



The IndianEXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

WINNING & LOSING

In Maharashtra, BJP's ally trouble carries a lesson and a warning

IT IS UNUSUAL for a pre-poll alliance that won an assembly election to fail in forming the government. That Maharashtra has been placed under President's rule, despite the BJP-Shiv Sena alliance winning a clear majority in last month's assembly election, is an exceptional development. The BJP and Sena have been partners for more than a quarter century, sharing power in local bodies, the state government and at the Centre. Their relationship was firmed up by their adherence to the ideology of political Hindutva. Now, the two parties have had a seemingly bitter parting, jeopardising the prospects of a BJP-Sena government in Maharashtra, with the Sena also quitting the NDA. For the BJP, the Maharashtra mess is a moment of reckoning. Among other things, it reveals the predicament of the new BJP, which has been expanding at a furious pace, and has been on a winning spree. For many years, the BJP, despite its ideological character and in contrast to the Congress, was viewed as a party that had the flexibility and skills to stitch coalitions in the most adverse circumstances. Since 1996, when Atal Bihari Vajpayee, after failing to win support for his 13-day government at the Centre, complained of parties practising "political untouchability", the BJP was seen to have mastered the art of winning allies and running coalition governments. Coalition dharma was a much evoked principle in the NDA of Vajpayee and L K Advani. However, there is reason to suspect that the party, after its several electoral victories under Narendra Modi and Amit Shah, seems to be losing the ability or willingness to engage with partners and allies. Now the BJP's approach seems to be more intransigent, to emphasise its greater numbers and insist that the regional party lower its expectations. It is curious that the BJP's national leadership refused to intervene in the public spat involving its Maharashtra leaders and the Sena over the chief minister's office and ministerial berths. Does it view the Sena's departure as an opportunity to monopolise the entire Hindutva vote in Maharashtra? Or is it an instance of the leadership failing to judge the Sena's intent? Either way, the Maharashtra break-up reflects poorly on the BJP's management of allies, even as anti-BJPism may again become the glue that can bring together disparate Opposition parties.

The Maharashtra and Haryana results, that came just six months after the BJP won the general election with an enhanced mandate, are a pointer that no party can claim the permanent loyalty of voters. The federal character of the polity also allows space to regional players, which can scuttle the aims of arrogant or complacent national parties. That may not be a bad thing for democracy.

A DEEPER DARK

Industrial production contracts again, another pointer that the slowdown is unlikely to reverse on its own, or quickly

ON MONDAY, DATA from the National Statistics Office showed that industrial production contracted by 4.3 per cent in September — the lowest in the current series. Over the course of the entire second quarter, the index of industrial production (IIP) has contracted by 0.4 per cent, after growing by 3 per cent in the previous quarter. Of the 23 sub-sectors within manufacturing, 17 contracted in September, up from 15 in the previous month, suggesting that the contraction is deeper and more widespread. The worsening performance of the consumer durables as well as the non-durables segment, indicative of subdued household demand, has dashed hopes of restocking of inventories prior to the festive season. Equally worrying, the capital goods segment, which connotes investment demand, contracted by 16.8 per cent in the second quarter, indicating that investment activity continues to be depressed. Higher central government spending may have provided some support in the second quarter. Data from the Controller General of Accounts shows that government spending, both revenue and capital, picked up pace significantly after the Union budget was presented in July. But this is unlikely to have been enough to offset the subdued performance of other sectors. With various high frequency indicators suggesting that economic activity has slowed down considerably over the past few months, growth may well come in below the psychological 5 per cent mark in the quarter ended September. Equally worrying, even the crutch of government spending will not be available in the coming quarters as with its own finances coming under pressure, transfers from the Reserve Bank of India can only partially offset the shortfall in both direct and indirect tax collections, and disinvestment receipts remain well below the budgeted target — cuts in government spending are likely going forward, further accentuating the slowdown. Reflecting this deteriorating economic situation, a few days ago, rating agency Moody's changed its outlook on India's rating from stable to negative, citing increased risks that the country's economic growth will remain "materially lower than in the past."

