on Friday sent the case back to a lower court noting that it is "best to remand" to give the district court an opportunity to thoroughly assess and fi-

nally determine the merits in the first instance. "Accordingly, we reverse the district court's grant of summary judgment and remand for further proceedings consistent with this opinion," the federal court said in its order on the lawsuit filed by Saves Jobs USA.

Saves Jobs USA comprises of American workers who claim that they have been laid off due to the policy of the Obama administration to provide work permits to H-4 visa holders.

By making H-4 visa holders eligible for lawful employment, the Department of Homeland Security, which oversees immigration, sought to "ameliorate certain disincentives that currently lead H-1B non-immigrants to abandon efforts to remain in the US while seeking (lawful permanent resident) status, thereby, minimising interrup-

tions to US businesses employing such workers", the court said.

It noted that the government has explained that H-1B non-immigrants and their families often face long delays in the process of obtaining permanent residence, and H-4 visa holders' inability to work during these delays leads to "personal and economic hardships" that worsen over time, "increasing the disincentives for H-1B nonimmigrants to pursue lawful permanent resident status and thus increasing the difficulties that US employers have in retaining highly educated and highly skilled non-immigrant workers".

The judges also observed that the rule will cause more H-1B visa holders to remain in the US than otherwise would — an effect that is distinct from that of the H-1B visa holders' initial admission to the country. **PTI**



A house damaged during Cyclone Bulbul in Khulna, Bangladesh, on Sunday. *Reuters*

## 10 killed as Cyclone Bulbul wreaks havoc in Bangladesh

ANISUR RAHMAN

DHAKA, NOVEMBER 10

AT LEAST 10 people were killed as Cyclone Bulbul smashed into the low-lying areas of Bangladesh on Sunday, bringing in its wake torrential rains coupled with howling gales.

The cyclone packed winds of up to 120 kilometres per hour when it made a predawn landfall before weakening into a deep depression, forcing the authorities to evacuate over 21 lakh people from the low-lying areas.

Private TV channels quoting unofficial sources said the Cyclone Bulbul claimed 10 lives. However, the Disaster Management Ministry confirmed only eight deaths.

"Eight people were killed as the cyclone hit our coastlines — most being victims of collapse of houses and tree fall in six of the (southwestern) coastal districts," Disaster Management Ministry's Secretary Shah Kamal told PTI.

The cyclone has also damaged hundreds of houses, the officials said.

The authorities have ordered a temporary ban on boat and ferry movements in internal riverine routes and coastal waters, besides closing air traffic operations near coastal airports for nearly 24 hours.

The health directorate's Health Emergency Operation Centre and Control Room confirmed the death of eight people on Sunday, *bdnews24.com* reported.

Two people died after being crushed by trees upended during the storm in Khulna's Dighalia and

## PROMPT EVACUATIONS SAVED LIVES: OFFICIALS

■ Around 21 lakh people from all of Bangladesh's 13 coastal districts huddled in about 5,558 shelters on Saturday night.

■ Outside, wind speeds rose to between 100 and 120 km per hour and some low-lying coastal areas were flooded.

■ Prompt evacuations saved many lives and the worst was over, officials said on Sunday.

■ Wind speeds have now come down to between 70 and 80 kph, authorities said.

Dacope Upazilas, while an elderly man died after a tree fell on his house in Patuakhali, the health officials said.

In similar incidents, a woman died after her house was rattled by strong winds in Madaripur Sadar Upazila, while an elderly woman died under a fallen tree in Barishal in the municipal town of Uzirpur, the report said, quoting a senior government official.

An elderly woman died after falling sick in Barguna Sadar Upazila and a man died when a tree toppled by strong wind gusts landed on his house in Pirojpur's Nazirpur Upazila, the report said.

At least 15 people were injured in four coastal districts. **PTI**

## Pressure mounts on Polanski over new rape charge

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

PARIS, NOVEMBER 10

OSCAR-WINNING DIRECTOR Roman Polanski faced mounting pressure Sunday after threatening to sue over claims by a former actress that he violently raped her in the 1970s, the latest in a string of sexual assault accusations against him.

The 86-year-old filmmaker rejected the allegation, but few from the world of French cinema have come out in support of Polanski, who fled to France in 1978 after admitting to raping a 13-year-old girl at the Los Angeles home of Jack Nicholson.

Jean Dujardin, the star of Polanski's latest film, which comes out in France on Wednesday, has abruptly cancelled a prime-time TV interview set for Sunday. And the French artists' guild ARP could meet soon to discuss his exclusion, its vice president said.

Valentine Monnier, a photographer and former actress, accused Polanski of an "extremely violent" assault and rape at his chalet in the Swiss resort of Gstaad in 1975, when she was 18.



Protesters in La Paz, Bolivia, on Saturday. *Reuters*

## Facing massive protests, Bolivia's President promises new election

ANATOLY KURMANAEV &amp; MONICA MACHICAO

NOVEMBER 10

FACED WITH unrelenting protests over the results of disputed elections in which he claimed victory, President Evo Morales of Bolivia announced on Sunday that he would call new elections.

The announcement came hours after the Organisation of American States released a preliminary report of its audit of the Oct 20 vote. The group, whose charter promotes democracy among member organisations in

the Western Hemisphere, said that it would not certify Morales's victory and that the results should be annulled because of widespread irregularities. The company that provided vote-counting machines for the election had also disavowed the results.

Speaking in a televised address on Sunday, Morales, Bolivia's first Indigenous leader, called for peace and said he would replace the Electoral Tribunal before holding a new vote in the South American country. He did not specify a date for the repeat election. The tribunal has been criticised as too loyal to Morales. **NYT**

## Explained: Bolivian crisis: A referendum ignored, an election disputed

EVO MORALES became Bolivia's first Indigenous president in 2006. Though he presided over a steady period of growth, he lost a referendum in 2016 in which voters refused to allow him to run for a fourth term, and put a two-term limit for presidents. Anger grew when he moved court against the term limit, and a Supreme Court packed with his allies ruled that the restriction was a violation of his human rights. After the presidential election in October this year, with more than 80% of the votes counted and Morales and his opponent looking set to go into a second round, counting was stopped. 24 hours later, it was revealed that Morales won an outright victory. The ongoing protests were triggered by this disputed result.

## Iran's Rouhani announces discovery of massive oil field

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

TEHRAN, NOVEMBER 10

IRAN HAS discovered a massive new oil field, President Hassan Rouhani said Sunday, a find that would boost its proven reserves by about a third in a rare piece of "good news" for an economy battered by US sanctions.

In a speech aired on state TV, Rouhani said the country's economy had stabilised despite punishing US measures against its



President Hassan Rouhani delivers a speech in Yazd, Iran. *Reuters*

senior leaders, banking and finance sectors.

The vast field in the southwestern province of Khuzestan holds an estimated 53 billion barrels of crude, he said.

The 80-metre deep reservoir stretches nearly 200 kilometres from Khuzestan's border with Iraq to the city of Omiidiyeh.

"This is a small gift by the government to the people of Iran," he said in a speech from the central city of Yazd.

"We announce to America to-

day that we are a rich nation, and despite your enmity and cruel sanctions, Iranian oil industry workers and engineers discovered this great oil field." The find would add around 34 per cent to the OPEC member's current proven reserves, estimated by energy giant BP at 155.6 billion barrels.

Iran sits on what were already the world's fourth-biggest oil reserves. The new reserves, if proven, would lift it to third place, just before regional arch-rival Saudi Arabia.

M ZULQERNAIN

LAHORE, NOVEMBER 10

AILING FORMER Pakistan prime minister Nawaz Sharif may not travel to London on Sunday for treatment as government delayed removal of his name from the no fly-list.

The 69-year-old Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supreme agreed on Friday to go to the UK for the treatment, heeding doctors' advice and accepting his family's request. He was scheduled to leave for London on a Pakistan International Airlines flight on Sunday morning.

"The government could not remove Sharif's name from the no-fly list as the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) chairman was not available to issue a no-objection certificate in this case," a government of-



ficial told PTI.

He said the officials of the NAB have also sought Sharif's medical reports.

The official said that as a special case, the government may remove his name from the no-fly list, enabling Sharif to catch a flight on Sunday, otherwise this matter will be taken up on Monday.

On Saturday, a senior PML-N leader told PTI that Sharif is leaving for London on the PIA flight on Sunday morning along with his brother Shehbaz Sharif for treatment. **PTI**

## DISCUSSION OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN LIMITED TO A FEW EDGY TV SHOWS

## Triggered by video implicating MP, Tunisia's #MeToo breaks taboos

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

TUNIS, NOVEMBER 10

VIRAL IMAGES of a Tunisian lawmaker allegedly masturbating outside a high school have sparked the country's own #MeToo moment, with sex abuse victims breaking taboos under the hashtag #EnaZeda.

Discussion of sexual harassment had previously been limited to a few edgy TV shows, but now, thousands of women in the

North African nation are sharing their experiences from lecherous remarks to paedophilia.

A video showing the moustachioed politician sitting in a car with his trousers dropped to his knees was shot last month by a student who shared it online alongside accusations of harassment.

The newly elected lawmaker denies inappropriate conduct and has said he was urinating due to a medical condition — even threatening his accuser

when pursued by prosecutors.

#EnaZeda — Tunisian Arabic for #MeToo — was inspired by the huge global movement that bloomed in 2017 in the wake of sexual assault allegations by multiple women against Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein.

It has given some in Tunisia the confidence to confront their harassers face-to-face.

"Tonight, I have cried all the tears from my body. Tonight, I was harassed and nobody took the trouble to react," wrote one



#EnaZeda — Tunisian Arabic for #MeToo — was inspired by the global movement that bloomed in 2017

Internet user, Lina Kaboudi.

But "unlike all the other nights, I dared to respond to the perpetrator. I did not keep walking, pretending I had not heard. I stopped, and I held him to account".

Tunisia is considered a pioneer on women's rights in the Arab world and was the first predominantly Muslim country to abolish polygamy in 1956. But the taboo on confronting sexual misconduct remains strong, especially within the family.

It is rare for victims to pursue

formal complaints, despite sexual harassment in public places being punishable by a one-year prison term and a fine of 3,000 dinar (around Rs 75,000) since July 2017.

To catalogue the avalanche of testimony, Tunisian activists have set up private Facebook groups including one simply named #EnaZeda, which has more than 20,000 members.

Poignant accounts, some anonymous, are shared daily in the group — ranging from rape

and incest to inappropriate behaviour by teachers or celebrities and molestation on public transport.

Activists say they have been surprised by the volume and variety of the stories, and NGO Aswat Nissa (Voice of Women) says it has collected more than 70,000 testimonies.

"At first, we created a group to defend the young girl who filmed the lawmaker, because she had suffered a lot of criticism and pressure," said Myriam Bouattour, who heads Aswat Nissa.

"Then women, and sometimes men too, shared their stories, so now we are trying to organise workshops with psychologists." Bouattour said she has received messages from parents who have "broken the family taboo by talking about sexual harassment with their children, after reading testimonies about paedophilia".

Traditional attitudes and apathy among some in power mean the nascent #EnaZeda initiative faces an uphill battle.





“IT IS NOT WHAT A LAWYER TELLS ME I MAY DO;  
BUT WHAT HUMANITY, REASON, AND JUSTICE TELL  
ME I OUGHT TO DO.” — EDMUND BURKE

The IndianEXPRESS

FOUNDED BY  
RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

PILGRIM’S PROGRESS

Kartarpur corridor brings a moment of transcendence in a  
fraught India-Pak relationship. It must be built upon

NOVEMBER 9, 2019 will go down as a rare day in the history of the Indian sub-continent, on which two nations managed to put aside the distrust and hostilities to jointly facilitate a pilgrimage for a small religious minority in India. Access to Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Pakistan’s Kartarpur has been a part of the hopes and prayers of three generations of Sikhs, separated by Partition from many of their most important places of worship. The shrine, built at the site where Guru Nanak, founder of the Sikh faith, is said to have spent the last 18 years of his life, is 4 km from Dera Baba Nanak on the Indian side, and on a clear day, can be spotted through the bulrushes on the banks of the Ravi. Until September 2018, when Pakistan and India agreed that a visa-free “Kartarpur corridor” from Dera Baba Nanak be fast tracked in time for Guru Nanak’s 550th birth anniversary, a visit to Kartarpur Sahib for believers on the Indian side meant viewing the gurdwara through binoculars from a security forces’ watchtower near the border. Since then, both sides have defied history and an extraordinary year of hostility in their relations, to give shape to the corridor and the prayers of millions of people. About 5,000 pilgrims are expected to access the visa-free corridor every day of the anniversary year. It will be the largest sustained daily cross-border visa-free movement of people between the two countries. In any other place, this would have been evidence of friendly ties, not deep suspicion between two countries. Not surprisingly, as this is about India and Pakistan, there has been talk on the Indian side, for instance, about Pakistan’s intent to destabilise Punjab — Chief Minister Amarinder Singh has made such allegations with regularity. Yet, in the end, the nay-sayers were not loud or persistent enough to put a spoke in the wheel, and Amarinder Singh himself was in the first batch of visitors to the shrine along with former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. This conveys the importance of the corridor for India, and for Punjab.

India and Pakistan are living an unprecedented moment in their history. Even so, comparisons with the fall of the Berlin Wall, exactly 30 years ago, are overblown. That was the day the world changed as two countries created from one put the past resolutely behind them and reunited with a shared vision and goals. India and Pakistan are not in a quest for unification. Just being normal and neighbourly will do. It will require statesmanship of a high order for the Kartarpur Corridor to lead to something more than a pilgrimage between the two countries.

STUBBLE RESISTANCE

Persuading farmers to give up stubble burning requires reaching  
out to them on multiple fronts, not just with cash incentives

LAST WEEK, AS the national capital recorded its worst reading in three years on the Air Quality Index, the Supreme Court pulled up the governments of Punjab, Haryana, and Delhi for their lack of concerted action against stubble burning. The Court’s two-judge bench warned Delhi’s Chief Secretary, Vijay Kumar Dev, that “we will not spare your top boss if you don’t take remedial action” against pollution. It also upbraided the chief secretaries of Punjab and Haryana for not being sensitive enough to the issue. Given that the Delhi and Punjab governments had resorted to blaming each other for the national capital’s pollution crisis, the court’s censure is timely. But the significance of the two-judge bench’s order of November 7 goes beyond its stern tone. It has asked the governments of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh to pay, within seven days, Rs 100 per quintal of paddy as an incentive to farmers who have not burnt stubble on their fields. The directive meets a longstanding demand of farmers’ organisations, but two questions remain: Do the states have the financial resources to bear the burden of the cash incentive? More importantly, are such incentives enough to wean farmers away from stubble burning?

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh has said that “his government will implement the order”. This year, his government may not have to do much. More than 90 per cent of the non-Basmati paddy crop has been harvested. But the Punjab CM has given enough indications of the state’s limitations in providing cash incentives in the future. “The Centre will have to help the states, which are facing serious fiscal constraints. While the GST regime has stifled financial resources of all states, Punjab, in particular, is in dire straits,” he has said. The apex court has said that it will take a final call on the “aspect of finance” after “considering the detailed report to be submitted by the state governments and after hearing the other stakeholders, including the Centre”. It will have to chart a plan that takes into account the interests of the farmers as well as recognises the constraints of the states.

The Punjab and Haryana governments subsidise the Happy Seeder sowing machines, which obviate straw burning. Even so, the technology has not got the necessary traction because farmers do not want to invest in a machine that lies idle for most of the year. As in the case of most farm technologies in the country, the adoption of Happy Seeders will require changing mindsets. To persuade farmers to not set their fields on fires, state governments will need to reach out to them with educational programmes — not just financial incentives.



SUHAS PALSHIKAR

THERE COULD NOT be a better birthday gift to L K Advani, though a day late. Under him, the VHP’s Ram Janmabhoomi agitation became a national issue leading to a pan-Hindu mobilisation. Now the Supreme Court’s judgement has paved the way for the construction of the temple at the disputed site at Ayodhya. While the Court has recorded the illegality of the events of 1949 and 1992, it has chosen to restrict itself to the question of title. Following the established practice of determining the title, it has rejected the Sunni Waqf Board’s claim over the title of the disputed land. The Court then turned to the 1993 law passed by the Narasimha Rao government following the destruction of Babri Masjid and asked the Centre to hand over the land to an appropriate body.

Even if one agrees to the evidence-related conclusions drawn by the Court, two nagging issues will haunt us for a long time. If the case were to be resolved by the Court when the disputed mosque existed, would the site still be handed over to the party fighting on behalf of the deity? Does this then give a message that legal disputes can be won by creating a situation of fait accompli through political intrigue? The ruling will surely come under greater scholarly scrutiny, but the political implications of the judgement deserve attention.

A controversy such as this was never ideal for adjudication but we forced the Court to settle it.

This signifies a failure to arrive at political solution. Since 1949, we failed to reach a compromise on this sensitive matter involving two communities. Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid was a controversy that India’s democratic politics simply could not afford. But our politicians and political parties allowed it to linger, become complicated and finally, turn into a central theme of politics for over a decade — even more. Therefore, the Court’s ruling is also a moment to remind ourselves of the petty politics of cynicism that overtook robust democratic competitive politics during and since the late 1980s.

Ironical as it may seem, post-1992, despite the need for a political solution, there was a stalemate which defied a solution — except one that came via the judicial route. A political solution required three things. One, it required frankness on the part of those who greatly contributed to the demolition to sincerely admit to their mistake and ask for forgiveness. That did not happen. Two, it required political statesmanship from the Muslim community. In the absence of a truly all-India and

SC ruling on Ayodhya opens the door for claims based  
on community identity, construction of faith

secular leadership, this could not happen. Above all, a post-1992 settlement required a steely determination by the government to ensure negotiation. That too was not in sight.

This reminder is not merely for purposes of brooding over our failure. It should stand as a warning. The politics over Ayodhya had a strong element of recklessness. Adventurism is not just an attractive political style, it has a lure of trumping competitive politics. Indira Gandhi thought it fit to stoke Sikh communal militancy probably expecting to benefit from it; both the country and she herself paid the price. One would have thought that that was a lesson for desisting from cynical politics. But immediately after that, the BJP adopted the path of adventurism. After Advani’s Rath Yatra in 1990, the BJP emerged as a major political force. Even after 1992, it retained its newly acquired support; it did not suffer a setback after Gujarat 2002. This inability of our politics to impose political penalties for such transgressions must be seen as a stark warning that India’s politics is often on the brink of community-based emotive mobilisations.

Apart from these larger political failures, this ruling has another deeper implication. Courts, when they broker peace, do not necessarily bring closure to disputes; they only give momentary space for disputes to reconfigure. One can go on listing court rulings that were initially upheld as major attempts to reconcile contesting claims, but were followed by even more acrimony and political controversy — besides lot of litigation. The present ruling is of that kind. The majesty of the Court in momentarily sealing the Ayodhya dispute might be somewhat impressive, but a series of political possibilities will be staring us in the face.

Being a unanimous ruling by five judges, the verdict will carry weight. But the rather casual manner in which the Court has sought to dispose of the illegality of 1949 and 1992 will not only have implications for jurisprudence, it will also have implications for the way collective and competitive claims are executed. The ruling also opens the door for any number of claims based on community identity and construction of faith. This is not only about Hindu-Muslim disputes, but also about inter-community disputes, more generally. To put it bluntly, post Ayodhya-ruling, claims based on community’s faith are bound to resonate with authenticity. In this sense, beyond the momentary breather this ruling may have offered, it will be unable to address the deeper issue which is fundamentally political, and

not juridical.

For the BJP and the larger political family it belongs to, the present moment will constitute a moment of poetic justice that having been in the forefront of the Ayodhya agitation, the party now finds itself in power and also in a position to savour SC’s ruling — albeit with subdued celebrations. These celebrations, for the lay supporters, would signify a victory over one place, one mosque, one site. However, the real celebration would be over the larger success of transforming a community’s religious sensibilities into a political lever.

In the course of the Ayodhya movement, faith and religiosity got conflated with pride and identity. This allowed the homogenisation of the Hindu community. And, then the Hindu community constituted a political force that has only become stronger. Through the Rath Yatra, and symbolised by the events of December 6, 1992, Ayodhya ceased to be a question of Hindu faith; it became a signifier of Hindutva. The SC’s ruling has given a shot in the arm for the politics of Hindutva. Notwithstanding what the Court may or may not have said, in public imagination, the Hindus have scored over Muslims — the belief that a deity was born at a certain place has been upheld. This will bring a new respect for the idea of Hindutva, it will also bring new power to that idea. The respect it will have earned will mean that Hindutva will now march as the ideology of India and the power it has acquired will mean less space for dissent.

Hence the most crucial question: Will this ruling bring a closure? Such a closure does not merely mean stoppage of further litigation over Ayodhya. That too might not happen, though it should. But more than merely the land dispute at Ayodhya, will there be a closure on listing of sites across India and seeking their liberation? Will there be a closure on making a community stand constantly as an accused and as a suspect? Will there be a closure on competitive communalism that Advani so ably unleashed?

Even as it is possible to criticise the Court’s ruling, what social and political spaces exist to critique, dispute and contest the political narrative in which the Ayodhya agitation originated? Or is it that along with the Ayodhya issue, this moment portends closure in the realm of alternative political visions?

The writer taught political science at Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune, and is chief editor of Studies in Indian Politics



RADHA KULKARNI

IN RECENT TIMES, popular movies on fairy tales have been increasingly showcasing, in keeping with contemporary cultural trends, “women-friendly” narratives, resulting in what are known as “anti-fairy tales”. While this originally referred to stories having tragic endings, it has come to include stories that reject fairy tale clichés. *Frozen* (2013) is a good example of this: It had elements of a romantic story, but the focus was on the sisterly bond of the two protagonists. *Maleficent: Mistress of Evil*, which released in October, tries to fit into this genre of female-centric (anti) fairy tales, and it succeeds. Almost.

The movie goes against the grain of traditional family-centric stories and portrays “found families”, a trope often used in fiction, referring to abandoned individuals coming together and forging a bond, essentially creating a family of their own. The lead character, Maleficent, undergoes a journey of self-discovery when she is jilted by the family she found at the end of the previous movie, *Maleficent* (2014). She finds the Faes, a clan of powerful fairies, and embraces their community as her own, while keeping her slightly ragtag group — consisting of a crow, a human and an all-powerful Fae, together. Maleficent is a

HAPPILY NEVER AFTER

The trend of anti-fairy tales (almost) continues with ‘Maleficent: Mistress of Evil’



ONE OF  
800  
MILLION

A VOICE, UNDER 35

The movie goes against the grain of traditional family-centric stories and portrays ‘found families’, a trope often used in fiction, referring to abandoned individuals coming together and forging a bond, creating a family of their own.

more liberated character, a luxury not offered to the deuteragonist, the princess Aurora.

While Aurora does contribute to the plot, her motivation to do so stems almost entirely from her wedding plans — her own “happily ever after”, a plot infatuation that started back in the 1550s. Disney’s fairy tales are particularly susceptible to this cliché. Ariel is celebrated in *The Little Mermaid* (1989) for giving up her entire identity just so that she can fall in love and get married. *Cinderella* (2015) is a story that suffers from a similar problem: Once Cinderella marries her Prince Charming, years of abuse are simply washed away for the remainder of the movie. According to Ruth Bottigheimer, a professor at Stony Brook University, the original Cinderella is a rather raw, realistic version. “And then,” she says in a *Huffington Post* article, “Disney comes and takes away some of the ugliness of the stories and introduces a lot of signature elements... But then the story ends at the wedding... That’s supposed to be the moment that defines the rest of her life.” This description almost fits the ending of *Maleficent: Mistress of Evil*.

When the wedding of Aurora and the prince is discovered to be a trap, all festivities abruptly grind to a halt, and a fight en-

sues. Hundreds of Faes are slaughtered. But, nothing impacts the ending. All is forgiven, and the focus returns to the wedding, which resumes the moment the war ends. The characters seem to forget the horrific battle they survived. Instead, the only thing deemed worthy of showing is the happy ending, which, in typical Disney fairy tale fashion, has to be a wedding for the princess.

*Maleficent: Mistress of Evil* tackles themes like xenophobia and genocide. It portrays Maleficent’s freedom — and her ability to assert her identity — in a progressive manner. The movie also looks to revolutionise the idea of the female dream, which has traditionally been limited to finding a Prince Charming. It enables Maleficent, a darker, wilder character that doesn’t want a Prince Charming to design her own destiny. However, all such positives are negated by the movie’s decision to revert to “traditional” fairy tale tactics when it comes to the character of Aurora. This contradiction reflects the confusion the movie seems to offer — is it the tale of a fierce character for whom the world is her oyster, or is it just another fairy tale?

The writer is a student in SP college, Pune

FREEZE FRAME

E P UNNY



NOVEMBER 11, 1979, FORTY YEARS AGO

FOOD RESERVES INDIA MAY EXHAUST in a year’s time the entire food reserve of nearly 20 million tonne because of drought. The kharif loss is nearly 12 million tonne. Since the absence of rain has left most of the land a dry solid crust, a large area has not been ploughed. This loss may amount to roughly seven million tonne. The dry spell was bad enough, but the shortage of power, diesel and kerosene has aggravated the situation. In the past, the failure of rains was made up by tubewells and pumps. This time the excessive cut in power and the meagre diesel supply have left no scope to save what may lie lost.

LOK DAL WARNING THE LOK DAL gave notice to the Congress that the continuance of the alliance would be “seriously reexamined” if the Congress does not stop its overtures to parties that have links with the Jana Sangh. Lok Dal general secretary, Rajinder Puri, told newsmen that he had written to Y B Chavan two days ago seeking clarification on the home minister’s reported bid to have an understanding with the parallel Congress in Maharashtra which is sharing power with the Jana Sangh. Puri said he had written the letter on the basis of newspaper reports and, if the reports were correct, “I am afraid we will have to do some serious rethinking on our relationship

(with the Congress).”

IRAN HOSTAGE CRISIS

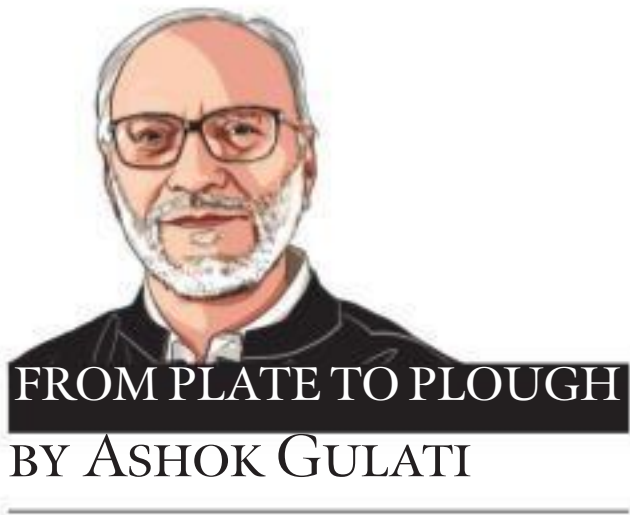
ONE GROUP OF Teheran diplomats visited hostages at the US Embassy on Saturday and another called on Iran’s acting foreign minister to demand an end to the embassy standoff, it was reported. But Ayatollah Khomeini went into seclusion, apparently dashing hopes for face-to-face talks and a resolution of the crisis, AP reports. The government-run Teheran Radio said that Khomeini would not receive anyone on Saturday or Sunday — observers felt it meant discussion of the fate of the hostages was postponed until Monday.





# A crop for clean air

Cash incentives must be given to paddy growers to shift to corn. Change to a less water guzzling crop will help address stubble burning



FROM PLATE TO PLOUGH  
BY ASHOK GULATI

LAST WEEK, AS the Air Quality Index (AQI) touched emergency levels in the National Capital Region, the Supreme Court came down heavily on the chief secretaries of four states — Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi. They were berated for their failure to “give clean air to Delhi residents”. Paddy stubble burning in states neighbouring Delhi, especially Punjab, is being seen as one of the reasons for the smog in the national capital. The honourable judges of the apex court have asked the Punjab government to pay Rs 100 per quintal to farmers as an incentive for desisting from burning stubble. Solutions such as subsidising Happy Seeders are also being talked about. But these solutions seem to be scratching the surface of the paddy problem.

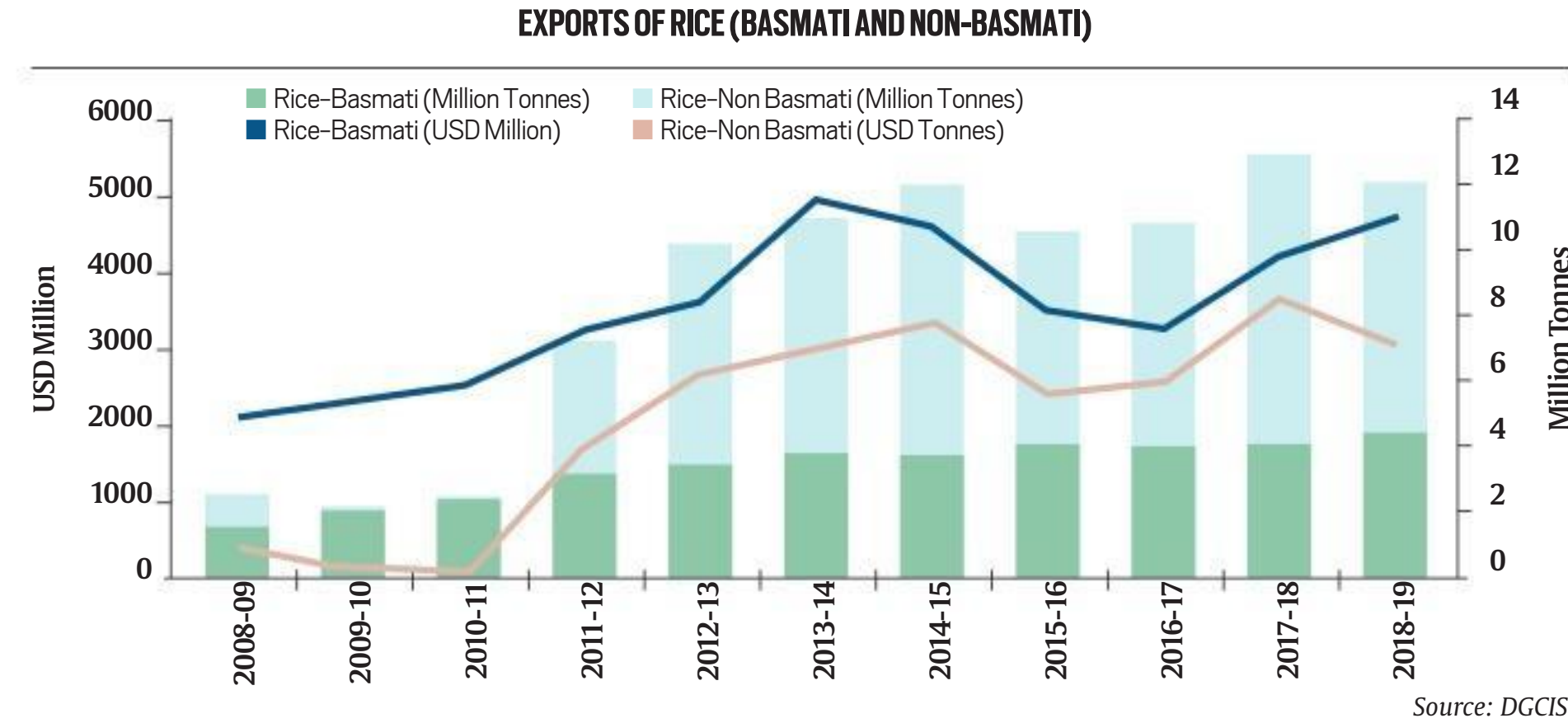
The problem is much deeper than stubble burning and nothing will be served by pulling up chief secretaries of Delhi’s neighbouring states. The solution to the problem rests with the political class — both in the Centre as well as in these states. It is the elected representatives, and not bureaucracy, who make policies for grain management.

The Punjab-Haryana region was not India’s rice belt, before the Green Revolution. Punjab was known for “*makki ki roti and sarson ka saag*”, but now it is rare to see makki (corn) in the state. Much of the kharif area in the region is under rice — about 3.1 million hectares in Punjab and 1.4 million hectares in Haryana. This has caused havoc with the groundwater table that has been depleting at about 33 cms each year. Groundwater in more than three-fourths of blocks in Punjab is over-exploited. Paddy cultivation in this belt is against the region’s natural water endowment.

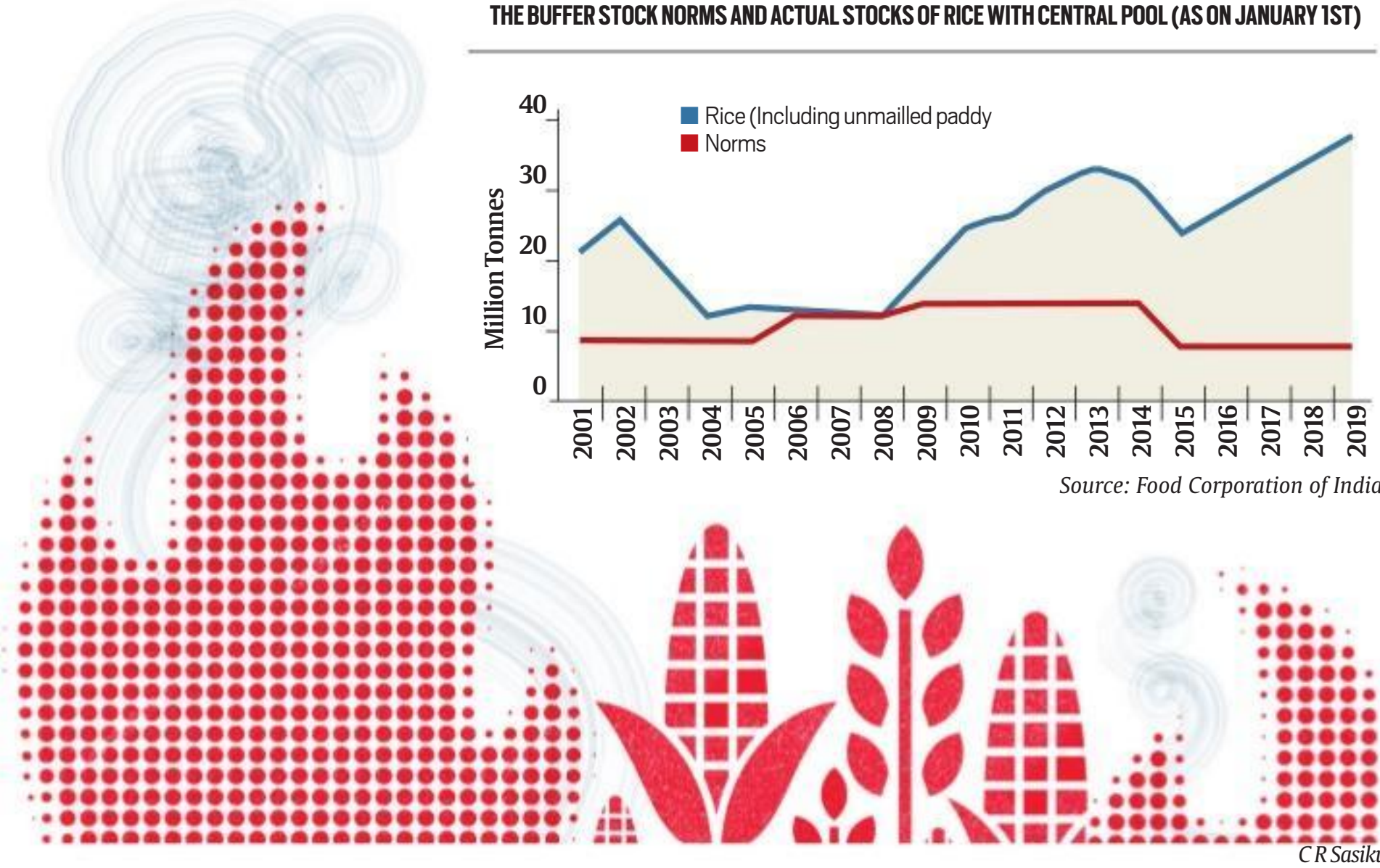
In order to save water during the peak summer season, the Punjab government passed a law in 2009 outlawing paddy sowing before June 15. This pushes the rice harvesting to the late October-mid-November period, leaving very little time for sowing the rabi crop, mainly wheat. Farmers rely on paddy harvesters that leave stubbles, which are then burnt to make the field ready for sowing wheat. Farm labour has become expensive, especially during the peak season.

The question one needs to ask is why have Punjab and Haryana gone in a big way for paddy cultivation when their water resource endowment does not align with the crop’s requirement. One kilogram of rice requires about 5,000 litres of irrigation water in this belt. And, the natural rainfall is too less for the purpose. Farmers cultivate paddy as it gives them higher profits, compared to competing crops like corn. The key reasons for that are the massive subsidies on power provided by the state government and fertiliser subsidy given to them by the Centre. Moreover, they are assured procurement of paddy by state government agencies on behalf of the Food Corporation of India.

In the eastern parts of the country, water is available much more abundantly. About two million hectares of rice growing area in the northern belt needs to shift to this part of the country. The basmati-growing area in



Source: DGCI



Source: Food Corporation of India

CR Sasikumar

the Northern belt is about 1.2 million hectares; it produces 4.6 million tonnes of basmati. But the value of basmati is almost three times higher than that of common rice and much of that is exported (see figure-1). So Punjab and Haryana should focus on cultivating basmati, that is known to give three times higher value for every drop of water. The states should try to get away from common paddy, which is largely meant for the Public Distribution System — PDS rice is being sold at Rs 3/kg under the National Food Security Act.

How can one encourage farmers to shift from paddy to, say, corn? That boils down to policy, both at the Centre and state-level. Can the Centre and the states abolish the fertiliser and power subsidies? The chances of that happening are remote, given the place of free power and cheap fertilisers in the country’s political discourse. A move towards giving these subsidies in cash on per hectare basis to farmers can lead to some improvement. Farmers could be encouraged to change their crop preference if the Centre and the Punjab and Haryana governments announce a cash incentive of Rs 12,000 per hectare — shared equally between the Centre and the states — for growing corn in place of paddy. Our calculations suggest that the combined subsidy on power for irrigation and fertiliser in paddy

The question one needs to ask is why have Punjab and Haryana gone in a big way for paddy cultivation when their water resource endowment does not align with the crop’s requirement. One kilogram of rice requires about 5,000 litres of irrigation water in this belt. And, the natural rainfall is too less for the purpose. Farmers cultivate paddy as it gives them higher profits, compared to competing crops like corn.

cultivation is about Rs 15,000/ha. So, giving Rs 12,000/ha for corn cultivation actually is transferring the subsidy from rice cultivation to corn cultivation. It will not cost the state or central exchequer anything extra. Moreover, corn cultivation will have to be absorbed, not by government procurement but by feed mills for poultry, starch mills and ethanol. So, tax incentives for the corn-based industry in this belt could create a more market-aligned demand for corn.

This is just the right time to make this switch from paddy to corn as rice stocks with government are way above the buffer stock norms (see figure-2). This speaks of massive inefficiency in grain management. In fact, the Centre should announce that it will not procure more than say 50 per cent of production of common paddy from the blocks that are over-exploited. Further, it will not give to the state procurement agencies more than 4 per cent as commission, mandi fee, or any cess for procuring on behalf of FCI.

An incentive of Rs 12,000/ha to the farmer to switch from paddy to corn and cutting down procurement from overexploited blocks may accomplish what the Supreme Court’s hauling up of the chief secretaries may not.

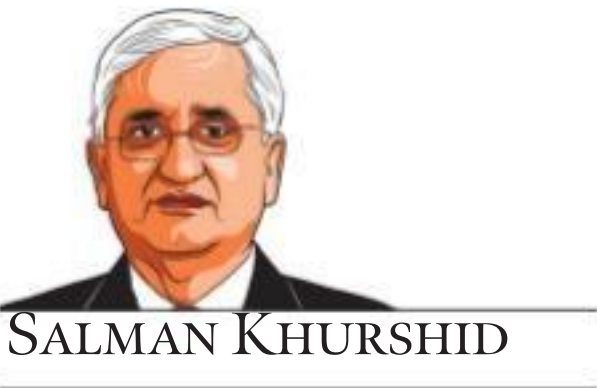
The writer is Infosys Chair Professor for Agriculture at ICRIER

## WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

“Electoral pacts are a consequence of the first-past-the-post voting system. If Britain’s electoral system was fairer, and less prone to confer majoritarian powers on parties with only minority support among voters, they would not be necessary”  
— THE GUARDIAN

# Lessons from Ayodhya

Court verdict nudges us to look back at how much we have lost over years of conflict



SALMAN KHURSHID

SEVERAL DECADES OF simmering disquiet and subdued anxiety have finally ended with the Ayodhya verdict of the Constitutional Bench of the Supreme Court. In a sense it is fortunate that the Court has delivered a unanimous judgment of five judges. All sides and political parties that had either exploited public sentiment or indeed suffered politically had categorically committed to accepting the outcome. Initial reactions suggest that the decision has been received widely with a sense of relief that the fire of passion, real or contrived, has finally been doused, even if some people feel a bit disappointed and legally-trained professionals will continue to dissect the findings for their impact as precedents for future decisions.

Despite the predictable 1,045 pages (a modest size compared to recent trends), the judgment makes easy reading and should not be difficult to read and understand for legal experts as well as ordinary people. What, of course, stands out conspicuously is that the disputed plot of 2.77 acres along with the surrounding land acquired by the state post demolition will be handed over to a trust to be established by the government. This is not by an act of obeisance towards Ram Lalla (the deity) or in other words, by submission to the faith of Hindus but by an interesting balancing of principles of establishing title.

The Court held that the right to the inner courtyard of the mosque, claimed by Muslims, was never free of opposing claims and periodic attempts by Hindus to assert their rights. On the other hand, Muslims had themselves admitted that Lord Ram was born in Ayodhya and the *chabutra* in the outer courtyard was undisputedly in the possession of Hindus for decades and puja was conducted uninterrupted. Although a close analysis of the interface of competing claims might throw up questions, the fact remains that the present decision, undoubtedly made very thoughtfully by the Court, was made possible by the conduct of the Muslim side over the decades. Be that as it may, ultimately the Court made a delicate balancing effort of subscribing to legal principles and putting a closure on a festering civilisational wound. Muslims, who had all along committed themselves to acceptance of the Court verdict, now have a chance to show

grace, generosity and reaching out to claim a place in contribution to true national integration and unity.

The Supreme Court might have found the Hindu case marginally more persuasive than the Muslim case, but it has done a great deal more to facilitate and inspire the Muslims to see this as a moment of reconciliation rather than defeat. There could not have been clearer condemnation by the highest Court of the land of the acts of intrusion in 1949, when the idol of Ram Lalla was placed under the middle dome of the mosque, as indeed of the act of vandalism when the mosque was demolished in 1992.

The Court was also clear that the ASI report showing evidence of previous civilisations did not prove that a temple, least of all a Ram temple, was demolished to construct the Babri Masjid. Reaffirmation of India’s secular character in the judgment should not be obscured by the baseline outcome. This is the truth that preceded reconciliation. Furthermore, the direction that five acres of other land be given to the Sunni Waqf Board is a gesture that proclaims that the Court and the nation treat all citizens as equals. It has recognised that all citizens have their respective faiths and manner of worship but that while faith has a place in our national life, it does not trump legal rights in an unqualified sweep.

The greatest opportunity that the judgment offers is a reaffirmation of India as a secular society. It is a decision that refutes the idea of Hindu Rashtra and amplifies the practical handling of sensitive religious concerns in a secular system. Upholding the purpose and effect of the Places of Worship Act, amongst other matters, is a clear indication that the secular edifice of India and the commitment of its highest Court to the constitutional principles we cherish has not only remained undisturbed but indeed been fortified. If we have all placed our trust in the Court, it is imperative that we recognise our trust has been redeemed. There is silence on one issue: Periodic attempts to find a solution outside the court room that failed does not seem to have found a place under the sun.

Perhaps there is a lesson in it for us: If this is what was to happen, could we all not have done it ourselves? Has the Court gently nudged us to rethink our approach to our national life? As we look back, we will be able to see how much we have lost over Ayodhya through the years of conflict. If the loss of a mosque is preservation of faith, if the establishment of a temple is emancipation of faith, we can all join together in celebrating faith in the Constitution. Sometimes, a step back to accommodate is several steps forward towards our common destiny.

The writer is a former Union minister and senior Congress leader

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### QUAD’S SPINOFFS

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘Quad in the spotlight’, (IE, November 7). The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue or the Quad is now a multifaceted strategic and economic dialogue between a group of like-minded countries with shared commitments that go beyond ensuring freedom of navigation and respect for the laws of the sea. The Quad should not limit itself to countering any particular country, instead the liberal democratic values of the Quad partners can strengthen the institutional approach in the governance of the global commons.

Sudip Kumar Dey, Kolkata

### LETTER OF THE WEEK AWARD

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

### UNFAIR GAME

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘Not cricket’ (IE, November 9). It is not the first time and sadly nor the last time when an arrest has been made of a Indian cricketer involved in match fixing. Some well known cricketers have fallen into this trap in the past but Indian cricket emerged from that crisis. Ever since IPL came into the scene, a plethora of other smaller state specific leagues have blossomed across the country. And with it came the greed of money to which these unknown cricketers are prone to, and when a known cricketer like CM Gautam, who was once considered a back up wicket-keeper option for Indian team, can fall into this trap we can easily understand how vulnerable other players would be. Nothing and no one is bigger than the game and a strong message must go to each and every player that the game should be played with utmost fairness and integrity.

Bal Govind, Noida

### LIMITS OF ECONOMISTS

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘Experts,

dissent and the economy’ (IE, Nov 08). There are two basic problems in implementing author’s suggestions. In today’s world there are no economists who have the requisite expertise but are politically and ideologically neutral. The second problem is, economists are expert in devising various solutions after the horse has bolted away. No economist worth his salt had predicted the 2008 meltdown. Lastly, economists are never known to give practical and precise advice. Their craft lies in beating around the bush while sounding profound.

H N Bhagwat, Chiplun

### AN ICON

THIS REFERS TO the article, “With a twinkle and a smile” (IE, November 9). Nabaneeta Dev Sen was not only an eminent writer but also an icon in literary criticism. She was loved and followed by her readers, editors and young writers. Her contribution to contemporary literature is seminal. We, the readers of her works, are poorer by her death.