It is possible that towards the end of this year the headline growth numbers may pick up once the base effect kicks in. But this is a statistical illusion. It would be a mistake to construe this as a sign of a recovery. The government needs to address multiple issues plaguing the economy. Along with measures to boost long-term potential growth, comprehensive measures are needed to address the stress in specific sectors such as telecom, real estate and the financial system. Piecemeal solutions are unlikely to lead to sustainable growth.

LOST IN THE LABYRINTH

A vandal has been hiding 'liberal' books in a US library. The crime may have a silver lining

AS VILLAINOUS ONE-LINERS go, "Your liberal angst gives me great pleasure" is one for the ages. Part of a note left in the comment box of the library in Coeur D'Alene, a small town in Idaho, US, the declaration of sadistic pleasure is from an as yet unidentified vandal who has been deliberately hiding books that are anti-President Donald Trump and/or deal with issues like gun control and LGBTQ rights. Going by reports, the "liberal angst" in Coeur D'Alene is indeed palpable. All libraries are labyrinths: They must be navigated through complex notations, the Dewey Decimal System, and the librarian, like some ancient, formidable sphinx, guards knowledge, and ensures silence. But the mazes of shelves and books do talk, often to each other, and open up strange new worlds for the unsuspecting reader. Browsing, long before it meant scrolling through the algorithm-determined shopping suggestions on Amazon, was a journey of discovery. Searching for a book on marine biology, one could stumble on to Darwin, and through him, to theological explanations of first causes on to St Augustine and from him to Plato. By hiding certain books, the vandal of Coeur D'Alene has brought back bitter memories for a town that was forced to put under lock and key books on human rights because of white supremacists 30-odd years ago. For many, Trump's political ascendance is a throwback to that time. But the books that are hidden are still there, in the library, on a shelf they don't belong, waiting to be discovered by an eager reader. Nestled in those shelves is a possibility of opening up a mind that would otherwise remain ensconced in the received wisdom of reading lists and letting it loose in the labyrinth of ideas. The thought alone is enough to dispel liberal angst.

Majority, minority & temple



ASHUTOSH VARSHNEY

A temple on the contested site of a mosque's destruction departs from judicial counter-majoritarianism

FOR THE FIRST time since Independence, an entirely new electoral prospect has been consolidating itself. This phenomenon can be conceptualised as the political irrelevance of Muslims. It came to life with the 2014 general elections, though some might drag it back further. Its implications, serious in any case, have become even more so after the Ayodhya judgment of the Supreme Court. The Court has held Hindu mobs responsible for an egregious violation of the law on December 6, 1992 — when they destroyed the Babri mosque — but deploying the kind of legal reasoning that frustrates non-specialists of law, it has handed over the site, where the erstwhile mosque stood, to the Hindu community for the building of a Ram temple. In a display of religious equidistance that marks Indian secularism, the Court has also allowed a mosque to be built on a plot twice as large as the original site. But those who destroyed the mosque, according to India's highest court, now have the right to construct a temple in its place. If the Court intends to draw a distinction between the law-breakers, who ought to be punished, and the larger Hindu community, whose wishes should not be denied, it can still argue it has not abandoned the idea of justice. But given its lack of resolve to confront electorally enabled power, one cannot be too sanguine about whether it would punish those who violated the law but are currently in power. How the Court actually pronounces on the culprits of December 6, 1992, will, therefore, be carefully watched. Admittedly, some Muslims will not mind the judgment, thinking it ends a seemingly interminable period of painful contention and provides an opportunity to move on. But many are likely to feel doubly marginalised. They are being made electorally irrelevant, and even the judiciary has not sufficiently protected them. Two points should immediately be noted. First, in the 1940s, Jinnah's argument for partition was precisely that democracy in a Hindu-majority India would serve the interests of Hindus, not of the Muslim minority. The argument was wrong, as both Nehru and Ambedkar painstakingly demonstrated. It is ironical that the argument, false then and for decades later, is starting to acquire credibility now, for the system after seven decades is threatening to generate Muslim helplessness.