Tapamoy Ghosh, Bardhaman



TAHIR MAHMOOD

THE AYODHYA VERDICT deviates from some established juridical traditions. A 930-page judgment signed by five learned judges without disclosing its individual authorship, it has a 116-page addendum penned by one of them incognito, containing his “separate reasons” on one of the case issues.

Noting that the “disputed site has been a flash point of continued conflagration over decades”, the Supreme Court has chronicled related developments on a year by year basis since 1856 and acknowledged the illegality of the monumental transgression occurring in the holy city in December 1992.

The operative part of the judgment rules in favour of building the temple on the disputed land as desired by the majority community, enjoining the central government to facilitate it by taking prompt action in terms of the Ayodhya Act of 1993. For those aggrieved by the demolition of the mosque in 1992, it directs earmarking of a “suitable” five-acre plot of land to be allotted to UP’s Sunni Waqf Board, either by the central government out of the land acquired under the Ayodhya Act 1993 or by the UP government at a “suitable prominent place” in the city, the choice between these alternatives to be determined by the two governments in mutual consultation.

I have been part of the reconciliation process in the matter and was consulted both by the court-appointed mediation committee

and individually by its members. On October 4, when Sunni Waqf Board chairman Zufar Farooqui wrote to me seeking my opinion on the advisability of accepting the committee’s proposals, I had replied, “my convinced opinion is that the Board should convey to the court its acceptance of mediation committee proposals”. After securing concurrence of some other prominent persons, the Board conceded and the committee conveyed its consent to the court. Finding the proposed agreement conditional and not signed by all disputants, the court did not treat it as a “binding or concluded agreement”. Though the Court’s judgment is more or less along the same lines, an extrajudicial settlement, in my opinion, would have been graceful, and, potentially, more fruitful.

The Court has devoted one full part of the judgment to Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act 1991, which under the proposed settlement had to be fortified and strictly enforced. Enacted by the government of the day at a time when the mandir-masjid tussle in Ayodhya had assumed alarming proportions, this Act had rendered unalterable the character of all religious places in the country, as on the day of the country’s independence. The Ayodhya dispute was, however, inexplicably excluded from its purview — but for that unwarranted exception, the course of events to come could have been different.

Given more teeth, this Act may ensure that

the Ayodhya melodrama is not repeated elsewhere. Bearing this in mind, the Court said: “The State has by enacting this law enforced a constitutional commitment and operationalised its constitutional obligations to uphold the equality of all religions and secularism which is a part of the basic features of the Constitution.” Clarifying as to who all are bound by this Act, the Court said: “The law addresses itself to the State as much as to every citizen of the nation. Its norms bind those who govern the affairs of the nation at every level.” And, the Act must, henceforth, be meticulously enforced throughout the country.

The Ayodhya case decided by the apex court was technically between the contesting parties before it, but the unsavoury dispute has, from the very beginning, been seen as a tussle between the two largest communities of the country, both deeply religious in their outlook. Jesus Christ had enjoined people to “render unto Caesar things that are Caesar’s and unto God things that are God’s”. But in our country, God has a lot to do in Caesar’s domain. The founding fathers of the Constitution had, therefore, opted for a quasi-secular state, legally swearing by secularism, but at the same time well accommodating religious sensitivities. Acknowledging this, the apex court had once observed that, “It is only in a qualified sense that India can be said to be a secular state.” (St Xavier’s, 1974). In such a country, the apex court

— confronted with an awfully sensitive matter — has to opt for a course of action that does not plunge the nation into a tsunami of communal tensions.

The court has said that the Waqf Board will be “at liberty” to build on the allotted plot a new mosque “with other associated facilities”. But I am not sure if the self-respecting community the Board represents should let it avail this “liberty”, generously granted by the court. Finding the judgment lopsided, some community leaders are contemplating further legal action. They would better act on the great poet-philosopher, Allama Iqbal’s counsel: “Na rah minnatkash-e-shabnam nigun jam-o-subu kar le” (Don’t take petty obligation and have no pious hopes). As the Court has arrived at the present decision after “navigating through the layers of complexity of the case”, a decision to continue with the legal battle will, in all probability, be an exercise in futility.

The nation is indeed tired of the sickening mandir-masjid dispute which has been perpetuating communal tensions and shattering social harmony. We must now avail whatever chance the Court has provided to bury the hatchet and hope for sustaining bonhomie in future.

The writer is former chairman of National Minorities Commission and member, Law Commission of India



## TELLING NUMBERS

### Anaemia among men: how it varies among age groups, states

A RECENT study published in *The Lancet Global Health*, which looked at anaemia among men in India, found that nearly a quarter of them (23.2% in a sample of 1 lakh men) in the age group 15-54 had some form of anaemia (*The Indian Express*, November 9). The study also covered 6 lakh women.

Cases among men ranged from moderate or severe (5.1%) to severe anaemia (0.5%). Among age groups, men in the group 20-34 years had the lowest probability of having anaemia, while actual prevalence was lowest in the age group 50-54, at 7.8%. The prevalence was higher for younger age groups. Among men with anaemia, 21.7% had moderate or severe anaemia; among women with anaemia, 53.2% had moderate or severe anaemia.

Among the states, the highest prevalence of any anaemia was in Bihar, with 32.9% of the men reporting it. This is followed by West Bengal (30.46%), Jharkhand (30.3%), Meghalaya (29.13%) and Odisha (28.45%). The lowest prevalence among men was in Manipur (9.19%), followed by Mizoram (9.78%), Nagaland (10.23%), Goa (10.68%) and Kerala (11.77%).

The World Health Organization defines anaemia as a condition in which the number of red blood cells or their oxygen-carrying capacity is insufficient to meet physiological needs. Anaemia in men can cause fatigue, lethargy, creates difficulty in concentrating, thereby reducing the quality of life and decreasing economic productivity. An estimated 1.9 billion people had anaemia in 2013, which is 27% of the world's popula-

#### ANAEMIA PREVALENCE (%) BY AGE GROUP

Age	Men	Women	Total
15-19	16.9	18.0	17.9
20-24	14.6	15.9	15.7
25-29	14.3	15.5	15.4
30-34	13.0	14.1	13.9
35-39	12.5	13.6	13.4
40-44	10.8	11.7	11.6
45-49	10.1	11.1	11.0
50-54	7.8	-	1.1

#### ANAEMIA AMONG MEN IN THE STATES

<b>HIGHEST 5</b>	
Bihar	32.86
West Bengal	30.46
Jharkhand	30.3
Meghalaya	29.13
Odisha	28.45
<b>LOWEST 5</b>	
Manipur	9.19
Mizoram	9.78
Nagaland	10.23
Goa	10.68
Kerala	11.77

tion, and 93% of these cases occur in low- and middle-income countries. Factors such as consuming smokeless tobacco, being underweight, level of urbanisation and household wealth are associated with a higher probability of developing the disease.

*Data source: Lancet Global Health*

## THIS WORD MEANS

### PLIOSAUR

Predatory reptiles ruled the seas millions of years ago. Now, pliosaur bones have been found in Poland

OVER 150 million years ago, enormous reptiles swam the Jurassic oceans. The largest aquatic carnivorous reptiles that have ever lived, they are often dubbed "sea monsters". Scientifically, they are placed in the suborder *Pliosauroidae*, whose members are called pliosaurs. Interest in these giants has been revived with the recent discovery of their bones in a cornfield in the Polish village of Krzyzanowice. Remains of pliosaurs are rare in Europe.

"They measured over 10 metres in length and could weigh up to several dozen tons. They had powerful, large skulls and massive jaws with large, sharp teeth. Their limbs were in the form of fins. We found bones of these pliosaurs in the north of the Świętokrzyskie Mountains," palaeontologist Dr Daniel Tyborowski said in a statement released by Poland's Ministry of Science and Higher Education.

In the Jurassic era, the Świętokrzyskie Mountains area is believed to have been



Artist's impression of pliosaurs by Piotr Szczepaniak. Ministry of Science and Higher Education, Poland

an archipelago of islands, where there were warm lagoons and shallow sea reservoirs, home to the marine reptiles discovered by the palaeontologists. The locality where the remains were discovered is considered to be rich in the fossils of coastal reptiles. Researchers now hope to find more remains in the coming months.

## How global credit ratings work

Ratings agency Moody's has lowered India's outlook from stable to negative. How do such agencies assign these ratings? How seriously are these taken, and what changes for a government if it is downgraded?

#### SHAJI VIKRAMAN

CHENNAI, NOVEMBER 10

MORE THAN a decade and a half ago, a senior government official wrote an article in a newspaper headlined 'Moody's or Moody' — or words to that effect — on what was in his view the unjustified action of global credit ratings agency Moody's in pushing down the sovereign credit rating of India. Whether it is Moody's or its peer Standard and Poor's (S&P), Indian policymakers have often criticised the credit ratings assigned by these agencies.

This time, Moody's has lowered India's credit rating outlook from stable to negative because of what it has assessed as risks to economic growth, prospects of a more entrenched slowdown, weak job creation, and a credit squeeze being faced by Non-Banking Finance Companies. With growth slowing to 5% in the quarter to June this fiscal, and hardly any green shoots visible, most analysts may find it difficult to fault this assessment.

#### What do these ratings mean?

Credit ratings agencies rate on a scale the financials and business models of companies, as well as economic management by sovereign governments, after analysing official and other data and interacting with government officials, business leaders, and economists. These agencies then rate instruments such as bonds, debentures, commercial papers, deposits, and other debt offerings of companies or governments to help investors make informed decisions.

From a company's or a government's perspective, a better rating helps raise funds at a cheaper rate. The agencies do this on a continuous basis, either upgrading or downgrading the instrument based on performance, prospects, or events likely to have an impact on the balance sheet of a company or on the fiscal position of a government or a sub-sovereign entity. Political uncertainty can trigger a sovereign rating downgrade. In August 2011, S&P cut the highest rating (AAA) of the US citing rising debt levels and political risks. This provoked a government official to comment that "this was a 'facts be damned' decision".

Within the two categories of investment grade, which is for good-quality firms and speculative, there are several notches for companies whose financials pose a risk of defaulting on payments. India's sovereign credit rating from Moody's is now Baa2, with the outlook cut from 'stable' to 'negative'.

#### YUBARAJ GHIMIRE

KATHMANDU, NOVEMBER 10

THE NEW political map of India, recently released by the government to account for the bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir, has triggered fresh protests over an old issue in Kathmandu. Mapped within Uttarakhand is a 372-sq km area called Kalapani, bordering far-west Nepal and Tibet. While the Nepal government and political parties have protested, India has said the new map does not revise the existing boundary with Nepal.

Following reports about the publication of the map, youths and students of the ruling Nepal Communist Party and the opposition Nepali Congress came on the streets. The Nepal government described India's decision as "unilateral" and claimed that it will "defend its international border". In India, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Raveesh Kumar told journalists that the map "accurately depicts the

#### HOW INDIA REACTED TO PAST RATINGS

2016

ARUN JAITLEY



After economic growth had rebounded, thanks also to low global oil prices, the government was miffed that the rating agencies chose not to

acknowledge that — and the then Secretary, Economic Affairs, wrote to Moody's questioning its methodology. But when the agency revised India's sovereign rating the next year, then Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said that Moody's has rightly recognised the structural reforms undertaken such as GST, a sound monetary policy framework, recapitalisation of state-owned banks, etc.

2013

JASWANT SINGH



Towards the end of UPA-II, former NDA Finance Minister Jaswant Singh told Parliament that the credit rating agencies had got it all wrong, pointing out the case

of Iceland, which had the highest rating of AAA given by S&P, and whose economy had collapsed. India as an investment destination had fared better than many East Asian countries, whose economies had been hit severely over a decade earlier. "These agencies pretend to know everything. But certainly, they don't know better than the government," Singh had said.

This could potentially have an impact on companies planning to borrow overseas through bonds or foreign loans, for investors or banks abroad may well seek higher interest rates because of weak prospects. This usually weighs on institutional investors such as pension funds, endowment funds of overseas universities, or sovereign wealth funds that manage the wealth of rich countries. They have to rejig their investments when there is a lowering of ratings. Firms and many governments that borrow from the international markets too are mindful of rating downgrades.

In India, the concern could be that after Moody's upgraded its rating two years ago, when the economy grew two percentage points faster than now, the lowering could signal that a change upwards could be a long way off. As the agency put it, compared with two years ago (when it upgraded India's rating to Baa2 from Baa3), the probability of sustained real GDP growth at or above 8% has significantly diminished. It explained that the decision to lower the rating was based on increasing risks that growth will remain materially lower than in the past, leading to a gradual rise in the debt burden from already high levels.

#### Does a downgrade really matter?

That depends on how and where governments borrow. Many countries tap the global

debt or credit markets to raise money. Global banks or their investment banks often claim that it is important to diversify their investor base, be it companies or governments, to lower the risk of a narrow set buying into such borrowing programmes and posing a risk of selling or pulling out.

India has been an outlier on this count. It has not issued a bond or raised money directly in the international market so far, which means that to a good extent, a downgrade has limited impact. Rather, the impact is felt almost fully by private firms or state-owned companies which raise foreign currency funds. In this year's Budget, the government announced its intention to go in for a sovereign bond, but hasn't moved on it yet in the backdrop of criticism and caution by the RBI. In the past, Indian policymakers with long memories had stymied attempts to issue a sovereign bond or borrow from the international market directly. And one of the reasons for that has been what they perceive as the alleged bias of credit ratings agencies.

Consider this. In the run-up to India's balance-of-payments crisis in 1991, the agencies swiftly downgraded the sovereign rating, thus reducing the country's ability to raise money abroad through public sector oil companies or banks for short periods to buy oil or to pay for imports. In 1998, when India an-

## Why a small area in India map bothers Nepal



sovereign territory of India".

At an all-party meeting on Saturday, leaders of various parties urged Nepal Prime Minister K P Singh Oli to take up the matter urgently with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

#### Defining the boundaries

Nepal's western boundary with India was marked out in the Treaty of Sugauli between the East India Company and Nepal in 1816. Nepali authorities claim that people living in the low-density area were included in the Census of Nepal until 58 years ago.

Five years ago, Foreign Minister Mahendra Bahadur Pande claimed that the late King Mahendra had "handed over the territory to India". By some accounts in Nepal, this allegedly took place in the wake of India-China War of 1962.

A committee formed by the Nepal government to study this claim submitted a report to Prime Minister Oli during his first tenure. It claimed that India had "occupied" an additional 62 sq km land.

#### Bilateral talks

The Prime Ministers of the two countries discussed the issue in 2000, with Atal Bihari Vajpayee assuring Nepal that India would not occupy even an inch of Nepal. Five years ago, the matter was referred to a new mechanism

comprising foreign secretaries of both sides.

"There had been some sincere efforts made soon after Vajpayee's assurance," a former diplomat in Nepal said. Then National Security Adviser Brajesh Mishra and Indian Ambassador to Nepal K V Rajan had gone for an aerial survey, but the matter did not move further, the diplomat added.

In New Delhi, Raveesh Kumar said: "The boundary delineation exercise with Nepal is ongoing under the existing mechanism. We reiterate our commitment to find a solution through dialogue in the spirit of our close and friendly bilateral relations."

At least two former Foreign Ministers of Nepal — Upendra Yadav (now Deputy Prime Minister) and Sujata Koirala — had said that 98 per cent of border-related matters had been settled with India. Apart from Kalapani, another unresolved issue involves a vast area along the Nepal-Uttar Pradesh border. During his visit to Nepal in 2014, Prime Minister Modi had said that the Susta and Kalapani issues would be sorted out.

## How India subsidised certain exports, why WTO panel ruled against it

#### PRABHA RAGHAVAN

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 10

A WORLD Trade Organisation (WTO) panel recently ruled against India in a trade dispute over its subsidies to exporters under various schemes. If the panel's ruling is adopted, the decision is expected to put at risk export subsidies claimed to be worth over \$7 billion.

#### Why was India taken to the dispute settlement panel?

The US in March 2018 challenged export subsidies provided by India under five sets of schemes — Export-Oriented Units, Electronics Hardware Technology Park and Bio-Technology Park (EOU/EHTP/BTP) Schemes; Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme; Special Economic Zones (SEZ) Scheme; Duty-Free Imports for Exporters Scheme (DFIS); and Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS).

The US had alleged these schemes violated certain provisions of WTO's Subsidies and Countervailing Measures (SCM)

Agreement that prohibit subsidies that are contingent upon export performance. According to the agreement, India was only exempt from this provision until its Gross National Product per capita per annum reached \$1,000.

The export subsidies under most of the challenged schemes, except for MEIS, consist of exemptions and deductions from customs duties and other taxes. The subsidies under MEIS consist of government-issued notes ("scrips") that can be used to pay for certain liabilities vis-à-vis the government and are freely transferable, according to the WTO dispute settlement panel.

The US argued these subsidies were a detriment to American workers and manufacturers. When consultations with India did not work out, the US in May 2018 requested that a dispute settlement panel be set up.

#### What was India's defence?

India argued that certain provisions under the SCM Agreement, allowing for special and differential treatment of certain developing countries, excluded it from the provi-

sions prohibiting export subsidies. It also argued that all the challenged schemes, except the SEZ scheme, adhered to a provision of the SCM Agreement that carves out exemptions from or remission of duties or taxes on an exported product under certain conditions.

#### On what grounds did the panel rule against India?

The panel found the US had "demonstrated the existence of prohibited export subsidies" that were inconsistent with provisions of the SCM Agreement. It recommended that India withdraw certain "prohibited subsidies" under the DFIS scheme within 90 days; under the EOU/EHTP/BTP, EPCG and MEIS schemes within 120 days and under the SEZ scheme within 180 days from the adoption of its report.

According to the panel, the US was able to show that India had foregone revenue through exemptions and deductions from duties and other taxes to the benefit of exporters in most schemes. In the case of MEIS, it was able to establish that exporters benefited from a direct transfer of funds through

the provision of scrips. MEIS, because of its design, structure and operation, did not meet the conditions for the exemptions from these prohibitions as well, according to the panel.

The panel found that the US had established that most of the measures under the other four schemes (EOU/EHTP/BTP, EPCG, SEZ and DFIS) were "contingent in law upon export performance". It also found that, as there was no dispute that India had graduated from the special and differential treatment provision that it originally fell under in the SCM Agreement, it was no longer excluded from the application of the prohibition on its export subsidies. It concluded that "no further transition period" was available to the country to stop these subsidies.

Not all the US' arguments were accepted. The panel rejected some of its claims regarding certain customs duty exemptions provided under the DFIS scheme and excise duty exemptions under the EOU/EHTP/BTP schemes.

**Who will be impacted if these "prohibited subsidies" are withdrawn?**

These subsidies were worth over \$7 billion annually and benefited producers of steel products, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, information technology products, textiles and apparel, according to the office of the US Trade Representative. While there will be no retrospective impact, India would have to stop providing the subsidies in this form. However, some experts say India can tweak the schemes to support exports while making them more WTO-compliant.

Some ways that India can continue to support exports, according to these experts, is by providing tax concessions (like concessions on GST) on parts and components used in the production of the exported product. The government has already begun work on making some of the debated schemes more WTO-compliant. In September, it announced the Remission of Duties or Taxes on Export Product to replace the MEIS as a more WTO-compliant scheme. The overall duty foregone under this scheme is expected to be "more or less the same" as MEIS (around Rs 40,000 crore-45,000 crore annually).

#### What happens next?

India plans to appeal the report on some aspects of law and legal interpretation before the panel's report is adopted within 60 days of it being circulated with all members. While the US is expected to push for early adoption, if India's notice to appeal the report is submitted before this, it stands a chance of challenging this ruling.

In this particular situation, with the dispute panel's appellate mechanism expected to become dysfunctional after December 11 (when two of the three remaining members of the body will retire), India may not be obligated to implement the panel's current ruling.

This is because, if its appeal is submitted on time, it will join a pipeline of 10 other appeals in other WTO dispute cases that have been filed since July 2018. Until those appeals are cleared and India's own appeal is resolved, the country will be under no legal compulsion to make the changes recommended in the dispute settlement panel's current report, according to experts.



# THE GOVERNANCE PAGE

## RAISING FARM INCOMES IN MAHARASHTRA

# Cultivating fishes with paddy: A new recipe for farm prosperity

Farming fishes in paddy fields and nearby ponds has sharply improved farmers' incomes in Vidarbha

**PARTHA SARATHI BISWAS**  
PUNE, NOVEMBER 10

TWO YEARS ago when Dulichand Patle, a paddy grower from the Bihiriya village of Gondia, thought of taking up a second crop along with his staple paddy, the choices before him were limited. Gondia is known as the rice city, thanks to the many rice mills surrounding it, and paddy was, for most, the only choice. But then something changed.

"It was the local agriculture officer (at that time) who suggested that I try farming fish in the paddy field," says Patle, who saw promise in the idea. "I invested around Rs 1 lakh on fingerlings (12-15 cm long fishes which are released as seeds for rearing) and in around 9 months my net profit was around Rs 3 lakh just by selling the fish," he says. This income was in addition to the income that Patle made by selling the paddy crop. Buoyed up by his experience, Patle, who grows paddy on 3 of his 7 acres farm, introduced fingerlings in 2 acres of his paddy field this year.

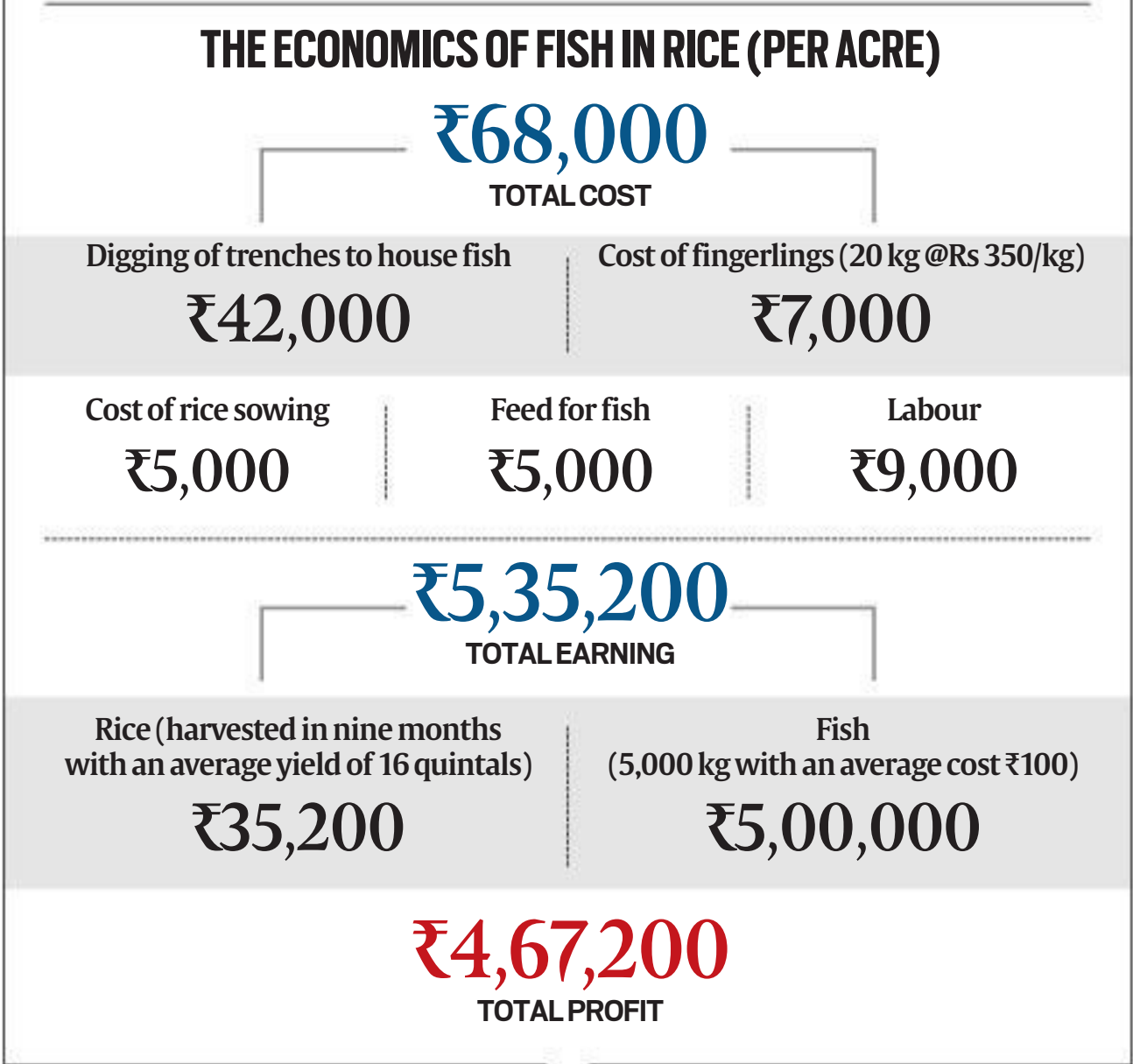
Cultivated over 15.02 lakh hectares, paddy is an important crop in the six districts of Nagpur division (the districts of Nagpur, Gondia, Gadchiroli, Chandrapur, Bhandara and Wardha), which alone reports 50 per cent of the state's paddy area. Water is integral to paddy cultivation, and farmers like Patle often divert portions of their fields to make farm ponds (Bodi in the local dialect) to preserve water and flood the growing paddy crop. The water-intensive nature of paddy and the requirement of the fields to remain flooded for the better part of 8 to 9 months limits the opportunity for a second crop in between the rows of paddy.

But, as it turned out, this very nature of the crop makes it most suitable for cultivation of fishes.

For the past two years, the state agriculture department has been promoting this combination — fishes on paddy fields — as the means of augmenting of farm incomes. Other than the fields, farm ponds, where farmers store water to irrigate their fields during times of scarcity, too have been used for fish cultivation. What has further enthused farmers is that the state government has been providing an upfront monetary benefit of Rs 50,000 for the construction of farm ponds. Till the end of the 2018-19 financial year, Maharashtra had seen the construction of 1.2 lakh such ponds



Not dependent on paddy alone: A farmer with his second crop *Express*



On average, for an investment of around Rs 1 lakh, a farmer reports a net profit of Rs 3 lakh (*see box*). "The best part of the deal is that traders come to our fields to weigh the fish and take it... we don't even have to spend

on transport," says Patle.

No wonder the popularity of the combination is spreading. Anant Pote, District Superintendent Agriculture Officer (DSAO) of Gadchiroli district says his office has been

**EXPLAINED**

## How fish rearing helps farmers

DOUBLING FARMERS incomes by 2023 is a stated goal of the government, but this goal threatens to turn elusive with each passing year. The scheme in Vidharba, which is often in news for farmer woes, that enables paddy farmers to cultivate fishes in their flooded fields and nearby ponds has not only raised incomes but also provided an example of how to double farm incomes

popularising fish cultivation as well.

While some farmers use their field ponds to farm fish others directly use the paddy fields to cultivate fish as the second crop. "In the latter case, a deep trench is dug on one side of the paddy field and fingerlings are released there. During the life cycle of the paddy crop, the fish fleet move from the trench across the paddy fields, feeding on the insects and when the water is drained the fleet returns to the trench from where it is harvested," explained Pote.

In both cases, farmers have to invest in fingerlings, fish feed and labour to harvest. Gadchiroli has already reported the construction of 6,500 ponds, of which around 500 ponds have started cultivation of fish. Similarly, of the 1 lakh hectares of paddy cultivation, around 10-15 per cent have taken up cultivation of fish. "Seeing the success of the scheme, many other farmers are coming forward to go for the scheme," he said.

The dual cultivation has caught the imagination of many farmers, especially given the tangible gains from the project. Mangesh Wawdhane, taluka agriculture officer of Tiroda says cultivation of fish has started on around 50 of the 372 farm ponds in the area. "Farmers are enthusiastic about the scheme," he says.

# ‘Raising awareness, compliance were key to reducing pesticide use’

AS A state, Punjab is often blamed for excessive and indiscriminate use of pesticides and fertilisers in its agriculture. In turn, this has led to such toxic residues leaching into the soil and underground water as well as the crops themselves. But the state's Agriculture Secretary, KAHAN SINGH PANNU, states that Punjab has been able to cut down its pesticide use quite significantly. KANCHAN VASDEV caught up with him to understand how Punjab is changing.



## THE POLICY INTERVIEW

KAHAN SINGH PANNU  
Agriculture Secretary, Punjab Govt

### How far has Punjab cut down on pesticide use?

In the 2018 Kharif season, farmers had used approximately 3,838 metric tonnes (mt) of pesticide. Out of this, 1,885 mt was insecticide. From the data collected by the chief agriculture officers in Punjab and the seller for various pesticide companies, we have been able to reduce the pesticide use by 675 mt.

### How did you get started?

Over the years, primarily because of the high level of pesticides in our farm produce, the international markets started frowning upon our crops. It was this that led to a re-think and a decision was taken to cut the use of chemicals.

We started by reducing the use of fertilisers, including urea and DAP (Di-ammonium Phosphate). The consumption of urea, which was 15.43 lakh tonnes in Kharif 2017 was reduced by around 86,000 tonnes in 2018. It has been further reduced by another 82,000 tonnes in Kharif 2019.

We realised that farmers were overusing urea because its use produced more vegetative growth and produced more succulent leaves in the crop. But such lush growth attracted greater pest attacks. By reducing the use of urea, we not only saved money but also reduced pesticide use considerably because the pest attacks also came down.

### How did you spread the message to reduce fertiliser and pesticide use among the farmers of Punjab?

A strategy of awareness, motivation and compliance was chalked out. We worked on it aggressively. We sensitised the farmers how the overuse of pesticides was not only polluting the environment but also affecting the health of their children. It was also a drain on their monetary resources.

## IN NUMBERS

### STATES WITH THE MOST CASES PENDING IN SUBORDINATE COURTS (AS OF AUGUST 2018)



**MORE THAN 20%** of ongoing court cases have been pending for over 5 years in 8 of the 18 large and mid-sized states, and 2 of the 6 small states for which data was available.

**NOT A SINGLE** High Court or state's subordinate judiciary had reached its

complete complement of sanctioned judicial posts.

**AT AN ALL-INDIA** level, in twenty-seven states and UTs, there is just one subordinate court judge for over 50,000 people.

*Source: India Justice Report 2019, Tata Trusts*

## FROM STATES REFORMS TRACKER

### ODISHA

### Adopting a Nobel way to reduce poverty

The Odisha government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) South Asia to maximise the impact of anti-poverty programmes across a wide range of sectors in the state. The J-PAL is an organisation co-founded by Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo, who jointly won the Nobel prize for Economics this year. Accordingly, J-PAL will devise a strategic evidence-based approach to policy-making. "As part of the 5T initiative, the state government signed an MoU with J-PAL. This is regarding development and welfare in various core sectors of our state," Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik told reporters after signing the MoU.

### UTTAR PRADESH

### Waste management policy launched

Last month, the state government approved a new policy for septage management that will apply for the five years between 2019 and 2023. The policy has been formulated after a partnership with the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) since January 2018. The policy intends to bring down pollution and safeguard public health.

### TAMIL NADU

### Boost to electronic manufacturing

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami has announced that the state government will soon release a new policy on Electronic Hardware Manufacturing (EMS). The idea is to attract investors in electronic manufacturing to the state. The CM is reported to have asserted that the new policy will bring fresh investments in the state and lead to the creation of jobs. It is expected to help start-ups and young entrepreneurs.

# BMC's solution to potholes: Spot one and win a prize if repairs take more than 24 hours

BY LAXMAN SINGH

MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 10

HERE'S A giant potholed sized mystery about the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation. In responses to RTI queries, it has regularly claimed to have addressed over 99 per cent of complaints about the craters that dot every road in the city and its suburbs, and yet there are thousands of potholes all across Mumbai. And it is not as if only aesthetics are in question; there have been pothole-caused fatalities on the roads. Just this year, at least five deaths have been reported in Mumbai and MMR areas of Thane, Bhiwandi, Belapur, Mira Bhayander due to accidents caused by potholes. So are people not complaining enough, or are the complaints not being given due attention?

This seemed to be the central question that India's richest municipal corporation was trying to answer earlier this month when it announced its Pothole Challenge 2019, a public road crater spotting competition that dangled the carrot of Rs 500 to every



This unique 'game' asked citizens to spot potholes that BMC was supposed to repair within 24 hours *Narendra Vaskar*

complainant whose pothole was not fixed within 24 hours. What's more, this prize money was to come out of the local engineer's salary.

The conditions were that any reported pothole had to be 3 inches deep and at least 1 foot wide on a BMC constructed road. One person could report only two potholes. The game was open for "entries" from November 1 to 7.

On Thursday, the last day, Additional Municipal Commissioner, (Eastern Suburbs), Vijay Singhal, who is also acting municipal commissioner, pronounced the scheme a success. He said 91 per cent of the complaints had been fixed within 24 hours. Until November 5, over 1,600 pothole complaints came in on a newly launched Fixit app.

"The basic idea of introducing this scheme was to bring transparency, accountability and responsibility so that we can provide better citizen-centric services. This is the first time when the BMC has come up with this kind of a scheme. As per reports about 91% complaints have been filled within 24-hours," Singhal said.

There had been delays in fixing some cases, he said, "but only by minutes or hours". He said the strike rate of 91 per cent was "satisfactory and we will go further."

Citizens and activists have mixed views on the whole experiment. Activist Mushtaq Ansari, who is famous as the Mumbai man who fills potholes on his own, said while the challenge was on, civic officials raced to attend to the complaints.

## WEST BENGAL/HOUSING INNOVATION

# In Kolkata — co-living, co-working spaces for tech workers

SANTANU CHOWDHURY

KOLKATA, NOVEMBER 10

IN AN attempt to provide affordable and hassle-free shared housing facilities to Information Technology professionals working in the state, the West Bengal government is setting up "co-living spaces" in Rajarhat-New Town areas. Co-living spaces mean IT professionals from across the country working in the IT industry in New Town and Sector V in Kolkata will be able to go for shared housing facilities without having to part with a fortune. The concept of co-living space has already become quite popular in Pune, Delhi (National Capital Region) and Bengaluru, and soon, it will find takers in Kolkata as well.

Additional Chief Secretary of the state's IT department, Debashis Sen, said that the state government would tie-up with private companies and form joint ventures to come up such facilities.



Areal view of New Town near Kolkata...*Express photo by Partha Paul.*

"We are trying to come up with co-living places along with co-working places close to the Silicon Valley project. It is for young entrepreneurs, start-ups and young innovators," he said. The Silicon Valley project was launched in August 2018 to attract investments in the IT sector and to build a world-class ecosystem for cutting edge technologies and innovation. Companies such as Reliance Jio, TCS and First Source have already bought land in the Silicon Valley Hub, which will come up in New Town.

As Infosys and Wipro have already received permissions from the state government to open more campuses, demand for affordable and shared housing facilities will be on the rise.

President of the Bengal chapter of Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Association of India (CREDAI), Nandu Belani said the initiative will provide a win-win for developers and young IT professionals.

"It is a good concept which not only provides beds but also offers other facilities

such as restaurants, gym and internet services to young professionals. This brings down the cost for both real estate developers and IT professionals. If a real estate developer rents a property then his yearly return is 2 per cent. But in case of a shared housing facility with modern amenities, the yearly return is 8 to 10 per cent. So it is a win-win situation for both parties," Belani told *The Indian Express*.

The satellite city of New Town in about 15 km from the city centre in Kolkata and about 5.5 km from Sector V in Salt Lake, which is the biggest IT hub in West Bengal. In 2016, it was selected in the Centre's 100 smart city mission project. At present, one cottah land in New Town costs around Rs 30 lakh while the same area in Salt Lake will cost Rs 60 lakh, and could cost as much as Rs 1.2 crore in Kolkata.

"The demand is very high in New Town. This is an ideal time to invest in New Town," said real estate consultant Anandarup Das.



# 12ECONOMY

CLAIM PERIOD FOR SOME ACCOUNTS TO EXPIRE IN DEC; OTHERS IN 2020-END

## No claimants for dormant Swiss accounts of Indians; some may get liquidated soon

ENSECONOMICBUREAU  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 10

**ABOUT** A dozen dormant Swiss bank accounts linked to Indians have seen no claimants, leaving the funds lying in these accounts at risk of getting transferred to the Switzerland government.

The Swiss government began making details of dormant accounts public in 2015 to allow their claimants submit necessary proof to get access to those funds, which included at least 10 accounts linked to Indians. These included some accounts linked to Indian residents and nationals from the British rule era; but ironically, not a single dormant account linked to an Indian has been successfully claimed in the last six years, as per the records available with the Swiss authorities, according to a *PTI* report from Zurich.

The claim period for some of these accounts would expire next month, while a few others can still be claimed till the end of 2020.

Incidentally, some of the accounts linked to Pakistan resi-

EXPLAINED

### Swiss govt to take over assets if no requests sent

AS PER Swiss law, an account is declared dormant if there is no customer contact for 60 years, and details are made public for inviting claims for all such accounts.

These assets will be liquidated and transferred to the Swiss federal government if no beneficiary has submitted a justified request within a given time-frame. Generally, the deadline for submitting requests is one year from the date of such dormant accounts being made public.

dents have have been claimed since then, as is the case with several other accounts linked to residents from other countries including Switzerland itself.

The list included close to 2,600 dormant accounts, when it was first made public in December

2015, which had around 45 million Swiss francs (over Rs 300 crore) lying unclaimed since at least 1955. There were also nearly 80 unclaimed safety deposit boxes

when the list was first made public for claims from the real owners or their heirs. More accounts are being added every year since then after they become dormant under Swiss banking laws; the list now has nearly 3,500 accounts.

While Swiss bank accounts have been a matter of heated political debate for many years in India due to suspicion that they were being used to hoard alleged black money, it has also been sus-

pected that people linked to the erstwhile princely states had stashed some funds in banks in Switzerland. Under global pressure over recent years, Switzerland has opened its banking system for regulatory scrutiny from abroad and it has also entered into pacts for automatic exchange of information on financial matters with a large number of countries, including India.

The first batch of details about accounts held by Indians in Switzerland-based financial institutions was given to India recently under this automatic information exchange deal and the next such exercise would take place in September 2020. In the meantime, the claims for dormant accounts are being managed by the Swiss Banking Ombudsman under cooperation from the Swiss Bankers Association.

As per the details available with the ombudsman, the dormant accounts linked to Indians that are waiting for their claimants include those included to at least two persons from erstwhile Calcutta (now known as Kolkata),

one from Dehradun, two from erstwhile Bombay (now known as Mumbai) and also some Indian settled in France and the UK.

According to the *PTI* report, the claim period for two such accounts, which are in the names of Leila Talukdar and Prmatha N Talukdar, would end next month on November 15, while the assets can be claimed till December this year for accounts in the names of Chandralata Pranlal Patel, Mohan Lal and Kishore Lal.

In case of two Bombay-residents, Rosmarie Bernet and Pierre Vachek, the claim period would expire in December 2020, while similar is the case for the account of Chandra Bahadur Singh from Dehradun and Yogesch Prabhudas Suchah, whose last recorded residence was in London, the report said.

Under Swiss laws, a bank account is declared dormant after there is no customer contact for 60 years and details are made public for inviting claims for all such accounts having at least 500 Swiss francs or assets of unknown value. **WITHPTI/ZURICH**

INTERVIEW WITH MD & CEO, CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA

## ‘This slowdown is cyclical, not structural ... growth will bounce back in 2020-21’

PALLAV MOHAPATRA, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Central Bank of India, says the economy will bounce back in 2020-21. In an interview with **GEORGE MATHEW**, Mohapatra said the crisis in the NBFC sector is over. Excerpts:

### Has the economic slowdown impacted banking?

Consumer spending is discretionary and non-discretionary. Discretionary spending also includes house, car purchases. We are not seeing much impact in first home purchase, but in the vehicle purchase, we are seeing it (slowdown). But non-discretionary is not coming down ... because anyway a person has to spend. There's huge scope in affordable housing.

### When can we expect a turnaround in the growth?

My own assessment is that this is cyclical. This is not structural. The second half will be much better than the first half. It will bounce back in 2020-21. Corporate tax has been reduced. So corporates will have excess liquidity. They will spend that money ... either they will invest in mutual funds or they will put it in installed capacity.

### Is the NBFC crisis over?

In NBFCs (non-banking financial companies), whatever the crisis that we had seen, that's over. Once these NBFCs start lending — majority of NBFCs are lending — the situation will further improve. If you remove one or two big conglomerates, those medium-sized NBFCs which are doing the lending in niche areas and with a portfolio of Rs 10,000-12,000 crore, are doing extremely well. Their NPAs (non-performing assets) are lower than banking sector NPAs.

### Have the problems in IL&FS and DHFL affected the banking sector?

We have done our own assessment. The sector is doing well. Whenever there's a demand from the NBFCs, I look at three things. One is their ALM (asset liability mismatch). Cash flow can be on the contracted or historical basis. Historical means they will see inflow over a period of time. I'm comfortable with the contracted, that's icing on the cake. I'm comfortable with NBFCs which are in the range of Rs 15,000-20,000 crore and some of the conglomerate NBFCs where the corporate governance is excellent. The third thing is ... stress in their books.

### Bad loans in the sector had come recently. However, stress in power and telecom seems to be pushing up bad loan levels now.

begin on November 17 and end on December 4, while retail investors will be able to bid for the shares from November 17 to November 28.

"Aramco IPO is an opportunity that shouldn't be missed, the largest company in the world ... holding Aramco shares is an absolute gain," a Saudi with the twitter handle 'Abdulrahman' wrote.

Potential investors had told *Reuters* they had been preparing for months — saving money, selling land plots and exiting other stocks. Saudis flooded banks with phone calls asking how to participate after Aramco announced bank mandates. Online adverts promoting the IPO to locals have gone viral.

Aramco has been in talks with Gulf and Asian sovereign wealth funds and wealthy Saudi individuals to secure top investors of the IPO, but no cornerstone investor is yet to formally agree to a deal.

The Russia-China Investment Fund is working to attract Chinese investors for Aramco's planned IPO, the head of Russia's RDIF sovereign wealth fund said on Thursday.

Bankers have told the Saudi government that investors will



Pallav Mohapatra

As of now, if any telecom proposal comes, we will look into the statutory and regulatory requirements ... if these are not fulfilled, I will not take the risk. In the case of power, whatever exposure we have, that has already been recognised. Some of the exposures in power have been recognised as NPA. Resolutions of two or three major ones will be before March 31. We are not taking fresh exposure in power. In the thermal sector, there won't be any more exposure and in hydel, it will be to a certain extent. This is because of the lessons we have learnt ... so no exposure to both telecom and power.

### Banks have now moved to repo-linked interest rates. How is it taking shape?

It has been introduced from October 1. What I see is that people have become aware of it. The only concern, which is natural, is ... this is good when repo rate is coming down. What will happen when repo goes up? Roughly 40 per cent of our total book is linked to repo. It will be linked to repo but based on the risk categorisation.

### Will savers get affected by the fall in deposit rates?

No. For any customer who is having a deposit of Rs 25 lakh or above, we have linked it to the repo rate. There's no linkage to repo below Rs 25 lakh. Majority of our customers are below Rs 25 lakh. We are managing our asset and liability in such a way that the impact on NIM (net interest margin) is not that much.

### Credit offtake doesn't seem to be picking up ...

Retail is showing more demand than the corporate. In the retail segment, more demand is coming from housing. In the corporate segment, we have seen demand in very few sectors. For example, the road sector. The other sector which is showing demand is city gas. From the cash flow perspective, these projects are viable. The third is the NBFC sector.

### Will the interest rates come

## Cost overruns of ₹ 3.88 lakh cr in 355 infra projects

As many as 355 infrastructure projects, each worth Rs 150 crore or more, have shown cost overruns to the tune of over Rs 3.88 lakh crore, owing to delays and other reasons, according to the MoSPI's report for July 2019

**1,623:**

Number of projects worth Rs 150 crore and above monitored by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)

**670:**

Number of projects that reported cost overruns whose neither year of commissioning nor tentative gestation period has been reported

**552:**

Number of projects that reported time escalation, of which: **187:** delayed by one to 12 months



**121:** delayed by 13 to 24 months  
**132:** delayed by 25 to 60 months  
**112:** delayed by 61 months and above  
**29.07:** Average time overrun of all projects

**₹19,33,390.22 cr:**

Total original cost of implementation of the 1,623 projects

**₹23,21,502.84 cr:**

Anticipated cost of implementation of all projects

**₹3,88,112.62 cr:**

Overall cost overruns, i.e. 20.07 per cent of original cost

**₹9,47,571.45 cr:**

Expenditure incurred on all projects till July 2019, 40.82 per cent of anticipated cost

### REASONS FOR TIME OVERRUNS:

- Delays in land acquisition, forest clearance and supply of equipment
- Fund constraints
- Geological surprises
- Shortage of labour

## Economy currently facing challenges: FM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 10

FINANCE MINISTER Nirmala Sitharaman on Sunday unveiled a book on global finance, and said it suggests solution for challenges that the world as well as the Indian economy is currently facing. Launching the book 'The Rise of Finance: Causes, Consequences and Cure', she

said it will help "understand the current economic situation facing both the world and Indian economy".

The book is co-authored by V Anantha Nageswaran and Gulzar Natarajan. Nageswaran is dean of IFMR Graduate School of Business at Krea University. Natarajan is senior managing director at Global Innovation Fund.

"As a textbook, I am sure it will become very popular and

more importantly, this will be a book that is very relevant to those of us, sitting on the policy making table. Secondly, its relevance and the timing of the launch of the book in India. We are currently facing a challenging time," she said.

Sitharaman said it has come at a time when questions are being asked about the nature of the slowdown, which is affecting the global economy and bogging it

down and indeed questioning if India is actually in a slowdown.

India's economic growth slumped to an over six-year low of 5 per cent in the first quarter ended June this fiscal due to slower consumer demand and private investment amid deteriorating global environment.

This has prompted many global agencies to cut India's GDP growth by various degrees for 2019-20.

SAUDI STATE-OWNED OIL COMPANY TO SELL 0.5 PER CENT OF ITS SHARES TO INDIVIDUAL RETAIL INVESTORS

## Aramco prospectus flags risks, gives few details on IPO size

SAEED AZHAR, HADEEL AL SAYEGH, AZIZ EL YAAKOUBI & MAHER CHMAYTELLI  
DUBAI, NOVEMBER 10

SAUDI STATE oil giant Aramco will sell up to 0.5 per cent of its shares to individual retail investors and will be restricted from issuing additional shares for a year after the initial public offering (IPO), its prospectus said on Saturday.