In a multi-ethnic, multi-religious democratic polity, the electoral process can easily begin to reflect the wishes of the ethnic or religious majority. But the judiciary's functioning is fundamentally based on constitutional principles, not the wishes of the majority. If the judiciary only replicated what governments, legislatures or political parties based on electoral victories did, we would not really need it as a separate and autonomous institution. That is also why minorities in a democracy have often looked up to the courts for protection, when popular electoral currents go against them.

The trend is still not irreversible, but it is dire. Second, a lot of democratic theory, and much of modern democratic practice, envisions the judiciary as a counter-majoritarian institution. In a multi-ethnic, multi-religious democratic polity, the electoral process can easily begin to reflect the wishes of the ethnic or religious majority. But the judiciary's functioning is fundamentally based on constitutional principles, not the wishes of the majority. If the judiciary only replicated what governments, legislatures or political parties based on electoral victories did, we would not really need it as a separate and autonomous institution. That is also why minorities in a democracy have often looked up to the courts for protection, when popular electoral currents go against them. A small fraction of political/legal theory does say that courts could endorse majoritarianism, if it was legislatively approved, and some courts have historically done that. Legally, Blacks suffered a lot — and for decades — in America's South. But most theorists would prescribe to the judiciary a majority-constraining role, should the majority or its representatives cross legal lines. A Hindu temple on the contested site after a mosque's destruction departs from the principle of judicial counter-majoritarianism. The distinction between the electoral and the judicial, towards which the SC judgment is pushing us, requires further elaboration. Let us begin historically. Should India treat its Muslims the same way as Pakistan was dealing with its Hindus? This question repeatedly arose in the early years of freedom when India's Constitution was debated. Supported by Ambedkar, Nehru argued: "Whatever the provocation from Pakistan and whatever the indignities and horrors inflicted on non-Muslims there, we have to deal with (our) minority in a civilised manner. We must give them security and the rights of citizens in a democratic state. If we fail to do so, we shall have a festering sore which will eventually poison the whole body politic." Earlier, critiquing Jinnah, Ambedkar argued that constitutional and institutional safeguards could easily be devised to check majoritarianism and protect minority rights. That Hindus are a majority, said Ambedkar, does not automatically lead to Hindu rule. India's Constitution thus developed a charter of minority rights — educational, cultural, religious — and gave no special privileges to

the Hindu majority. Secularism came to be defined not only as equal rights for all, regardless of religious affiliation, but also as comprising special minority rights on the assumption that minority numbers alone would not allow them to protect their interests in a democracy. This constitutional settlement was further bolstered by the electoral realities of India. Until 2008, 81 parliamentary constituencies of India were more than 20 per cent Muslim (including 10 that were Muslim-majority) and 126 seats were 10-20 per cent Muslim. Thus, in 38 per cent of parliamentary seats, Muslim voters could play an important role. Even if mainstream politicians had anti-Muslim feelings, these electoral realities would partly check them. The 2008 redrawing of constituencies has most probably not significantly changed Muslim proportions. This long-lasting electoral logic was fundamentally altered in 2014 and 2019. The BJP came to power with only 8 per cent of the Muslim vote each time, an outcome inconceivable under the earlier electoral calculus. The key to this transformation was the consolidation of the Hindu vote. The BJP received 37.4 per cent vote in 2019; roughly 35 per cent was Hindu. Compared to 2014, BJP's vote went up in all caste categories, including Dalits. Muslims can play an important electoral role only if the Hindu vote is sufficiently caste-cleaved. Analytically, Hindu consolidation and Muslim irrelevance are two sides of the same electoral coin. If Hindu consolidation goes further, Muslims will become electorally even more irrelevant. We can't still be sure this would happen. But even if Hindu electoral consolidation remains at the current level, India's Muslims would need the judiciary's counter-majoritarianism to safeguard their interests. If the judiciary bows to the executive and legislature, supporting majoritarian logic, Jinnah's fears will be affirmed, Ambedkar's constitutional optimism nullified, and Nehru's prediction about a "festering sore" might also come true. Production of Muslim helplessness is most unlikely to strengthen India, or its polity.