Aramco fired the starting gun on what is likely be the world's largest listing on November 3 after a series of delays. The offering, set to rank it as the world's most valuable company, will begin on November 17, the prospectus said.

Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman is seeking to sell the shares to raise billions of dollars to diversify the Saudi economy away from oil by investing in non-energy industries. Bankers think the long-awaited IPO will value Aramco around \$1.5 trillion.

The more than 600-page prospectus published on Saturday did not include details of how much of the company would be floated in total or of any commitments from cornerstone in-

### NO DETAILS ON CORNERSTONE INVESTORS

■ The more than 600-page prospectus published on Saturday did not include details of any commitments from cornerstone investors

■ The prospectus said that among the risks for investors were the potential for terrorist attacks and the potential for encountering antitrust legislation, as well as the right of the Saudi government to decide maximum crude output

■ It said the offering for institutional investors will begin on November 17 and end on December 4, while retail investors will be able to bid for the shares from November 17-28

■ Aramco has been in talks with Gulf and Asian sovereign wealth funds and wealthy Saudi individuals to secure top investors of the IPO, but no cornerstone investor is yet to formally agree to a deal

vestors. Sources have said the firm could sell 1 per cent-2 per cent on the Saudi stock market.

If the government sells 2 per cent of Aramco shares, the retail offering could account for 25 per cent or \$10 billion of the deal size at the top valuation of \$2 trillion.

The prospectus, which revealed few details, did not say how the government will use the proceeds from the sale.

The prospectus said that among the risks for investors were

the potential for terrorist attacks and the potential for encountering antitrust legislation, as well as the right of the Saudi government to decide maximum crude output and direct Aramco to undertake projects outside its core business.

Aramco may also change its dividend policy with no prior notice to its minority shareholders, it said. "Apart from the oil price, of course, the main risks are the degree to which Aramco needs to shoulder the burden of OPEC Plus

output restraint, allocation of capital into projects which maximise value for Saudi overall as opposed to Aramco minority shareholders, physical security risks and the dividend payout ratio in the long-term," said Hasnain Malik, head of equity strategy at Tellimer. "Valuation at the time of the IPO will depend on how much of demand is made up by subscribers who are prepared to overlook these factors in favour of Aramco's low depletion rate ... and its very low cost of extraction versus peers."

Aramco's oil facilities were targeted on September 14 in unprecedented attacks that temporarily shut 5.7 million barrels per day (bpd) of output - more than 5 per cent of global oil supply. The prospectus said the government will have a "statutory lockup period" for disposing of any shares after the listing for six months, and a contractual lockup period for 12 months.

Aramco cannot list additional shares for a period of six months after trading starts, and will also be restricted from issuing additional shares for 12 months.

The prospectus said the offering for institutional investors will

likely value the company at around \$1.5 trillion, below the \$2 trillion valuation touted by Prince Mohammed when he first floated the idea of an IPO nearly four years ago. Initial hopes for a 5 per cent IPO on domestic and international bourses were dashed last year when the process was halted amid debate over where to list Aramco overseas.

Aramco said the timetable was delayed because it began a process to acquire a 70 per cent stake in petrochemicals maker Saudi Basic Industries Corp. The prospectus said Goldman Sachs was named as stabilizing agent for the deal. Analysts from banks working on the Riyadh listing projected a wide valuation range between \$1.2 trillion to \$2.3 trillion.

At the top valuation of \$2 billion, Aramco could potentially raise \$40 billion, topping the record-breaking \$25 billion raised by Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba in 2014.

The valuation would be almost twice that of Microsoft, currently the world's most valuable listed company, and seven times that of Exxon Mobil Corp, the biggest listed oil major by market capitalisation. **REUTERS**

### down further?

If you look from the point of view of inflation, there is still some scope for further reduction. The second thing is transmission. Now that it's repo-linked, almost 40-50 per cent of the portfolio is linked to the repo rate; that will bring down the weighted-average lending rate. But now, as the second half is the peak season, there is a tendency of inflation going up. Another 25 bps cut is possible.

### Do you think rural sector is witnessing any distress in view of the slowdown?

We are not seeing much stress in consumer loan in the rural segment, but we are seeing some stress in the rural housing segment where it's subsidised by the government. In the agricultural segment, we are seeing some stress because of natural calamity and debt waiver.

When there's a degrowth in the economy or when the economic growth is not taking place at the expected levels, the first impact is on corporates ... then it impacts MSMEs (micro, small and medium enterprises). When these two are stressed, then it may have the stress on the individuals.

### After making losses for 14 quarters in a row, your bank has turned around. How did the turnaround happen?

The turnaround started in the first quarter of this year (after 14 successive quarters of losses), continued in the second quarter and we're quite hopeful that the trend will continue in the remaining two quarters and we will come out of PCA (Prompt Corrective Action framework) by the end of the year. We addressed various issues to achieve this. The number one was to control slippages and we have been successful to a great extent. The second was to reduce NPAs. We introduced one-time settlement scheme. We have tightened the control to maintain the quality of assets.

### What's your focus now to boost growth?

We are more into better rated companies, still there's demand from such companies. Though there's a degrowth in advances this years, that was mainly due to the lean season. We will have an uptick in advances growth in the second half.

In the MSME sector, we go for quality and better pricing. We want to grow NIM based on the quality. As of now, our retail book is 66 per cent of the total book, which we want to go up to 70 per cent by the end of the financial year. Housing loan is now 49.8 per cent of the total retail portfolio.

## ICRA downgrades Ajay Piramal group firm

ENSECONOMICBUREAU  
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 10

MOODY'S INDIA affiliate ICRA has downgraded the ratings of debt raised by AASAN Corporate Solutions (ACSPL), an Ajay Piramal group firm, citing tight liquidity conditions faced by the company.

In a statement, ICRA said the revision in the rating to 'A-(CE) (Negative)' from 'A+(CE) (Negative)' for the non-convertible debenture (NCD) programme worth Rs 1,900 crore of ACSPL is mainly because of deterioration in the operating environment, owing to tight liquidity in the market, which may diminish the resource mobilisation ability of the holding and investment entities to raise funds from the market.

ICRA has rated Rs 2,850 crore-worth of debt raised by ACSPL. AASAN is wholly-owned by Sri Govinda Trust through its trustee, Ajay Piramal, the promoter of the Piramal Group. It is engaged in the business of investing and lending to group companies and other entities engaged in real estate and leasing, and trading in commodities such as gold and silver.



## EUROPE ALONE

## A continent in peril

Assessing Emmanuel Macron's apocalyptic vision

Macron is asking his fellow leaders to imagine how Europe will thrive in a dangerous world without a cast-iron American alliance. *Reuters*

TODAY'S EUROPE owes its existence to the United States. America fought two world wars on European soil; American diplomacy was midwife to what became the European Union; American arms protected western Europe from Soviet invasion; and American statesmen oversaw German unification. Now, in a dramatic plea to all Europeans, France's president, Emmanuel Macron, has warned that America is cutting Europe loose. The old continent is "on the edge of a precipice", he warns. Unless it wakes up, "we will no longer be in control of our destiny."

In his Elysée Palace office, Mr Macron spoke to *The Economist* in apocalyptic terms. NATO, the transatlantic alliance, is suffering from "brain-death", he says; Europe needs to develop a military force of its own. The EU thinks of itself as just a market, but it needs to act as a political bloc, with policies on technology, data and climate change to match. Past French presidents have argued that Europe cannot rely on America, and should look to France instead. Mr Macron is not just rehashing this view. He believes that America and Europe have shared interests and has worked tirelessly to keep good relations with President Donald Trump. But he argues that for the first time America has a president who

"does not share our idea of the European project". And even if Mr Trump is not re-elected, historical forces are pulling the old allies apart.

American priorities are changing. When President Barack Obama, who was intent on pivoting towards Asia, chose not to punish the use of chemical weapons in Syria it signalled that America was losing interest in the Middle East. Mr Trump's recent abandonment of America's Kurdish allies in Syria not only reinforced this, but also undermined NATO. America did not inform its allies, and Turkey, a NATO member, promptly invaded Syria. "Strategically and politically," Mr Macron says, "we need to recognise that we have a problem."

Asked whether he is confident that an attack on one NATO member would today be seen as an attack on all—the idea that underpins the alliance's credibility—Mr Macron says that he does not know. He acknowledges that NATO thrives operationally, but he calls for Europe "to reassess the reality of what NATO is in the light of the commitment of the United States."

Europe, he says, has yet to grasp the immensity of the challenge ahead. It still treats the world as if commerce and trade alone were able to ensure peace. But America, the

guarantor of world trade, is becoming protectionist. Authoritarian powers are on the rise—including Russia and Turkey on Europe's borders. While America and China spend vast sums on artificial intelligence, which they see as an essential component of their hard power, the EU devolves too much say to industry. Mr Macron warns that slow-moving, head-in-the-clouds Europe must open its eyes and prepare itself for a tougher, less forgiving world.

It is an astonishingly bleak picture for a centrist European politician and an avowed internationalist. But it is also unusually thought-through and, as far as Mr Macron is concerned, a spur to action. It is hard to overstate the scale of the change he is asking from his fellow Europeans.

**Macron thinks Europe can best establish its global influence as a power that mediates between the gorillas of China and the United States. Its role will be "to stop the whole world from catching fire", he says. A first step would be to get a grip on its own region by rebuilding relations with Russia—a task that he accepts could well take a decade**

Take defence. Mr Macron thinks that his new European Intervention Initiative and the EU's Permanent Structured Co-operation, underpinned by the European Defence Fund, can integrate military operations and boost Europe's capabilities, by implication providing a foundation for Europe's post-NATO defence. But these building-blocks are rudimentary. America's departure would leave vast holes in areas like air and missile defence, intelligence and surveillance, and aerial refuelling. Its military budget is twice as large as the rest of NATO's combined. European governments will be reluctant to plug the gap, since they have other priorities. It may be easier to adapt NATO, so that it both protects Europe and is also more useful to the United States.

And then there is diplomacy. Mr Macron thinks Europe can best establish its global influence as a power that mediates between the gorillas of China and the United States. Its role will be "to stop the whole world from catching fire", he says. A first step would be to get a grip on its own region by rebuilding relations with Russia—a task that he accepts could well take a decade.

Again, however, that ambition assumes a unity of purpose that the EU seldom achieves. Many of its members tend to shun hard power for a foreign policy focused on human rights and commerce. As Mr Macron's Russian proposal illustrates, power politics requires you to deal with people whose actions you deplore. For him, realpolitik is necessary for European values to prevail. It is not clear his fellow European leaders would agree.

Last is industrial policy. Mr Macron wants the state to take strategic decisions over key technologies, and favours a policy to foster European champions. This tends to channel funds and contracts to politically connected incumbents. A better way to create a thriving technology ecosystem would be to encourage more competition. If Mr Macron will not embrace that, why should others?

The EU's formula is unique: an arrangement between states, without any hegemon, that keeps the peace. But how do you get 27 countries—plus Britain, a big power now in the EU's departure lounge—to agree to build fully functional armed forces, let alone convince Europe's foes that they would ever be used? Mr Macron's critics scoff that he is "drunk on power". Some countries, including Poland and the Baltic states, would be alarmed at the idea of parting with America and pursuing detente with Russia. Others, including Germany, Italy and Spain, are too embroiled in domestic woes to entertain a grand global vision.

Plenty of times in the past, pious calls for Europe to make its weight felt in the world have turned out to be empty. This time, Mr Macron argues, must be different. He is asking his fellow leaders to imagine how Europe will thrive in a dangerous world without a cast-iron American alliance. How should they deal with Russia, with the conflict and religious fundamentalism roiling the Middle East and north Africa, and with the authoritarian challenge of China? He deserves an answer.

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## SOCIAL MEDIA

## TikTok time-bomb

TikTok's silly clips raise some serious questions

IF THIS article were a TikTok video, it would already be almost over—and you would be smiling. TikTok's 15-second clips are all the rage among teenage netizens. The app was downloaded more than 750m times in the past 12 months, more than Facebook plus its sister services, Instagram and WhatsApp, combined. Fun aside, TikTok raises serious questions—about data geopolitics, the power of internet incumbents and who sees what online.

TikTok is YouTube on steroids. It bombards users with self-repeating clips. It forms a genre of quick-hit entertainment: a prank, a dare, a teenager looking pretty. Most are produced by adolescents, with easy-to-use editing tools. The app makes money from adverts and commissions on digital tips. It may one day generate revenue from e-commerce, like its Chinese sister app, Douyin. Both are

owned by ByteDance, a Beijing firm valued at \$75bn, more than any other private startup.

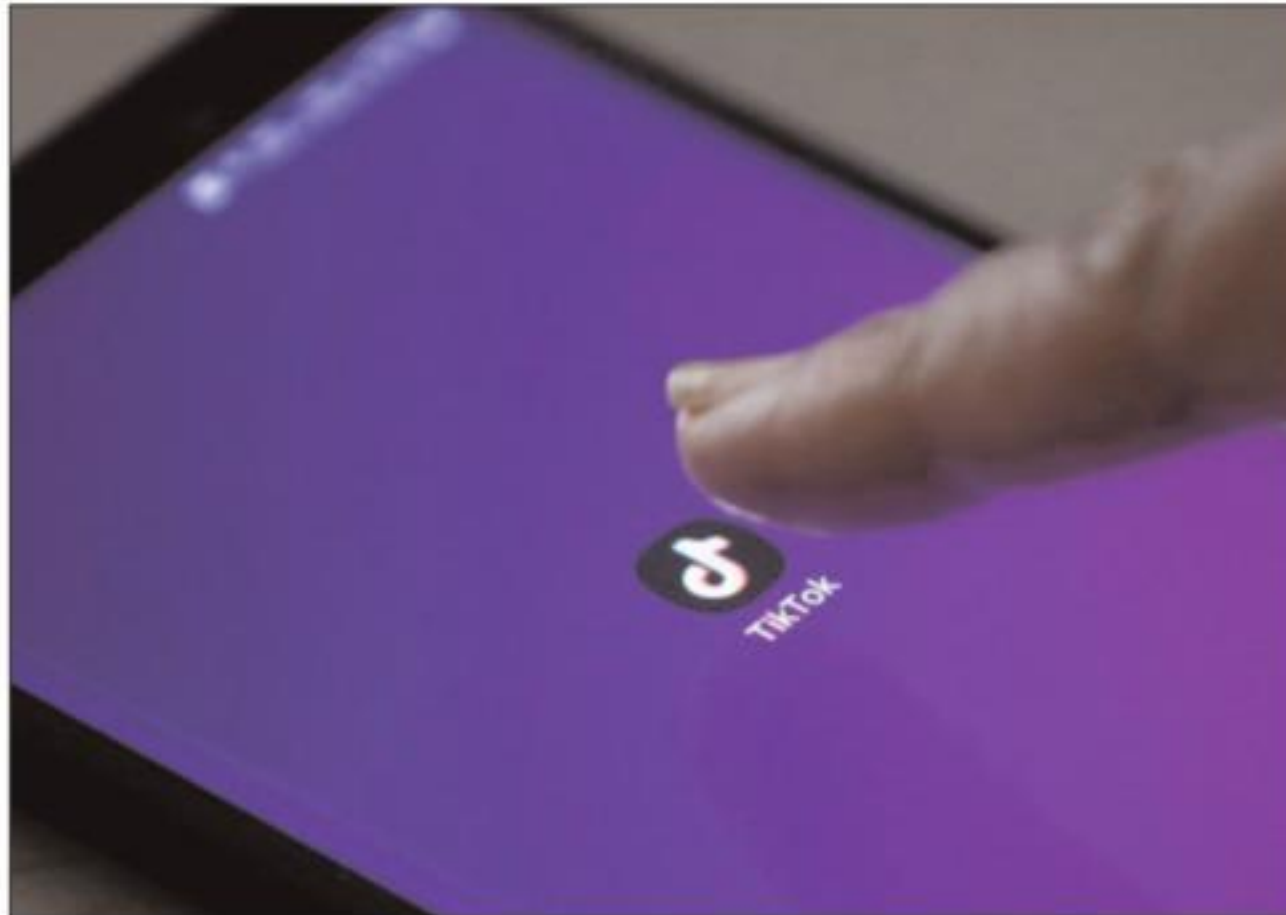
The China connection has Washington in a tizzy. On November 1st it emerged that America's government has opened a national-security review of ByteDance's takeover in 2017 of Musical.ly, an app de-

**TikTok is YouTube on steroids. It bombards users with self-repeating clips. It forms a genre of quick-hit entertainment: a prank, a dare, a teenager looking pretty. Most are produced by adolescents**

veloped in China, which later became TikTok. On November 5th congressmen lambasted ByteDance for not showing up to a hearing.

Hawks argue that TikTok gives the government in Beijing access to data on millions of Americans and that it censors content the regime does not like. If America's sanctions on Huawei, a maker of telecoms gear, are about disentangling electronics supply chains, its assault on ByteDance is an attempt to keep the data flows of America and China separate. ByteDance rejects these accusations, saying that non-Chinese user data sit on non-Chinese servers, and that decisions about what not to show American users are made in America.

For his part, Mark Zuckerberg is less worried about data sovereignty and more about competition from TikTok, China's

TikTok owes part of its success to relentless advertising on rival services. *Reuters*

first runaway web success in America. Facebook is pulling out the big guns it deploys against fast-growing upstarts. In late 2018 it launched Lasso, a TikTok clone. An

independent developer recently unearthed a feature hidden in Instagram's code that apes TikTok's editing tools. It is cold comfort to Mr Zuckerberg that should his de-

fences fail, Big Tech's critics will have to concede that digital monopolies are not that invincible after all.

Critics of artificial intelligence are also watching the Chinese app closely. What users see on Facebook and other Western social media is in part still down to who their friends are and what they share. TikTok's main feed, called "For You", is determined by algorithm alone: it watches how users behave in the app and uses the information to decide what to play next. Such systems create the ultimate filter bubble.

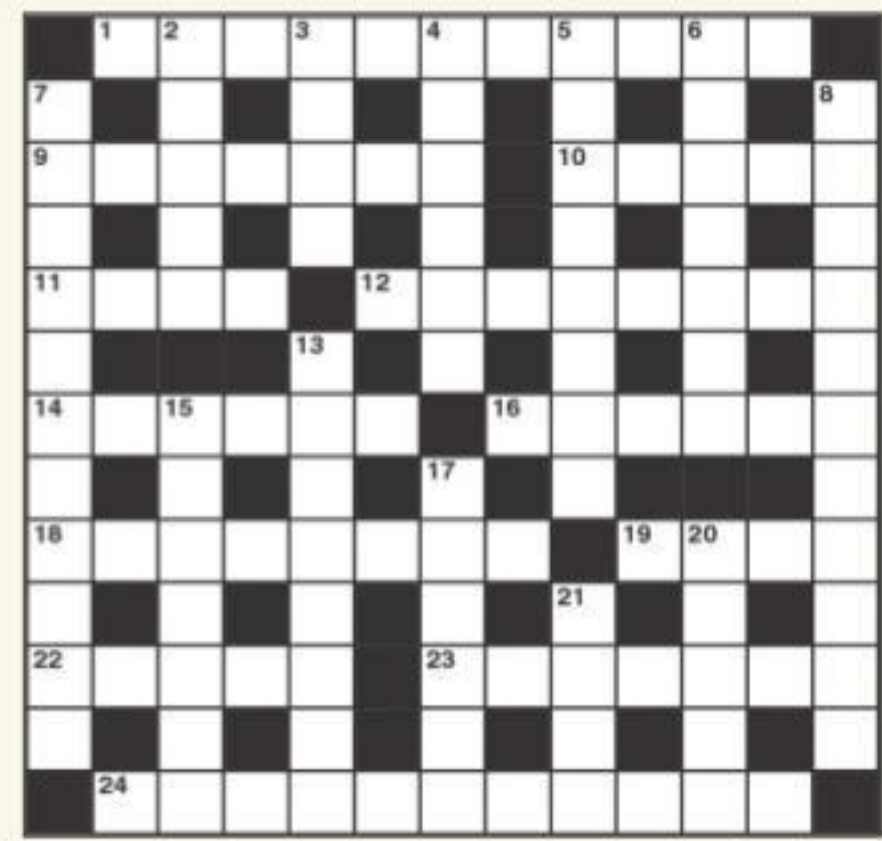
All these worries would be allayed if TikTok turns out to be a passing fad. In a way, the app is only riding on other social networks. It relies on people's Facebook or Twitter accounts for many sign-ins. TikTok owes part of its success to relentless advertising on rival services. According to some estimates, it spent perhaps \$1bn on social-media ads in 2018. At the same time, many who download TikTok quickly tire of its endless digital sugar-rush.

Slowing growth may not stop politicians from hobbling the app. They could decide to bar it from America altogether. For once, Mr Zuckerberg would be cheering them on.

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CROSSWORD 3959



- ACROSS
- 1 Lubricant used jointly by hard workers? (5,6)

9 Shocking in respect to certain individuals? (7)

10 Now so upset as to faint (5)

11 Touch with an oral greeting (4)

12 Decent painting turns up in an exhibition (8)

14 Change planes in Italy (6)

16 Dennis did the wrong thing when he made a comeback (6)

18 Canst not be shaken! (8)

19 A crystal box (4)

22 A step in the making of a street song (5)

23 and 13 Down: Light discourses informing those in the dark (7,8)

24 Suits oneself? (4,7)
- DOWN
- 2 We hear unofficial reports about vegetables (5)

3 Love a note repeatedly played in the orchestra (4)

4 Gets us to become visitors (6)

5 Note a hundred still in a trance (8)

6 Well directed, it may finish off the game (7)

7 Pedestrian injured? (7,4)

8 It will be presented by a group at one (6,5)

13 See 23 Across

15 It gives accommodation inside a speed boat (7)

17 Branch of the deer family (6)

20 Not all the pianist plays the dark (5)

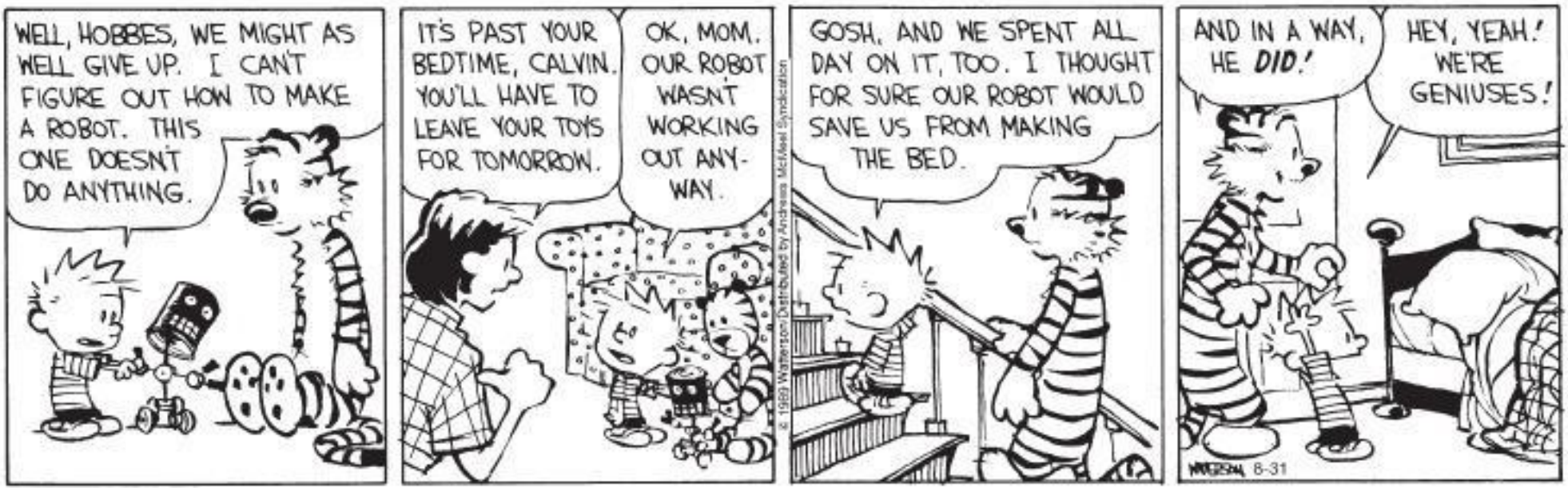
21 Limits one's ambitions (4)

Solutions Crossword 3958: Across: 1 Stalls, 4 Affected, 9 Lammas, 10 Misplace, 12 Lien, 13 Steam, 14 Rime, 17 Settle a score, 20 Table manners, 23 Ream, 24 Balk, 25 Vera, 28 Finds out, 29 Drives, 30 Thrushes, 31 Tendon. Down: 1 Selfless, 2 Armrests, 3 Leap, 5 Fair accompil, 6 Espy, 7 Tragic, 8 Diesel, 11 It's a pleasure, 15 Clock, 16 Wrong, 18 Reserved, 19 Assassin, 21 Profit, 22 Earner, 26 Uses, 27 Free.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLED WORDS

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

When a man tells you that he got rich through \_\_\_\_\_, ask him: "\_\_\_\_?"  
-Don Marquis (4,4,,5)

DAERR

AOWDHH

HOOKS

OOTKWW

SOLUTION: DREA/DARE/SHOOK, HOWDAH, KOWTOW  
Answer: When a man tells you that he got rich through hard work, ask him: "Whose?"  
-Don Marquis

SUDOKU 4026

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

SOLUTION SUDOKU 4025

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

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TENDER NOTICE : D-09/2019-2020  
Tenders are invited online from reputed Manufacturers / formulators / direct importers for Purchase of (1) READY TO USE F75 & F100 (2) surgical items (i) Absorbent gauze with ISI Mark (ii) Bandage cloth with ISI Mark (iii) Rolle bandage (5mt x 5cm) ISI Mark (iv) Absorbent cotton wool (400 Gm) on rate contract basis and details of specification quantity is available on <https://gmscl.gujarat.gov.in>. All tender documents can be downloaded free on the website: <https://gmscl.nprocure.com> & Tender Notice. Interested bidders are requested to submit the tender through e-tender process.

Duration of downloading of tender document (online) :-  
09/11/2019 to 30/11/2019 up to 15.55 Hrs.

Last date for Submission (online) : 30/11/2019 up to 16-00 HRS  
Last date for submission of physical document : 02/11/2019 up to 16-00 HRS  
Opening of Technical Bid Date (online) 03/12/2019 At 15-00 HRS.

INF/1466/19-20 MANAGING DIRECTOR

TAMILNADU CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION  
Head Office: 12, Thambusamy Road, Kilpauk, Chennai-600 010.  
Ph. No. (044) 26426773 Email id : tncsc.tn@nic.in  
CIN:U15137TN1972SGC006157

e-TENDER NOTICE  
No. : B56/050032/2019 Date : 06.11.2019

e-Tender No. : TNCSC/19-20/ET-10  
Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation invites Online electronic tender for "The purchase of 60,000 MTs of any one of dal namely Tur dal (Split-Husked & Fatka) / Canadian Yellow Lentil (Split - Husked & Laired No.2) as per Agmark specification".  
Complete e-Tender document can be viewed and downloaded through <https://www.msctcecommerce.com/eprochome/tncsc> and also available in [www.tenders.tn.gov.in](http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in)  
The bidders have to participate online bidding only with Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of Class-II or Class-III.  
For Registration and further details contact MSTC LIMITED, Phone: 25222842/ 25251910/ 25261005 E-Mail: [mtscro@mtscindia.co.in](mailto:mtscro@mtscindia.co.in)  
Last Date for Online Submission : 12.12.2019  
DIPR/4165/Tender/2019 MANAGING DIRECTOR.

MAHARASHTRA RAJYA SAHAKARI DUDH MAHASANGH MARYADIT MUMBAI  
MAHANAND DAIRY  
Western Express Highway, Goregaon (East), Mumbai - 400 065.  
Tel. : 26856936 / E Mail ID : [mdmahanand.18@gmail.com](mailto:mdmahanand.18@gmail.com)

E-TENDER NOTICE  
E-Tenders are invited from reputed & experienced manufacturers to participate in the competitive bidding process for the supply of following Materials. Online bid forms along with details are available on website: <https://mahatenders.gov.in>

Sr. No.	ITEM NAME	QTY. (NOS/KG)
1	Opaque Polyfilm (Milk Pouch Film)	600 M.T.

Managing Director, MRSDDMM

VENTURE CENTER  
Center for Biopharma Analysis  
Supported by NBM, BIRAC, Govt. Of India, NCL Campus

11th November 2019  
TENDER NOTICE  
Sealed tenders are invited in two bid system (Technical and Commercial Bid) from reputed manufacturers and their accredited/sole selling agents for the Supply, Installation and Commissioning & Satisfactory Demonstration of following items:

No	EDC/NIT/2019/004	Multi Angle Light Scattering Detector
No <th>EDC/NIT/2019/005</th> <th>Surface Plasmon Resonance Instrument (SPR)</th>	EDC/NIT/2019/005	Surface Plasmon Resonance Instrument (SPR)
No <th>EDC/NIT/2019/006</th> <th>Differential Scanning Calorimeter (DSC)</th>	EDC/NIT/2019/006	Differential Scanning Calorimeter (DSC)
No <th>EDC/NIT/2019/007</th> <th>Fourier Transformation -Infrared Spectrometer (FT-IR)</th>	EDC/NIT/2019/007	Fourier Transformation -Infrared Spectrometer (FT-IR)
No <th>EDC/NIT/2019/008</th> <th>High Resolution Mass Spectrometer (HRMS)</th>	EDC/NIT/2019/008	High Resolution Mass Spectrometer (HRMS)

For further details please visit : [www.venturecenter.co.in](http://www.venturecenter.co.in)  
Or <http://eprocure.gov.in/publish/app> Director, EDC

100, NCL Innovation Park, Dr Homi Bhabha Road,  
Pune – 411008 | Ph: 020-25865875/76/77; +91 7410045651 |  
Email: [edna@venturecenter.co.in](mailto:edna@venturecenter.co.in)

Delhi Transport Infrastructure  
Development Corporation Ltd.  
An Enterprises of Govt. of NCT of Delhi  
ISBT Anand Vihar Delhi-110092  
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

The Executive Engineer, DTIDC invites tenders on behalf of MD, DTIDC Ltd for the following work through e-procurement solution only.

1. NIT No. : 47/2019-20  
Tender ID No. : 2019\_DTIDC\_183429\_1  
Name of work : Maintenance of ISBT Anand Vihar  
SH : Deployment of computer Operator for operation of RFID System at ISBT Anand Vihar.

Estimated Cost : Rs. 47,31,600/-  
Earnest Money : Rs. 2,36,600/-  
Time Allowed : 365 Days  
Last date of receipt of tenders : 21.11.2019

The Tender forms and other details can be obtained from the website <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in/>

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
DTIDC Ltd., ISBT  
Anand Vihar, Delhi

DIP/SHABDARTH/0979/19-20

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Call : 0120-6651214

DAY TODAY BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)  
The Moon makes a series of fascinating and sensitive aspects, evoking a number of romantic dreams and illusions. You'll be susceptible to all sorts of personal appeals. If you're looking for love you could be in luck! But then you're due a dose of good fortune.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)  
Those of you who have intimate secrets should tread very carefully. On the one hand you may be tempted to go behind somebody's back, on the other, you must remember that the planets, and hence other people, are just not in a trustworthy mood.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)  
Your tricky planetary aspects may simplify practical matters but could complicate personal involvements. You're offered the chance to speed up financial transactions, especially inasmuch as they involve your home. But will family members see eye-to-eye? Well, yes, perhaps.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)  
The Moon's alignment with your house of relationships is bound to make you realise the importance certain other people play in your life. In fact, you will be reminded that, much as you think you can go it alone, you can't really survive without them.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)  
There's a romantic buzz in the air, one which should please and excite your Leonine soul. If there's anything you can do to make your immediate environment more colourful, then please do so now. You can expect unusual invitations, and visits from strange people.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)  
The Moon reaches a vital stage in its cycle this week, which means that you should begin to wind up a number of projects. In particular, I'd say that legal matters and overseas links should now be settled. Stay one step ahead of family members and put forward your suggestions for domestic improvements.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)  
You may go about your daily affairs with a spring in your step. Even working Librans will be mainly preoccupied with family relationships and domestic obligations, so stay ahead of the game. Follow your instincts and don't be intolerant of others' little foibles.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)  
The combination of Venus with Mercury and Jupiter makes you intensely well-meaning but, while hopes are high, the causes of misunderstanding lie around every corner and under every stone. Think before you open your mouth, or you're bound to say the wrong thing.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)  
Financial stars are looking decidedly healthy, and, believe it or not, there are a number of ways in which you can save or make money. Most of these relate to your domestic regime and family relationships. That's a good enough reason why you should ask partners to repeat themselves if you didn't listen last time.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)  
The Moon exerts a powerful role over your sign, an indication that the odds are stacked in your favour. If plans do go awry the problem may be that you are too emotional to adequately appreciate the real situation. Perhaps circumstances are not really as mysterious as you think.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)  
Both partnership and professional interests are stressed by certain adverse planetary influences – and somehow the two seem to be linked. However, I doubt if there'll be any answers just yet – perhaps not for another four or five days. Patience suits you.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)  
Mars, ruling your energy level, is heading for a most romantic, imaginative, and irresponsible aspect to passionate Pluto, and a serious contact with Saturn. The message is clear; you must put all recent opportunities on a permanent footing. That is, of course, if you wish them to continue.

BHUBANESWAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION  
No.31385 NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement Date.07.11.2019  
Bid Reference No - BMC-DIV-I-07/2019-20

On behalf of the Commissioner, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), City Engineer, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation invites **Percentage Rate Bids for the work mentioned below through e-Procurement** in conformity with the terms and conditions of this Advertisement and the Detailed Tender Call Notice (DTCN) in Two Bid system (Part-I: General & Technical Bid and Part-II: Financial Bid / Price Bid / BOQ) from intending bidders fulfilling the eligibility criteria mentioned in this Notice and other qualifying requirements mentioned in this DTCN. **Bidders are also required to be registered with Odisha State Government in the class specified in the DTCN or else the successful bidder shall get themselves registered with Govt. of Odisha (If not registered) in appropriate class in line with the requirement of DTCN before signing of agreement.** Agreement is to be drawn up by BMC with the successful/selected bidder in the prescribed contract form of BMC (attached to the DTCN). Each bid should be submitted on-line through the website [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in) by eligible bidders. The bidders should have necessary Portal Enrolment (Digital Signature Certificate) under e-procurement Process of Govt. of Odisha in required class/category. For queries, if any on this DTCN, intending bidders may contact Executive Engineer - 1/City Engineer, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation. Bhubaneswar.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Approx. Estimated. Cost In Rs.	E.M.D in Rs. *	Cost of Bid Documents Including GST in Rs.	Period of Completion	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Reclamation of Taria Tank Waterbody in BMC Ward No.23	21882202/-	2,18,900/-	11,200/-	6 (Six) Months	'B' and "A" Class
2	Reclamation of Ananta Basudev Purohit Tank Waterbody at GGP in BMC Ward No.19	22447659/-	2,24,500/-	11,200/-	6 (Six) Months	'B' and "A" Class

1. Time Schedule for Bidding:  
Sl.No. Description Critical Dates  
i Period of availability of tenders on-line for bidding From Dt.15.11.2019 (11.00 AM) to Dt.29.11.2019 (5.00 PM)  
ii Last date & time of seeking clarifications (if any) Dt.27.11.2019 (5.00 PM)  
iii Last date & time of bidding on-line Dt.29.11.2019 (5.00 PM)  
iv Date & time of opening of the Technical Bids received on-line Dt.30.11.2019 (11.00 AM onwards)  
v Date & time of opening of Price Bid/Financial Bid/ DTCN Part-II To be intimated later to the bidder(s) found qualified after checking and evaluation of Technical Bids received on-line.

2. Other details can be seen in the bidding document/DTCN available in website [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in) (for view, download and bidding) and in BMC website [www.bmc.gov.in](http://www.bmc.gov.in) (for view and download only).

3. Subsequent corrigendum, if required, shall appear in these websites.

4. Authority reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons thereof subject to the limitations prescribed by Central Vigilance Commission.

By Order of Commissioner, BMC  
City Engineer  
Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation

Progress Through Partnership for a Better Bhubaneswar

Public Notice  
This is to inform to the public a large that I, RAHAMAT ILAHI, S/O REHMAN ILAHI R/O 10-9/930 KOTAIA YOOSUF, HAPUR, U.P. have lost/misplaced the original documents such as GPA in favour of Krishan Chhabra S/o Shri Dattatram and Agreement to sell in favour of Girdhar Bhandari S/o Shri Krishan Lal Bhandari in respect of Commercial property/Shop No.C-604, New Subzi Mandi Azadpur, Delhi Vide Agreement to Sell Dt. 12.01.1995 & GPA duly Regd. on Dated 12.01.1995 before Sub-Registrar Delhi executed by the allottee Mr. Ganga Bishan Bhasin. If any person found said documents kindly inform/return to me at below mentioned address.  
Mr. Rahamat ilahi R/O 10-9/930 KOTAIA YOOSUF, HAPUR, U.P. Phone No.999849122

"IMPORTANT"  
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OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR  
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F-17/Prov-Fact/Undergarments/CJ-14/2019-20/CD3568853 583 dated: 05/11/19  
Tender ID No.: 2019\_CJT\_183365\_1\_2\_3 & 4  
e-TENDER NOTICE  
For and on behalf of the President of India, e-tender (online procurement website <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in/>) are invited for procurement of raw material and machinery equipments for manufacturing of undergarments at CJ-14, Mandoli, Delhi, for the year 2019-20 for 01 year from the date of issue of rate contract (extendable upto 03 months). The NIT has been uploaded and available along with terms and conditions and detailed specifications. All the tenderers participating in e-tendering and should have a Digital Signature / Smart Card and should apply online before the Last Date and Time. In case (03/12/19) is being declared Govt. Holiday the next working day will be treated as Tender Date.)  
Estimated Cost of Work: Rs. 02.50 Crores. (Approx)  
Date of release of tender through E-procurement website <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in/>: 13/11/2019  
Last date / Time of receipt of tenders through e-procurement solution : 03/12/2019 at 12:00 Noon  
Date of on line opening of Pre-qualification bids: 03/12/2019 at 12:30 PM  
Sd/-  
Superintendent: PHQ-II  
Tihar, New Delhi  
DIP/Shabdarth/0977/19-20



WEEK AHEAD



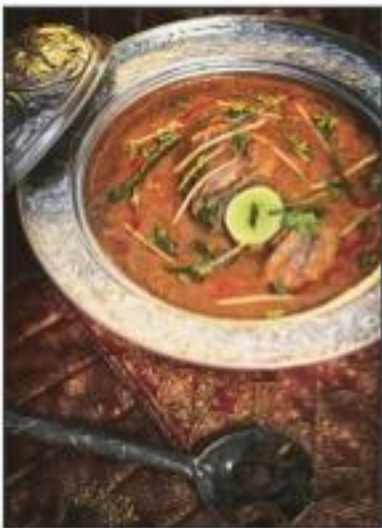
Culture Bridge

THE FIRST such cultural festival in India, Egypt by the Ganga aims to showcase cultural and intellectual heritage of the country with performances by the Cairo Opera House Ballet, dances from Egypt, along with exhibitions and cultural symposium. On November 14-15, at Dr Ambedkar International Centre, Janpath.



Stories of a Land

THE TWO-DAY Spirit of Africa Festival will host a selection of critically acclaimed plays and stories by Wole Soyinka, Ama Ata Aidoo and Ntozake Shange. Conogolese-Nigerian band Black Gang Music will perform, apart from Sunshine Ensemble, who will hold a workshop on the Djembe. On November 16-17, at Akshara Theatre, Baba Kharak Singh Marg.



Spice Trail

FOOD FESTIVAL Dastan-e-Dilli, under the guidance of culinary expert Osama Jalali and curated by Executive Chef Ritesh Negi, will have a fare of dishes such as kebabs, biryani, mut-ton dishes, including the popular Gosht ka halwa. From November 15 to 24, 7.30 to 11.30 pm, at SXVIII, Radisson Blu MBD Noida.

SNAPSHOT



A Disciple's Tribute

BHARATNAYTAM GURU Jamuna Krishnan, trained by doyennes of the art form such as KJ Govindarajan of Delhi and Kalanidhi Narayanan of Chennai, was known for her innovative use of the traditional dance form. This "out-of-the-box thinking" is precisely what emerged to be the biggest learning for her disciple Shreyasi Gopinath. Paying homage to her guru, Gopinath performed at India International Centre in Delhi on Friday. Her performance was based on Krishnan's choreography. She used the music composed by her guru for the *pushpanjali*, an offering to Lord Natraj, marking the beginning of the performance and *tillana*, the end of the dance. In remembrance of one of Krishnan's favourite pieces, Gopinath included Kabir's doha. For her main piece, *varnam*, Gopinath performed an adulation to Lord Shiva, pleading her friend to call her beloved in the season of spring, when all of nature is in pairs but she remains alone. An alumnus of Kalakshetra, the dancer wanted to pay respect to her late guru who had acted as a nurturer to her "young mind", straight out of college. In the six years that she had been under Krishnan, Gopinath says she had learnt to think differently, while staying true to tradition.

SONAL GUPTA



(Clockwise from above) *Temple Under Dark Mountains*; *Flower Sutra at Assi Ghat*; *Weaver from Kalahandi* Photo courtesy: Manu Parekh; the artist in Delhi Renuka Puri

# ‘We have this problem of originality’

Manu Parekh on referencing works of Western masters in his recent works and the drama in his art



VANDANA KALRA

ONE OF India's most celebrated modernists, artist Manu Parekh is known for his powerful landscapes and bold strokes. At 80, he follows the discipline of a craftsman, spending hours at his studio. His ongoing exhibition presented by Saffronart in Delhi comprises his recent works, where the modernist borrows from western masters. He talks about his influences, Banaras as his muse and how artists should be willing to take risks. Excerpts:

**This exhibition comes after your much celebrated retrospective ‘Manu Parekh: 60 Years of Selected Works’ in 2018. If you could share your thoughts while making these works?**

This set of works was influenced by the retrospective. During the exhibition, especially in Delhi, I would visit the venue almost everyday to study the work on display and the evolution. At times, when you are working, there are several complexes with regard to how will people react. I think one should do what they feel like. The critical analyses can come later, why fear when making the work. For instance, my works from the '60s did not get the same appreciation then, that they have received at the exhibition. Artists should be willing to take risks.

**In this exhibition, you have made direct references to works of Western masters. Were you skeptical that some might look down upon them?**

I take a lot of interest in art history. I

openly admit that modern painting is a Western discipline, just like miniature came from us. Luckily in art college (Sir JJ School of Art), I got a professor like S Palsikar, who was a strict disciplinarian and taught us the techniques so well. Later, I also worked with several craftspeople while was working with the Handloom Board. From the Western masters, I learnt oil handling, the powerful strokes. In Western history, people have made direct references to past works. In India, we have this problem of 'originality' and try to hide any influence. Once Arshile Gorky (Armenian-American painter) told Willem de Kooning (Dutch-American artist), after viewing his work, 'I think you are really interested in 'individuality', and added, 'If you run after originality, originality will run after you.' Gorky would copy Picasso's paintings to develop his own language. He was criticised for copying Western masters, but now he is reckoned as the father of New York School and abstract expressionism.

**Were you always an admirer of Vincent van Gogh? In the exhibition, we see your interpretation of *The Potato Eaters*. You have Indianised the masterpiece.**

For me, there were two van Gogh — the writer and the painter. I am a great admirer

of his letter writing. When I visited Kalahandi in Odisha around 20 years ago, I immediately thought of *The Potato Eaters*. In my own work, I have replicated parts of it, including the lamp. Van Gogh was also influenced by others. Once Theo (his brother) was angry with van Gogh and told him that by looking at your work. I can tell you were with which artist the previous night. He would be so influenced.

**In the exhibition, we also see Banaras, a city you have been painting for years. What is it about the place that it has stayed with you for so long?**

I first went to Banaras after my father's death in 1980, and have revisited it innumerable times and am still happy to go there. It is so photogenic. It is called the 'City of Light', but after going there for so many years, I have realised that there are two kinds of light there — man-made and god-made. God-made is how the sky changes in every season. Man-made is how it is dressed with different lighting, decoration. There are so many layers and contradictions. In this exhibition, I have referenced well-known works for painting Banaras as well (including Paul Klee's *The Tree of Houses*, Chaim Soutine's *Landscape with Figures-Ceret*, Claude Monet's *San Giorgio Maggiore at Dusk* and pichwai paintings).

**In the book accompanying the exhibition, you also write about your admiration for FN Souza.**

I really admired two artists from the Progressive Artists' Group — MF Husain and FN Souza. At one level, Souza did not get the recognition he deserved during his lifetime, so I feel his work is very deep. Souza would roam different places. I did the reverse and concentrated on one place.

Painting is not like a Hindi film that releases on Friday and on Saturday-Sunday you know the film is a blockbuster. You need to work for a long time before you know you have been successful. I know this more, as I used to act earlier. There was a kick when the audience used to clap. It was a big decision for me to quit acting. To make a good work is in your hands, whether it is successful or not, you only come to know later.

**We also see several heads in the current exhibition.**

This series is influenced by what I did in theatre, which also shows in the Banaras series. I am influenced by set design. When someone saw the faces, they asked me if they were self-portraits, I said 'no, but one actor is playing different roles'. The actor remains the same. When I paint a head, I paint the expression. When I paint expression, I don't paint expression but create the situation on the face, what is happening around... India in a country with so many different faiths, contrast and contradictions and we should celebrate that.

*The exhibition is on at Lalit Kala Akademi, Delhi, till November 11*

# Remembering the Hero

Piyush Mishra on his 1994 play on Bhagat Singh, which he has recently revived

DIPTI NAGPAUL

IT HAS the usual high-octane dialogues, laced with patriotic fervour, that have for decades marked every on-stage or screen depiction of Bhagat Singh. However, what stands out in *Gagan Damama Bajjo* is its music. Composed beautifully and played on harmonium, guitar and duff, the songs help tell Bhagat Singh's story a tad differently.