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HIMANSHU GUPTA

THE SWACHH BHARAT Mission is being executed by two different ministries — the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation for rural areas and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs for urban areas. In the rural areas, the major challenge was to change the mindset of the populace so that they would start using household toilets rather than defecate in open areas. As majority of the households did not have toilets in their homes, the main component of Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) was to construct household latrines and to focus on information, education and communication (IEC) activities. The need for a dedicated sewerage network is less in rural areas as the toilets are connected with in-house soak pits. Domestic waste in rural areas is also managed in a much better manner as it is segregated at the household level and a majority of it is used in the fields. Thus, improving the cleanliness level in a rural area is much less complex than in an urban set up. An urban area faces two major challenges — disposal of solid waste and sewerage/liquid waste. Disposal of solid waste has three key components. First, waste collection, then transfer of the waste, and lastly, proper disposal at the landfill site. The task of waste collection and its transfer to the landfill site requires both manpower as well as an efficient transportation system. The segregation of

SWACHH BHARAT IN THE CITY

Urban areas require a different approach to end open defecation

Merely constructing toilets cannot solve the problem as these areas require proper sewerage network. The soak pit system that works in rural areas cannot work in urban areas due to a space crunch and increasing population density. The job of laying the sewerage network is again distributed between the state's public health engineering department and the municipalities.

waste can either be at the source or at the landfill. Segregation at source is more economical. At the landfill, it is done by either using high-end segregation plants or manual conveyors. In most urban areas, disposal of solid waste is primarily the responsibility of municipalities. However, these municipalities are not equipped with the manpower, financial resources and technology for the task. Most of them are dependent upon the state governments for resources. These municipalities do not have sufficient human resources in terms of engineers or sanitation staff to manage the waste. Landfill site management is very poor due to lack of technical know-how. The second challenge is to manage sewerage in urban areas. Merely constructing toilets cannot solve the problem as these areas require proper sewerage network. The soak pit system that works in rural areas cannot work in urban areas due to a space crunch and increasing population density. The job of laying the sewerage network is again distributed between the state's public health engineering department and the municipalities. If we look at strategy adopted by the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban), its main focus is on the construction of individual household toilets, community toilets, public urinals and IEC activities. The funds earmarked for solid waste management are minimal. Similarly,

there is limited provision of funds for laying the sewerage networks. The strategy used for Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) will not yield results in the urban mission. Hence, there is a need for revamping the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) wherein the focus is on solid waste and sewer management. The ministry must ask the state governments to assess their capabilities in waste handling. Recurring funds must be provided for collection of waste and its disposal. A window may be given to municipalities for upgrading their capabilities to augment their revenue collection. Separate funds must be given for the development of landfill sites. Best possible practices for waste collection across key cities must be studied and emulated. Adopting a piecemeal approach for constructing toilets and litter bins will not solve the systemic issue of waste disposal in cities. Unless we are able to lift the waste from the streets systematically, cleanliness will not have any meaning. The success of the Swachh Bharat Mission depends not only on changing the mindset, but, also on changing in the way waste is disposed of by the municipalities and the state governments.

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NOVEMBER 13, 1979, FORTY YEARS AGO

AKALI UNITY

IF THE FORMULA hammered out by the Akali Dal's seven-member committee appointed by the head priests is acceptable to other parties, there is every possibility of the Akali Dal remaining united. Six of the seven members of the committee met in New Delhi for over two hours to consider the question of electoral alliance with other parties. Only Jagdev Singh Talwandi, president of the Akali Dal, was absent. According to the formula worked out in the morning, the Akali Dal will contest seven of the 13 Lok Sabha seats in Punjab and the remaining six will be left for the alliance parties. The seven seats which the Akali party proposes to contest are Sangrur, Bhatinda

(Reserved), Ropar (Reserved), Ludhiana, Faridkot, Patiala and Tarn Taran.