Songs, after all, are also Piyush Mishra's strength. The 56-year-old is best known for penning lyrics for films such as *Gulaal* and *Gangs of Wasseypur*. "Everyone knows Bhagat Singh's story. But the question was how do we tell it differently?" says Mishra, who wrote the play in 1994, when he was still practising theatre in Delhi. "When we started to sift through the available research, we realised everyone looks up to him as a hero but he was as human as any of us. We decided to

focus on those details, like his friends, his love for music and rasgullas, his relationship with his parents," adds Mishra.

His narrative looks at the lives of Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru through the eyes of a former friend and comrade, Markand Trivedi. Trivedi gives up the struggle for freedom after the boys bully him for questioning their use of violence and blatant disregard for Gandhi. Carrying the hurt from that incident for decades, Trivedi meets surviving members of the group. However, 50 years after independence, he realises Bhagat Singh's heroism and continuing relevance.

As he preps for the fifth and sixth shows of *Gagan Damama Bajjo*, which premiered in Mumbai at the ongoing Prithvi Festival, Mishra says he has been having sleepless nights. "It's the nature of the medium; each show is a different play because the moments created or mistakes made during one show never repeat. But I am a happier man



A scene from *Gagan Damama Bajjo*

today than I have been in years because I have returned to theatre, which are my roots," adds the National School of Drama alumnus.

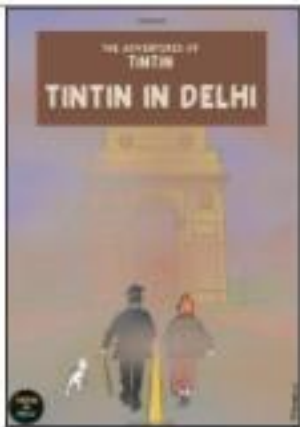
While considering a comeback, Mishra was sure he wanted to work on something he had penned. And *Gagan Damama Bajjo* was "the right piece for the times we live in". "We need a Bhagat Singh today because things have only got worse. We still live under rule, except that the colour of the skin has changed. I am sure that if Bhagat Singh lived in present day India, he would have again been hanged, this time under charges of sedi-

tion," Mishra asserts, adding that the play has been denied space for performance in several venues across India. "It pisses off everyone because it shows Bhagat Singh diss religion and question Gandhi," he remarks.

While reviving the play, Mishra decided to direct it himself. "There have been renditions in the past but none has matched the passion that NK Sharma introduced in it when he directed it. We created the play together, almost directing it while the writing process was still on. So I felt it'd be best for me to be at its helm this time," says Mishra.

## TINTIN IN INDIA

Kolkata-based graphic designer Rhiddhiraj Palit has given iconic book covers from *The Adventures of Tin Tin* a spin to show the popular character venturing in India and dealing with issues such as Delhi pollution, Kashmir and Mission Mars.



# For the Sake of Music

Singer-songwriter Aditi Ramesh on fusing genres and sisterhood in the music scene



Aditi Ramesh during a gig

SURBHI GUPTA

WHEN ADITI RAMESH left her job as a corporate lawyer to pursue music, her expectations were simple — she wanted to engage with the art form and score a few gigs in the process. She did not expect to release original music, or to be recognised in the scene or to find avid listeners. "What has happened is far beyond anything I had expected," she says. After performing for a few months, she released her first EP — *Autocorrect* — in 2017 and her voice, along with fusion of jazz, blues, soul, RnB and funk with Carnatic, and simple and relatable lyrics got her people's attention. Over the weekend, she performed in the Capital, at the November edition of Under the Banyan Tree on a Full Moon Night.

Though she is known for a varied soundscape, it is the lyrics that drive her music, says Ramesh. "There are a lot of things I want to say, a lot on my mind I want to share. So, many a times, it is the music that follows the words," she says. In *Marriageable age*, she recollects all that people say when girls reach the "dark side of their twenties". *Folders* is inspired by a conversation she had with her flatmate about balancing her day job and music career. There is also *Efflux of time*, which is otherwise a legal term, where she sings about the daily struggle of managing time. For this, she had used a guitar looper to loop the background vocals with just a little bit of keyboard. For others, she collaborated with her band — Ishan Jandwani on the drums and Keenan Thomas on bass.

Though it took them two months to create *Autocorrect*, she recorded her latest and second EP — *Leftovers* — in a day. "I perform a lot. Different audiences may not have heard my stuff but we've played it so many times; we keep introducing new songs one by one so that we have something to feel excited about. We had been playing the songs in *Leftovers* for a year, so we could record all four in a day," says Ramesh, who plays the keyboard. For her Delhi gig, she played a new song called *Childhood*. "It's about the time when we were kids and wished to be older and how when we grow older, we recognise the value of what you had as a child," she says.

Ramesh's initiation in music happened when she was living in Buffalo, New York, through lessons in Carnatic vocals and Western classical piano. But music took a backseat as her family moved to Bengaluru, when she was 15, and academics took her attention. "Every time I used to see other people perform, it bothered me that I've lost touch with it," she says. However, she was listening to a variety of music — Carnatic classical, Western classical, jazz, blues, soul, reggae, RnB, and folk — and that made her return to the art form a little less difficult.

When Ramesh started out, she did not go for any sound in particular, it just evolved. The singer-songwriter, who has come to be known for bending genres and making 'Carnatic jazz fusion', doesn't approve of that tag. For her, it is just music. "I don't like to put in certain styles just for the sake of it, it should flow and not feel forced, especially when one is going between genres. I noticed that many Carnatic scales have similarities with jazz scales, so there are certain points in the scales where one can flow into the other," she says.

She is also a part of a band called Ladies Compartment. "There aren't enough all-women groups in India. Three years ago, when I started out, there were not as many female artistes. There are a lot of them now making original music and conducting their own bands. The feeling of sisterhood in the scene is stronger now," says Ramesh, now working on a third EP.



**It was the bowlers who won us the game. I know I have to say that being a batsman, but I know how tough it was given the dew. But this must be one of the best comebacks in this format for India."**

**ROHIT SHARMA**  
AFTER THE NAGPUR T20I

# IOA cries foul over age limit, autonomy issues in draft Sports Code

**MIHIR VASAVDA**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 10

THE INDIAN Olympic Association has opposed the proposal to restrict the age limit of office-bearers in National Sports Federations (NSFs) to 70 years and 'strongly objected' to the exclusion of state Olympic Associations from the IOA as per the draft National Code for Good Governance in Sports (NCGGS) 2017.

In its feedback submitted to the sports ministry on Sunday, the IOA also disapproved of the provision in the draft code for the government to nominate or constitute an Athletes' Commission, arguing they are 'duty bound to protect autonomy of sports federations', while seeking clarity on a clause pertaining to exemption from revealing details about commercial contracts under the Right to Information Act.

The sports ministry shared the draft of the NCGGS with the sports federations on October 7 and later set November 10 as the

deadline to submit feedback. In the meantime, the ministry has relegated the code to the back-burner and it has been suggested that a new committee be formed to have a re-look at the proposed draft. However, no timeline has been set for the formation of the panel as well as redrafting the code.

The federations and ministry were earlier at the loggerheads following the proposal in the NCGGS that no minister, MP, MLA or government servant shall be an office-bearer or board member of a federation. However, sports minister Kiren Rijiju had said after meeting the NSFs that the government would be open to relaxing this clause.

The IOA, sources said, submitted its feedback to ensure their suggestions and objections are taken into consideration when the new committee meets to re-draft the code.

It has been proposed in the code that a member will be 'disqualified' after 'attainment of the age of 70 years'. The IOA, however, has argued that even though the norm



The Narinder Batra-led IOA has proposed that every national sports federation be allowed to follow the age limit of their respective international federation, or a uniform age limit of 75 be imposed. *Express file*

is in sync with the Olympic Charter, the International Olympic Committee has not enforced it on all International Federations.

Instead, the IOA has proposed that every NSF be allowed to follow the age limit of their respective international federation, or a uniform age limit of 75 be imposed. "Considering the longevity of a person's term at the IOC, the rule of relieving membership at the age of 70 years is optimal for the IOC. But given the differences in the membership and governance structure between the IOC and NOC (National Olympic Committee), that rule of age limitation cannot be implemented in toto for all members on the Board in the NOC. If there has to be a limitation, 75 years proposed as the age limit," the IOA said.

It added: "The NSFs should be permitted to follow the age limit as per the governance principle of the respective IF. Besides, there is no law of the land that limits the age of a person for honorary service in a society or non-profit organisation."

The draft - which states that the IOA and

federations 'shall be deemed to be a public authority' - exempts the bodies from revealing commercial details under the RTI Act. The IOA has raised doubts over the move and questioned if it contradicts the provisions under the Act. "The doubt is whether this contradicts the provision in the Right to Information (RTI) Act, whereby the Public Information Officer (PIO) cannot deny information citing commercial confidence for agreements between a public authority and private party," the IOA has pointed out.

The sports code was first formulated in 2011. It spelt out election procedures, age and tenure norms for office-bearers and brought federations under the RTI Act, among other decisions. However, it was argued in 2014 that some of the points in the code were not updated as per the requirements of modern-day sport.

Consequently, on the direction of the Delhi High Court, the ministry re-constituted a panel that revised the sports code in 2017. However, due to various complications, it has not yet been enforced.

## KPL fixing probe gets a shot in arm, international bookie nabbed

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
BENGALURU, NOVEMBER 10

THE BENGALURU crime branch police got a major breakthrough in the Karnataka Premier League match-fixing investigation on Sunday when they arrested an "international cricket bookie", Sanyam Gulati.

The bookie was in hiding in the West Indies after the KPL fixing scam surfaced and was arrested on the basis of a look-out circular issued by the police. He is alleged to have used the services of an Indian Premier League and KPL entertainer Bhavesh Bafna to influence players to indulge in fixing during KPL matches.

"International bookie Sanyam has been arrested. He is a resident of Haryana. He was absconding in the West Indies. LoC was issued. He is arrested in the case of match fixing done by Bhavesh Bafna," the Bengaluru crime branch police said on Sunday.

Bafna — a celebrity drummer who entertained fans in T20 leagues like the KPL, the TNPL and the IPL — and Gulati approached Bellary Tuskers fast bowler Bhavesh Gulecha to give more than 10 runs in an over in a KPL game in the 2019 season, police said.

Bafna was arrested in October by the crime branch police after a complaint by Gulecha. According to Gulecha, he was offered the prospect of playing in the IPL and Rs two lakh as advance for meeting Gulati and accepting the deal. The cricketer claims to have turned down the offer.

Bafna's name cropped up when the police were investigating the Belagavi Panthers owner Asfak Ali Thara's role in the fixing scandal. Thara was the first person to be arrested in the case. He and Bellary Tuskers owner Arvind Venkatesh Reddy are alleged to have conspired with bookies and players to fix games in the league, including the including the 2019 final which the Tuskers lost.

Last week, Bellary captain CM Gautam, who has also led the Karnataka Ranji team in the past, and his team-mate and first-class player Abrar Kazi were arrested by the Bengaluru police for their alleged involvement in fixing at least four matches over the last two seasons.

Bellary owner Reddy, a real estate businessman who also co-owns the Karnataka Tuskers team in the Abu Dhabi T10 League, has been named in police reports but has not been arrested as yet.

A total of eight persons, including four players and a team owner, have been arrested so far in the KPL fixing scam. Gulati is the first major cricket bookie to be nabbed in connection with the scandal. Another bookie, Jatin Sethi, named in the Bafna-Gulecha case is absconding.

"The KPL fixing scam runs really deep and there are many big names involved. These will emerge as investigation progresses and evidence is gathered," a senior police official said.

## Pak first-class players turn backs on red-ball cricket to play T10

**Karachi:** Three uncapped Pakistani players have walked out of their first-class teams, insisting they wanted to play for a franchise in the T10 league in Abu Dhabi, giving a new turn to the ongoing tussle between players and the Pakistan Cricket Board. Fast bowler Haris Rauf and batsmen Mirza Ehsan Baig and Sohail Akhtar have apparently decided to fly out to Abu Dhabi, although the board is yet to issue NOCs to players for the tournament.

"These three players informed their teams in domestic first-class cricket after the national T20 championship that they couldn't play any longer in the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy as they were going to play for their Pakistan Super League franchise, Lahore Qalanders," a well-informed source said. **PTI**

# Chahar strikes biggest 6 of them all

Medium pacer runs through Bangladesh's batting line-up on his way to best-ever bowling figures in T20Is; India win series 2-1



## 20 BALLS-7 RUNS-6 WICKETS

Washington Sundar ruffles Deepak Chahar's hair during the third and final T20I against Bangladesh on Sunday. India won the decider by 30 runs.

■ **Deepak Chahar's 6/7 against Bangladesh are the best figures ever in T20Is. He also becomes the first Indian to clinch a hat-trick in T20Is and the 11th player overall to do so.**

■ **Chahar is the fourth bowler to take a six-wicket haul in T20Is. SL spinner Ajantha Mendis did it twice: 6/8 vs Zim in 2012 and 6/16 vs Aus in 2011. Yuzvendra Chahal, 6/25 vs Eng in '17, is also in this list.**

■ **This is the first instance where a bowler picked up two wickets in two balls thrice in the same innings. Chahar first shot into the limelight when he took 8-10 on his Ranji debut against Hyderabad in 2010.**

■ **While Chahar is the first Indian bowler to claim a hat-trick in the T20Is, four others — Chetan Sharma, Kapil Dev, Kuldeep Yadav and Mohd Shami — have achieved the feat in the 50-over format.**

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NOVEMBER 10

DEEPAK CHAHAR had not done too much to catch the eye when Chennai Super Kings picked him at the 2018 IPL auction. On paper, the medium pacer had all the attributes to prosper in the game's shortest format. However, a series of intermittent injuries had cluttered his mind and dampened his spirit. He had a fairly middling debut season for Chennai — 10 wickets from 12 matches at an average of 27.80. However, captain MS Dhoni and coach Stephen Fleming helped him find his verve and also rekindle his passion for the game. The likes of Dwayne Bravo, Lungi Ngidi and bowling coach Andrew Bichel also played crucial roles in helping Chahar hone his skills further. This was backed by a regimented fitness routine. He was no longer dependent only on swing to outwit batsmen. He began to touch 140kmph mark regularly and even expanded his repertoire by adding deceptive cutters and a knuckle ball.

Chahar finally began to taste success the following season, when he turned into one of Dhoni's foremost weapons. Chennai may not have won the 2019 IPL title, but Chahar enhanced his reputation by consistently removing top-order batsmen, which ended in him scalping 22 wickets from 17 matches at an impressive average of 21.90. The breakthrough IPL season also saw Chahar bowling according to the match situation and exploit batsmen's weaknesses.

This was evident against Bangladesh in

Nagpur, where the 27-year-old returned scarcely-believable figures of 6/7 in 3.2 overs — the best ever by a bowler in T20Is — and finished the match with a hat-trick. His efforts were largely instrumental in India romping home to a eventually comfortable 30-run win and seal the three-match series 2-1.

It was a match in which Rohit Sharma's team effectively went in a bowler short — having replaced all-rounder Krunal Pandya with Manish Pandey. Despite the best efforts from India's batsmen — they finished at 174/5 batting first — there was a worry that Bangladesh's effective middle order could exploit the situation.

However, Chahar continuously punched holes in the visitors' plans. First up, he removed Liton Das and Soumya Sarkar off consecutive deliveries to derail the chase, and just when a 98-run third-wicket stand between young opener Mohammad Naim and Mohammad Mithun was turning into a match-winning one, Sharma brought back his main strike bowler.

Chahar did not disappoint his captain; he dismissed Mithun with a devious slower delivery that swerved and forced a mistimed stroke. At this stage, Chahar's figures read 2-0-3-3. He was then summoned towards the fog end of the innings to mop up Bangladesh's tail.

This spectacular performance not only highlighted the rapid strides Chahar has taken, but also underlined that India would not miss the services of Bhuvneshwar Kumar, sitting out with a hamstring injury. Consequently, Chahar's brilliance even rubbed off on the rest of his

**It was a match in which Rohit Sharma's team effectively went in a bowler short — having replaced all-rounder Krunal Pandya with Manish Pandey.**

team-mates. All-rounder Shivam Dube, who was playing only his second T20 International, also played a stellar support act by pegging Bangladesh back with three quick wickets in the middle overs.

**Rahul, Iyer make waves**

Last week, BCCI posted a video on Twitter that showed KL Rahul and Shreyas Iyer participating in a fitness challenge organised by the team's strength and conditioning coach Nick Webber. The batsmen were entrusted with an arduous task — make as many waves as possible on parallel ropes under 30 seconds. Iyer won the challenge, having performed 50 waves in the stipulated time as compared to Rahul's 45.

Cut to Sunday evening and the duo continued to make waves, this time on the cricket field. When Iyer joined Rahul, India were in a spot of bother at 35/2 in the sixth over. They had already lost their irrepressible captain and Shikhar Dhawan cheaply.

Quite often in the past, India's top 3 comprising Sharma, Dhawan and Virat Kohli have scored the bulk of the team's runs, leaving precious little for the middle order. But on Sunday, the stage was set up perfectly for Rahul and Iyer. Through a mixture of sumptuous stroke-play and

deft running, they gave the innings the requisite momentum.

Rahul, in particular, was batting like a dream, piercing the off-side field with ridiculous ease. Iyer, on the other hand, survived a chance early on when Aminul Islam Biplob dropped him even before he had opened his account.

Iyer rode his luck and marched on. When the two were at the crease, no score looked inconceivable. Their alliance yielded 59 runs in a shade under seven overs. Inexplicably though, just when Rahul had looked impregnable, he holed out to Liton Das at long-off for a sublime 35-ball 52. The Karnataka batsman kicked the turf in disgust as he walked off. A feather-bed track on offer and with an insipid Bangladesh bowling attack, a three-figure score was there for the taking.

Rahul's departure did little to hamper Iyer's belligerence. He tore into off-spinner Afif Hossain for three consecutive sixes to race to his maiden T20I half-century. In doing so, the Mumbaier also gave India the desired thrust in the middle overs. When he departed for a whirlwind 33-ball 62, India had comfortably set their sights on a score in excess of 170.

Splendid hands from Rahul and Iyer would only add to the selectors' dilemma when captain Kohli returns to the fold. Through this knock, Iyer only reaffirmed his credentials as a power-hitter in the middle order — someone who has the ability to back the efforts of either Sharma and Kohli — or as he displayed tonight, could also act as the pivot and set match-winning targets.

## SCORECARD » India vs Bangladesh

3rd T20I | Nagpur | Toss: B'desh

INDIA **174/5 IN 20 OVS**

**R Sharma** b S Islam **2** (6b)

**S Dhawan** c Mahmudullah b S Islam **19** (16b, 4x4)

**KL Rahul** c Liton b Al-Amin **52** (35b, 7x4)

**S Iyer** c Liton b S Sarkar **62** (33b, 3x4, 5x6)

**R Pant** b S Sarkar **6** (9b)

**M Pandey** not out **22** (13b, 3x4)

**S Dube** not out **9** (8b)

■ **Extras:** (w 2) **2**

■ **Fall of wickets:** 1-3 (Rohit Sharma, 1.3 ov), 2-35 (Shikhar Dhawan, 5.2 ov), 3-94 (KL Rahul, 12.1 ov), 4-139 (Rishabh Pant, 16.1 ov), 5-144 (Shreyas Iyer, 16.5 ov)

■ **Bowling:**

**Al-Amin Hossain** 4-0-22-1

**Shafiu Islam** 4-1-32-2

**Mustafizur Rahman** 4-0-42-0

**Aminul Islam** 3-0-29-0

**Soumya Sarkar** 4-0-29-2

**Afif Hossain** 1-0-20-0

BANGLADESH **144 IN 19.2 OV**

**Liton Das** c Sundar b Chahar **9** (8b, 2x4)

**Mohd Naim** b Dube **81** (48b, 10x4, 2x6)

**S Sarkar** c Dube b Chahar **0** (1b)

**Mohd Mithun** c Rahul b Chahar **27** (29b, 2x4, 1x6)

**Mushfiqur** b Dube **0** (1b)

**Mahmudullah** b Chahal **8** (10b)

**Afif Hossain** c & b Dube **0** (1b)

**A Islam** b Chahar **9** (9b, 1x4)

**S Islam** c Rahul b Chahar **4** (6b)

**M Rahman** c Iyer b Chahar **1** (3b)

**Al-Amin Hossain** not out **0** (0b)

■ **Extras:** (lb 3, w 2) **5**

■ **Fall of wickets:** 1-12 (Liton Das, 2.4 ov), 2-12 (Soumya Sarkar, 2.5 ov), 3-110 (Mohammad Mithun, 12.6 ov), 4-110 (Mushfiqur Rahim, 13.1 ov), 5-126 (Mohammad Naim, 15.3 ov), 6-126 (Afif Hossain, 15.4 ov), 7-130 (Mahmudullah, 16.5 ov), 8-135 (Shafiu Islam, 17.6 ov), 9-144 (Mustafizur Rahman, 19.1 ov), 10-144 (Aminul Islam, 19.2 ov)

■ **Bowling:**

**Khaleel Ahmed** 4-0-27-0

**Washington Sundar** 4-0-34-0

**Deepak Chahar** 3.2-0-7-6

**Yuzvendra Chahal** 4-0-43-1

**S Dube** 4-0-30-3

■ **India won the match by 30 runs. India won the three match series 2-1.**



Coming in at No.4, Shreyas Iyer scored a whirlwind 62 off 33 balls. *PTI*



# Davis Cup row may push young players away from national duty, feels Myneni

**SHAHID JUDGE**  
PUNE, NOVEMBER 10

TWO JUNIORS are hard at practice on the outer courts of the Balewadi Tennis Stadium. They have somehow managed to gain entry into the ATP Challenger in Pune, a \$50,000 event that proudly calls itself #CelebratingIndianTennis. But the sixth edition of the country's most consistent Challenger event isn't the main topic of discussion. The undercurrent of India's upcoming Davis Cup tie against Pakistan and the customary drama that comes with it doesn't stay unnoticed or unspoken. For Saketh Myneni, a 32-year-old veteran, the never-ending controversy surrounding this upcoming tie has taken away all the sheen off the contest. "The Davis Cup thing is going the wrong way. The whole team going and winning is gone (out of the window) now," he says. "We are worried about other things in a negative way." Ever since the draw was made in February, India playing the tie in Pakistan had been a bone of contention. To begin with, the Pulwama attack raised doubts. As the

months went by, the All India Tennis Association (AITA) announced a strong team — which included Myneni — that would make the first Davis Cup trip across the border in 55 years. By August, the Kashmir issue arose, letters were exchanged between AITA and the International Tennis Federation (ITF), and the tie in Islamabad was pushed back from September to November. As the new dates approached, four of the original five members and non-playing captain Mahesh Bhupathi made it clear they will not travel to Pakistan. More letters were exchanged, AITA appointed a new skipper only for this tie — Rohit Rajpal — a new list of 'available' players — Myneni still included — was drawn up should the tie not be shifted to a neutral venue. But it was. The final team and venue are still to be announced, but the likes of Rohan Bopanna and Sumit Nagal have already taken to social media to make clear their disappointment that Bhupathi has been removed for this tie. After all the squabbling, Myneni fears the importance of playing Davis Cup, especially for the younger generation, is lost. "When I was growing up, Davis Cup was

big. Team events for tennis happen only once or twice a year, maybe the Asian Games, Commonwealth Games, along with Davis Cup," says Myneni, who has played six ties. "I don't think the younger generation has seen the good side of it yet. There's too much other drama going on. Tennis is not about the results of the top players like Prajnesh (Gunneswaran), Ramkumar (Ramanathan), Sumit (Nagal) anymore. That's the way the sport is getting in a bad way." Myneni knows all too well what it is like to be involved (unwittingly) in such a drama. In 2016, India's highest-ranked doubles player Bopanna, by virtue of being a top-10 player, had the option of picking a compatriot of his choice to partner for the Rio Olympics. The obvious choice at the time was Leander Paes, with whom Bopanna shares an acrimonious relationship, but Bopanna opted for Myneni and the AITA intervened. A year later, for a Davis Cup tie in Pune against New Zealand, the national body choose Myneni to team up with Paes for the doubles rubber, which led to an outburst by Bopanna. Crucially, Myneni got injured days before the tie and Bopanna allegedly refused to play. The up-and-coming players are still years

away from getting into Davis Cup contention, but Myneni fears that the negativity may potentially make the tournament unattractive. "When they are not involved, they will maybe think that all the things that are written (in newspapers) is what's happening. But once they are involved in the process, maybe it will be a different scenario," he says. "That's the time they will start thinking that they don't want to be a part of the drama. Or maybe, they want to be a part of it. Because representing the country is a huge honour." Regarding the upcoming November 29-30 tie, it is expected that the Pakistan Tennis Federation (PTF) will announce the neutral venue on Monday, and AITA will soon announce the final list of players. Myneni is still in contention, and he always was willing to play the tie, even when it was expected to take place in Pakistan. "We want to go and win, that's the priority for me. I didn't want a forfeiture (in case India couldn't field a team) and a ban and something else to happen, so I was alright with travelling to Pakistan," he adds. "It's about the sport, not about what's happening behind the scene. Unfortunately, (the drama is) what tennis is become now."



"When I was growing up, Davis Cup was big. I don't think the younger generation has seen the good side of it yet," says Myneni, who has played six ties. Express file

# Indian shooting's biggest party

Bajwa leads 1-2 in skeet final at Asian Championships as unprecedented 15 book berths to Tokyo Olympics till now

**NITIN SHARMA**  
CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 10

INDIA WILL have unprecedented participation in the shooting competitions at the Olympics next year as six quota places at the Asian championships took the number of qualifiers to 15, a considerable improvement on the 12 at the 2016 Rio Games. There were 11 Indian shooters at the London Olympics seven years ago. On Sunday, 23-year-old Angad Veer Singh Bajwa clinched the gold in the men's skeet event in a shoot-off against compatriot Mairaj Ahmed. Both were tied at 56 out of 60 and Bajwa took it 6-5 for first place. Bajwa had ended the qualification round tied with seven other shooters, including Ahmed, and earned the third qualification spot for the final behind Ahmed and Habib Saud of Kuwait. Both Indians bagged a quota each out of the three on offer for Tokyo Olympics. "I knew it is the last chance for me and the conditions got too windy during the qualification round with a sandstorm near the range. I kept my cool and kept talking with my coach Tore Brovold when the round was stopped about concentrating on basics and that's what I did in the final and the shoot-off," Bajwa told The Indian Express. Son of Canada-based Gurpal Singh Bajwa, Angad wanted to be a pistol shooter first before shifting to shot gun shooting and opting for skeet. While Chandigarh and Dera Bassi, where the Bajwa family has a farmhouse, do not have an outdoor range, the youngster would initially travel to Patiala daily to practise before his father got a range built at the farmhouse. The family had also moved to Canada to support Angad's dream and the youngster had also become the youngest Canadian Open champion in Vancouver five years ago. "Angad started with pistol shooting but later he was fascinated by the idea of the big gun shooting. And when he opted for skeet, we knew that he had to work hard in this event. And he would often read about the trajectories of the target on different skeet stations. Whenever Angad is in India, most of his time is spent on the range with his grandparents taking care of him. With us in Canada, he is almost on his own in India and it has also made him mature," says Gurpal. Angad had become the Indian national champion in 2018 before he won the gold medal at last year's Asian Championships in Kuwait, where he matched American Vincent Hancock's world record score of 60 in the final. Bajwa has occasionally trained with Hancock apart from training full-time under Norwegian coach Brovold, a 2008 Olympics silver medalist, as the youngster



Angad had become the national champion in 2018 before he won the gold medal at last year's Asian Championships in Kuwait, where he matched American Vincent Hancock's world record score of 60 in the final.

won the bronze medal in this year's World University Games at Naples. This year, Angad had competed in three world cups with his 45th-place finish with a score of 119 in Al Ain World Cup his best. The youngster had to miss the ISSF World Cup Korea after suffering a heat stroke while training in Delhi. Prior to the Asian Championships, Angad also spent time in Cyprus training under Brovold. "Every day is a new day in shooting. The training in Cyprus earlier this year helped me work on my basics as well focusing on the process as whole. I had suffered a heat stroke earlier while training in Delhi and had to miss the world cup in Korea. So I focused on my fitness and lost some weight apart from working on improving upon my stamina," concluded Bajwa.

# Teen Tomar books Tokyo ticket in 50m 3P

**NITIN SHARMA**  
CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 10

It was shooting balloons at the Navgarh fair in Madhya Pradesh as a child that ignited the love for the sport in Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar, who clinched a bronze medal in the men's 50m 3 Positions at the Asian Championship in Doha to bag an Olympic quota for India. Tomar shot a qualification score of 1168 to qualify at the fourth spot for the final - 392 in kneeling position, 397 in prone and 379 in standing. In the final, with three shooters, two from China including world number three Zhao Zhonghao and world number nine Kim JongHun from Korea having already bagged quotas, five shooters were eligible for the three Tokyo spots on offer. Tomar, 18, was fifth with a score of 151.7 after the kneeling series before climbing to second spot with a score of 308 after prone, only 0.6 behind leader Kim. A score of 101.6 in the standing series ensured that Tomar entered the single-shot elimination in third

spot with a lead of 1.9 over Zhang Changhong of China and bagged the quota with two other shooters bowing out. Scores of 9.8, 9.6 and 9.3 meant Tomar finished third with quota in hand. Challenging conditions Tomar also had to face changes in weather conditions as the wind picked up during his round. "Facing the windy conditions was the main challenge as I'm not used to that while training in Delhi or Bhopal. I had to be careful. In the final too, I was under some pressure as the quota places on offer, but once I hit some good shots, it helped me gain my rhythm," Tomar said. Tomar took his time and competed his round only 30 seconds prior to regulation time and Suma Shirur, the high performance coach of Junior shooting team and coach of Indian senior team, breathed a sigh of relief. "Aishwary showed a lot of maturity today compared to an average 18-year-old shooter. It was exceptional shooting by him considering the windy conditions. The wind

had reached a speed of 21 Km/hour but he took his time and showed a lot of calmness and stability to end his qualification round in regulation time and also ensuring he qualifies for the final," says Shirur. The medal and quota was vindication for the specialised preparation Tomar and Indian shooting coach Deepak Kumar Dubey had undertaken ahead of the Doha event. "While the senior shooters had left for Doha earlier to train, Aishwary stayed back in Delhi since we wanted to focus on his specific training. Training with senior shooters sometimes hampers a young shooter in training. We spent three days on training for the finals format. He was also shooting with a new kit so we spend some extra hours for adjustment," Dubey said. "In the final too, he made a good start and at one time was in second place. I guess securing the quota eased him a bit and that was the reason for the average shots in the end." For the time being though, Tomar is not likely to find much time to visit the Navgrah fair in January and shoot some balloons.



On Sunday, 23-year-old Angad Veer Singh Bajwa (right) clinched the gold in the men's skeet event in a shoot-off against compatriot Mairaj Ahmed.

# Sharma scores bogey-free 64, finishes seventh to qualify for next Tour event

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
ANTALYA (TURKEY), NOVEMBER 10

INDIAN GOLFER Shubhankar Sharma fired a bogey-free eight-under 64 on the final day of the crucial Turkish Airlines Open to savour a season-best Tied-7th, his first top-10 result in a year. Sharma, who shot 71-64-71-64 for 18-under 270, had 26 birdies, the second highest in the field, besides an eagle. His 64 on the second and the final day were his best scoring rounds of the year and it also earned him a ticket to South Africa for the second of the Three-event Final series on the European Tour's Race to Dubai. Sharma missed two birdie chances in the first three holes and was then on fire after a 35-yard chip-in for an eagle from the edge of the fourth hole. Thereafter the 23-year-old Sharma soared with six more birdies for a second bogey free eight-under 64 and finished at 18-under. Tyrell Hatton who has been winless since winning Dunhill Links and Italian Open in back-to-back weeks wins in 2017, won the title after an extended play-off that began with six players and ended after four extra holes and under floodlights. Sharma, by his own admission was having a "poor season" till some weeks back, as he was 113th on the Race to Dubai before the Italian Open. He needed to get into a list of Top-70 available players and he began his journey with a Tied-7th place, which was his first Top-10 since Hong Kong last year. He got to 81st and with some players skipping the event, Sharma was in for Turkey. "That was my first goal," he said. "Around the Italian my goal was just to get to the Final Three with Turkey first. The Top-10 (seventh) in Italy and two other decent finishes in France and Portugal just about got me to Turkey. My next goal was to get into next week (South Africa) and now I want to do well to get Top-50 and Dubai," said Sharma. Sharma did not want to look at the dropped shots between fifth and seventh in the first and third rounds with regret. "No I can't look back and regret those. Maybe that fired me up on second day, maybe that pushed me today. When I was four-over after seven yesterday (Round 3) and down to five-under and in the 40s, Dean said, there's still more than 27 holes to go," said Sharma, appreciating his bagman's positivity.

## [SPORTS BAR]



## China Open: Momota wins 10th title of year

Kento Momota won the 10th title of his year as Japan's world number one defeated Chou Tien-chen to retain his Fuzhou China Open crown on Sunday. Home hope Chen Yufei too defended the women's title with a gritty victory over Japan's Nozomi Okuhara. Reigning two-time world champion Momota battled past Taiwan's world number two Chou 21-15, 17-21, 21-18 in a repeat of last year's final. The 25-year-old Japanese has had another hugely successful year, his haul of titles in 2019 including a world crown and the All England Open.

## Kapur finishes second at Thailand Open

Indian golfer Shiv Kapur produced a sizzling back nine to get into play-off, only to lose out on the first extra hole at the Thailand Open on Sunday. Kapur finished tied-second with Thai Pavit Tangkamolprasert, while John Catlin, who won three times in 2018, held a five-foot birdie in the first play-off hole to win the title. Lying tied-11th and five behind the leader at the start, Kapur was still way behind after an even front nine. On the back nine Kapur had five birdies, an eagle and a bogey to storm into a share of the lead and the play-off with Catlin (67) and Pavit (65) as all three were tied at 11-under. In the play-off, Catlin hit into the fairway while Kapur went to the left rough and Pavit to the right.



Chris Jordan scored 12 off the final three deliveries to force a Super Over. AP

## Jordan's all-round show lifts England to series win

England all-rounder Chris Jordan shone with both bat and ball to steer his side to a thrilling super over win against hosts New Zealand in the rain-truncated fifth Twenty20 international at Auckland on Sunday and a 3-2 series victory. Chasing New Zealand's total of 146-5, the touring side needed 16 runs from the last over for victory but managed only three from James Neesham's first three deliveries. Walking in to bat at the fall of Tom Curran, Jordan smashed a six and a four to score 12 from the remaining three deliveries to take his team to 146-7 and force the Super Over. The right-arm seamer then defended the touring side's super over score of 17, taking a wicket while giving away just eight runs. BRIEF SCORES: NZ 146/5 in 11 overs (Guptill 50 off 20 balls, five sixes, Munro 46 off 21, four sixes, Seifert 39 off 16, five sixes) vs England 146/7 in 11 overs (Baird 47 off 18 balls, five sixes, Curran 24 off 11 balls, two sixes, Jordan 12\* off 3, one six, Santner 2-20). Super Over: Eng 17/0: 1-6-1-6-1-2 (Baird 8, Morgan 9, Bowler: Tim Southee). NZ 8/1: 2-w-4-0-Wkt-1-0 (Seifert 6, Guptill 1, Bowler: Jordan).

## Hosts Bengaluru drub Chennaiyin 3-0

Defending champions Bengaluru FC secured their first win this season after thrashing Chennaiyin FC 3-0 in the Indian Super League match on Sunday. Australian midfielder Erik Paartalu got the ball rolling for Bengaluru with the opening goal (14th minute) before captain Sunil Chhetri made it 2-0 with a strike in the 25th minute. Thongkhosiem Haokip (84th) rounded off the win with a late strike. The win lifts Bengaluru to the fifth position in the ISL while Chennaiyin, who are yet to score a goal after four games, are at rock bottom.



## Djokovic thrashes Berrettini at Finals

Novak Djokovic ruthlessly took Matteo Berrettini apart at the ATP Finals on Sunday as he began his quest to reclaim the number one ranking by winning his opening group match 6-2 6-1. Berrettini became the first Italian to play in the season-ending showpiece since 1978 but was given a harsh lesson by the 16-time Grand Slam champion at the O2 Arena. The 32-year-old Djokovic began the match 640 points behind Rafael Nadal in the race to end the year on top of the rankings, but victory chipped that advantage down to 440. Djokovic must at least win two group matches and reach the final to have any chance of matching Pete Sampras's record of ending six separate years as world number one. Nadal, who has concerns over an abdominal injury sustained at the Paris Masters, plays his first group match on Monday.





# Reds leave City miles behind

Klopp's team earns an 8-point cushion atop the Premier League, defeating Guardiola's men 3-1 at Anfield

AP/REUTERS  
NOVEMBER 10

LIVERPOOL SURGED eight points clear at the top of the Premier League by beating Manchester City 3-1 on Sunday, establishing a strong lead after 12 rounds.

Fabinho and Mohamed Salah scored inside the opening 13 minutes before Sadio Mane headed in after the break to make it 11 wins out of 12 for unbeaten Liverpool, which is chasing its first championship since 1990.

Further hindering City's pursuit of a third straight title, Leicester and Chelsea are directly behind Liverpool while the champions are nine points behind in fourth place.

Just a point separated City and Liverpool when the season ended in May. The gulf is vast now between the English and European champions. Where last season's title race was tense and thrilling, Juergen Klopp's path to the title looks smooth.

Even the Liverpool fans reined in their rancor for the City bus arrival at Anfield. No hurling of objects or smashing of windows like in 2018. Just a chorus of jeers as the visiting coach snaked around the narrow streets into the stadium as a haze of red smoke formed.

City thought it was the referee's vision obscured after five minutes when a penalty wasn't awarded for Trent Alexander-Arnold's outstretched right arm handling the ball. But City midfielder Bernardo Silva had already helped the ball on with his hand in contravention of the new laws of the game.

With play continuing, Liverpool launched a counterattack that saw Mane charge down the left flank from inside his own half.

A cross into the penalty area was half-cleared to Fabinho who struck from distance past Claudio Bravo, who was filling in for the injured Ederson.

A VAR review confirmed referee Michael Oliver was right not to roll back play and award City a penalty at the other end, much to Pep Guardiola's fury on the City bench.

And City's makeshift defense was breached again in the 13th minute, again from a rapid move down the left.

When Andy Robertson sent a cross into the penalty area, Salah got ahead of Fernandinho to head past Bravo.

But far from being demoralized, City made the rest of the half uncomfortable for Liverpool. Left back Angelino, on only his second Premier League start, saw a shot deflect off the post. And Sergio Aguero dragged a shot wide in a stadium where he has not scored now in eight appearances.

Any prospect of a comeback appeared to be extinguished six minutes into the second half when City was picked apart from another cross. Mane got on the end of Jordan Henderson's delivery from the right, heading in at the back post.

On a frustrating trip across the northwest for City, Bernardo Silva pulling one back in the 78th minute with a low strike was as good as it got.



Liverpool forward Mohamed Salah heads in the side's second goal against Manchester City at Anfield on Sunday. Reuters

**City's third defeat of the season look assured when Liverpool made it 3-0 six minutes after the interval as Jordan Henderson worked space for a cross on the right flank and Sadio Mane stooped to head home at the back post.**

### Foxes pip Gunners

Jamie Vardy and James Maddison struck second-half goals as Leicester City beat an unimpressive Arsenal 2-0 at the King Power Stadium on Saturday to move into second place in the Premier League.

Leicester have 26 points and are above Chelsea on goal difference and one point ahead of champions Manchester City, who visit leaders Liverpool on Sunday.

The Gunners have now gone four games without a win in the league, and the latest defeat will add to the questions being asked of their decision to replace Arsene Wenger with Spaniard Unai Emery.

It was an evenly balanced first half, although Arsenal's looseness in possession frequently handed Leicester opportunities.

This Leicester team have also made a habit of upping their game after the interval, and that was again to be the case against the Gunners. Arsenal had a 55th-minute effort from Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang ruled out for offside after a VAR review and 13 minutes later Leicester struck.

Vardy produced a characteristic, confi-

dent first-time finish from just inside the box after neat passing in the build-up from a confident Leicester side, clearly enjoying their football under Brendan Rodgers.

The goal was Vardy's ninth in 10 appearances against Arsenal and he went close to a second in the 72nd minute but his low drive was kept out by Bernd Leno.

Three minutes later, Vardy turned provider for the Foxes' second, poking the ball back to Maddison whose low strike whistled past Leno.

Rodgers was quick to praise Vardy, the Premier League's top scorer with 11 goals so far this campaign.

"It's firstly about giving him confidence. He is up there with the very, very top strikers in European football with what he brings to a team, his pressing," said the former Liverpool and Celtic manager.

"We've allowed him to do essentially what he wants to do - how we play, being aggressive and playing quickly obviously suits him. But his finishing ability, how clinical he is, is absolutely phenomenal. That's a big testament to his concentration - when the opportunities come he's always ready."

Emery said his side had shown better defensive organisation but said he accepted that people will question his work at the club.

"I am speaking with the club to stay strong and recover. We also have young players who are growing up with us," he said.

"I know we are receiving criticism, but I have done before and I have recovered. I accept all the criticism. It is normal. Today we did one step ahead being better defensively," added the Spaniard.

## Messi scores a dead-ball hat-trick

LIONEL MESSI delivered an incredible dead-ball hat-trick to steer Barcelona to a 4-1 victory over Celta Vigo and ease the pressure on his coach Ernesto Valverde. Messi scored with a penalty and then a pair of free-kicks either side of half time after Lucas Olaza had briefly pulled Celta level with a free-kick of his own at Camp Nou. Sergio Busquets drove home to make sure of the win late on. A 34th treble in La Liga puts Messi equal with Cristiano Ronaldo, while a much-needed win sends Barca above Real Madrid on goal difference and back to the top of the table at the end of a testing week.

AFP

# France crush Australian dreams to win Fed Cup

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE  
PERTH, NOVEMBER 10

AJUBILANT Kristina Mladenovic and Caroline Garcia led France to its first Fed Cup title since 2003 on Sunday, winning a deciding doubles rubber to crush Australian dreams 3-2. In the last tournament played under the current format, the pair kept their focus at Perth Arena to overcome Ashleigh Barty and Samantha Stosur 6-4, 6-3, denying the home team their first crown in 45 years.

It was France's third title and first since they beat the United States 16 years ago, piling more misery on seven-time champions Australia who have now lost all nine of the last Fed Cup finals they have appeared in.

Mladenovic and Garcia, who won the 2016 French Open doubles title, bounced back from going an early break down in the first set to expose Stosur's weaknesses, with the veteran out of sorts and making too many mistakes. World number one Barty, stunned by Mladenovic in a singles rubber earlier on Sunday, did her best to keep Australia in the hunt, but the French pair were clinical, racing to victory as their team-mates went wild.

"I'm the proudest man on the planet right now, I'm so proud of my girls and my team. They deserve it because they fought for a long time for this title," ecstatic France captain Julien Benneteau said court-side.

"For sure, I am going to have a lot of beers now." The final marked the last Fed Cup played under the current format, with an overhaul next year seeing 12 nations compete in a six-day event in Budapest.

That will mean an end to home ties and the atmosphere they bring, with the 26,951 fans turning up over two days in Perth the second-highest Fed Cup attendance on record after Roland Garros (30,000) in 2005.

The doubles clash was set up by Ajla Tomljanovic hauling the home team back into the tie by beating France's Pauline Parmentier 6-4, 7-5.

She came on court after 40th-ranked Mladenovic upset Barty 2-6, 6-4, 7-6(7/1) in an epic. Croatian-born Tomljanovic, in her Fed Cup debut for Australia, had been thrashed 6-1, 6-1 by Mladenovic in the opening singles rubber on Saturday.

But captain Alica Molik kept faith with her and she bounced back to beat Parmentier 6-4, 7-5. "Really glad I got a second chance today and got the win and kept us in," said the Australian.

"The team has been unbelievable all week and it is such a privilege to play for you guys." Earlier Barty, who has been in scintillating form, whipping Garcia 6-0, 6-0 on Saturday after winning the WTA Finals in China last weekend, crashed in a classic.

"From my point of view, I fought as hard as I could and I hope that I did my team proud and all Australians proud. I fought with everything I had left," said Barty.

Barty started where she left off after the 'double bagel' of Garcia on Saturday, breaking Mladenovic's first service game with a net volley to extend her streak to 15 games this weekend. But Mladenovic held serve to end the Barty run and it became a closer affair before the Australian began forcing errors to take the first set.



France's Caroline Garcia (R) and Kristina Mladenovic after winning their doubles match and sealing the Fed Cup in Perth on Sunday. AP

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Sr. No.	Plot Size (Tentative)	No. of Plots/Sheds (Tentative)				Land Premium (Tentative)
		General	NRI	PWD	TOTAL	
1	450	0	1	0	1	Rs.12000/- psm*
2	1012.5	0	1	0	1	
3	1800	0	2	1	3	
4	4275	1	1	0	2	
5	Shed-Ground Floor	11	1	0	12	Rs.80.00 Lakh/Unit*
6	Shed-First Floor	11	1	0	12	Rs.70.00 Lakh/Unit*
Total		23	7	1	31	

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i. The number of plots offered for allotment are tentative and the Corporation reserves the right to withdraw any plot(s) from allotment or add any plot(s) for allotment at any stage, without assigning any reason;

ii. The allotment shall be on lease hold basis as per Mega Food Park Scheme of Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI), Govt. of India and allotment procedure defined in EMP-2015, as amended from time to time;

iii. The initial period of lease would be 33 years with an option for conversion from lease hold to freehold after 10 years on payment of nominal charges;

iv. The land premium rate is tentative and final rate will be the one applicable at the time of issuance of Letter of Intent (LoI);

v. Besides land premium, annual lease rentals @ Rs. 2.50 per sq. mtr., per annum with an increase of Rs. 1/- per sq. mtr., on an annual basis shall also be payable;

vi. Units in Mega Food Park shall be eligible for grant under 'Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojna' of Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI), Govt. of India and credit facilities on concessional rates from NABARD, if any available at present;

vii. Mega Food Park, Barhi has been set up with term loan assistance from NABARD (sanctioned amount Rs.81.65 crore) under mortgage arrangement, through its Security Trustee - M/s visitra ITCL (India) Ltd.;

viii. For detailed terms & conditions and procedure for filing online applications, visit e-governance portal of HSI IDC <http://www.hsiidcesewa.org.in>. Online applications shall be accepted only through single window portal of the State Government <http://investharyana.in>

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