IRAN'S DEMAND

ABOLHASSAN BANI-SADR, RECENTLY put in charge of Iran's foreign ministry by Ayatollah Khomeini, told French radio interviewers "no compromise, no negotiation, is possible", over Iran's demand that the US extradite the ousted Shah to stand trial for his life, reports AP. Bani-Sadr summoned all foreign ambassadors to his office in Teheran on Monday to urge them to ask their governments to persuade the US to extradite the deposed Shah to stand trial in Iran. "Mr Bani Sadr told the envoys the Iranian demand was both logical

and reasonable," a foreign ministry spokesman told the Associated Press in Nicosia by telephone.

SHEKHAR'S PROPHECY

THE JANATA PARTY President Chandra Shekhar forecast that the coalition caretaker government would break before the ensuing Lok Sabha elections. Chandra Shekhar said in Bombay that Congress leaders were beginning to realise that they would not be a factor to reckon with in the upcoming elections if they associated with the Lok Dal. Many did not believe his earlier prediction about the disintegration of the Lok Dal, "which is now coming true", Chandra Shekhar said.



In Ayodhya, either justice or peace

Supreme Court's offer of a five-acre plot elsewhere to compensate for the demolition of the Babri mosque is charity by the privileged to the underprivileged



IRENA AKBAR

WE KNEW IT was coming. We knew it since May 23, when the BJP was re-elected to power with a bigger majority than the previous general election. We knew that the BJP would not miss this most opportune moment in history to complete the campaign that first brought it to national prominence: The construction of the Ram Mandir on the ground where the Babri Masjid once stood.

This knowledge, or apprehension, was born not of a dream. But of hard facts that played out in the first tenure of the Narendra Modi-led government. A tenure marked by a spate of unpunished lynchings of Muslims, unchecked anti-Muslim rhetoric of BJP politicians, and an unending anti-Muslim narrative peddled by the media, that kept the community in the news on one pretext or the other, be it beef or "love jihad" or "Bharat Mata ki Jai" or dead Muslim men like Aurangzeb and Jinnah.

After May 23, the BJP re-launched its Hindutva agenda with a renewed zeal. A zeal boosted by the party's re-election despite the failure to deliver on economic development, proving without doubt, at least to the Muslim citizen, that Hindutva was the BJP's only attraction for its voters.

With the nation's mood firmly in control, it was time for the BJP to get down to serious business. To grow beyond wielding public opinion through news television, or giving a free pass to mob violence against Muslims. To put the spirit of Hindutva to the letter. To write the agenda subtly in law. And thus, the first assignment of the BJP's current tenure was to pass the Triple Talaq Bill, on July 30. Less than a week later, on August 5, Parliament struck down Article 370, snatching away the statehood of Jammu and Kashmir, and locking down the Valley indefinitely. The swift progression from one milestone to another, amidst the implementation of the NRC in Assam, signalled that the next stop could be building the Ram Mandir.

The Supreme Court wrapped up hearing the 70-year-old title suit in 40 days and announced its verdict, giving the whole of the disputed land to the Hindus to build a temple. With this one stroke, it put the final full-stop to the story of the gradual, state-and-court-sanctioned conversion of mosque into temple — from the illegal placement of idols inside the mosque and disallowing Muslim prayer there in 1949 to unlocking the gates in order to give Hindu devotees access inside the mosque in 1986 to demolishing the mosque in 1992 and building a makeshift, functioning temple at the site a few months later.

We knew that the end to the long story was now finally in sight. In the unofficial Hindu Rashtra, its time had come. And yet, my preparedness could not stop me from being overwhelmed with grief when the verdict was being read out on TV. Similar to the grief felt over the death of a terminally-ill patient, Muslims felt a quiet, resigned sadness over a verdict that they knew would not go their way.

The sadness was compounded by the conviction that the verdict should have gone our



CR Sasikumar

way. That we were stronger claimants of victory. Not the chest-thumping victory of gain. But a sombre victory of recovering a loss. The loss of the physical structure of the masjid, the loss of lives in the bloody aftermath of its demolition, the loss of faith in the secular foundations of the country. The recovery of this loss would have spelt justice for Muslims.

But Muslims knew all too well that justice for them in the Court could mean injustice for them on the street in the form of possible retaliatory violence by Hindu right-wing groups. Justice would then have come at the cost of peace. On the other hand, losing the claim to the title suit would greatly reduce the possibility of violence by the other side and ensure peace.

In an ideal situation, justice and peace go hand in hand. But in majoritarian India, Muslims knew that they would get either justice or peace. In recent months, prominent Muslims talked of withdrawing claim to the site provided no fresh cases of other disputed sites are opened and Muslims are allowed to pray at mosques under the ASI. Would I now be allowed to pray on any day of the week and at any of the five times during the day in the mosque inside the Taj Mahal complex?

It would have been best had Muslims won the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid title suit and then handed over ownership of

It would have been best had Muslims won the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid title suit and then handed over ownership of the land. That would have been a win-win: Hindus would get the land that they attach to their faith; Muslims would get justice for their masjid. That would have gone a long way in correcting Hindu misperceptions of Muslims. But the possibility of such a scenario, born of a tiny flicker of hope in the judiciary, fell apart on November 9.

the land to Hindus in all humility. That would have been a win-win: Hindus would get the land that they attach to their faith; Muslims would get justice for their masjid which was criminally demolished on December 6, 1992. That would have gone a long way in correcting Hindu misperceptions of Muslims. But the possibility of such a scenario, born of a tiny flicker of hope in the judiciary, fell apart on November 9.

The Supreme Court verdict has guaranteed peace but denied justice to Muslims. Lest we forget, Muslims are at the forefront of maintaining that peace, and the community must be lauded for its patience and restraint in the face of repeated provocations from the state, the mob and the media over the last five years. And finally, betrayal by its last bastion of hope, the Supreme Court, on November 9.

One may ask if the apex court's offer of a five-acre plot elsewhere to compensate for the demolition of the mosque isn't justice. Charity is not a synonym of justice. Or of closure. Charity is given by the privileged group to the underprivileged group. Thank you, India, for reminding Muslims that privilege can only belong to the majority in a majoritarian state.

The writer is an entrepreneur and a freelance contributor

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"At a time of great confrontation and mistrust in the subcontinent, Pakistan has taken a major step towards peace by opening the Kartarpur Corridor in Punjab's Narowal district."
—DAWN

When siblings part

End of alliance with Shiv Sena speaks of BJP's recent propensity to convert friends into foes, once a Congress hallmark



GIRISH KUBER

TIRED OF HIS wife's constant bickering, a husband loses his cool and tells her, "I won't mind killing myself, but I will make you a widow". This popular anecdote, that speaks about a section of the argumentative Marathi *manos*, also sums up the Shiv Sena's — that claims to be the custodian of Marathi interests — current predicament. The Sena may have been successful in robbing its senior partner, the BJP, of the chance to be in office in Maharashtra for the time being. But in the bargain, it has also exposed itself to an existential challenge. The political situation in Maharashtra also indicates how history repeats itself. In the 1980s and 1990s, it was anti-Congressism which brought political forces of all hues together, that has now been replaced by anti-BJPism.

First, about the Shiv Sena's misadventure. Though the Sena-BJP stayed loyal to each other for nearly three decades, of late there were indications that major fissures were developing in the saffron alliance. The alliance was also showing signs of fatigue, which would otherwise have been described as normal in any relationship. But what was not normal in this case was the unwillingness of the now-senior partner, the BJP, to accept the reality. The BJP kept on painting a picture that everything was normal and ignored the Sena's signals asking for "better treatment" (read a better deal in the alliance). Snubbed consistently by the BJP, the Sena was exasperated. Signs of its desperation became visible after the election results were out. The Sena was gleeful after the verdict, which had considerably weakened the BJP. However, it ignored the fact that the election outcome had weakened the Sena even more. The party thought of playing the role of the Big Brother, which it had conceded to the BJP. Hence, its demand for the chief minister's post. It was naive for the Sena to expect that the BJP would give up the top post when the former's numbers were little more than half of that of the latter. In the 288-member House, the BJP is the single-largest party with 105 MLAs while the Sena has 56. The Congress and NCP have 44 and 54 MLAs.

The situation offers only one option: Two v/s three. In other words, either BJP-Sena have to stay together to stake a claim or the other two — Congress and NCP — need one of the saffron siblings supporting them to reach the required number. That saffron sibling can only be Sena since there is no way for the BJP to accommodate the Congress or the NCP. So, taking a simplistic view of the situation, the Sena

did what it should not have done.

It dared the BJP and dreamt of leading the state with the Congress and NCP in tow. But politics is not just about arithmetic, it's also a lot about chemistry. The latter can change the former but the reverse is always less likely. As a result, the Sena caught itself hanging between the devil and deep sea as the Congress refused to sign on the dotted line. Completely unmindful of the Congress's machinations, the Sena took its support for granted and went to stake claim only to realise there is no one to support it.

On the other hand, two politicians played their game astutely — Sonia Gandhi and Sharad Pawar. First, Pawar actually did nothing but his sweet talk misled the Sena. Pawar indicated his willingness to support the Sena provided it gets the Congress on board. While doing that, though he took a high-moral ground citing an alliance with the Congress, the reality is that he knew that numbers are such that the NCP's support alone isn't enough to break the ice. On the other hand, Sonia Gandhi took her own time and refused to succumb to pressure from the Congress's state satraps who were eager to join hands with the "communal" Sena. The alliance-in-the-making, Sonia must have realised, would have helped the NCP rather than the Congress. As a result, the Congress's letter of support never came and the Sena was left in the lurch.

But this high-voltage drama also signifies the BJP's ability to convert friends into foes, the trait the Congress was once known to have. Ironical as it may sound, it took the Congress more than 60 years to reach this stage while the BJP has managed to earn this distinction in less than a decade. In the 1980s and 1990s, it was the Congress that every other political party loved to hate. Now it's the BJP that triggers such repulsive feelings amongst other parties — friends as well as competitors. In the end, the Congress and NCP may not have extended their support to the Sena, but the anti-BJPism of all these parties was the glue that brought them together.

The results from Maharashtra, along with the Haryana assembly elections, also have another message — to focus on the real issues facing the people. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP chief Amit Shah had pinned great hopes on Maharashtra considering its size and importance. The duo had held more than a dozen rallies in the states. But the BJP's performance was certainly underwhelming, to say the least. However, that should not be the BJP's sole cause for concern. It should worry about the fact that it lost the important constituencies that Modi-Shah had singled out and had campaigned vigorously in.

In the end, the stalemate in Maharashtra will force everyone to get off their high-horse and introspect. More importantly, it's bound to compel the BJP to soften its rhetoric and start addressing real issues like the state of the economy and growing unemployment.

The writer is editor, Loksatta

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DEBATING A SHIFT

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'A crop for clean air' (IE, November 11). Though the solutions suggested by the writer seem simple, they will not be easy to implement. The real problem is not of subsidies provided for paddy or the high procurement rate for paddy but the uncertainties of the market system. Farmers do not have much faith in the market, especially when that involves a shift to an uncertain crop. Schemes like providing incentives are not going to change the mindset of farmers.

Gaurav Deshmukh via e-mail

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'A crop for clean air' (IE, November 11). A major hindrance in promoting crop diversification is that the MSP for a crop doesn't account for ecological costs of agriculture like soil salinisation, overuse of pesticides, groundwater exploitation. I agree with the writer that we need to remove distorting subsidies. What is also needed is a predictable export policy, promotion of contract farming, and expansion of extension programmes and outreach to help farmers make better informed choices.

Tanvi Singh, Jalandhar

UNSURE AGAIN

THIS REFERS TO the report, 'Cong closes the door on Sena' (IE, November 12). The Congress's dithering in Maharashtra has dismayed its supporters. After MP and Rajasthan, the loss of another big state would be a huge blow to the BJP. Moreover, the friction with the Sena is already creating problems for the BJP —

LETTER OF THE WEEK AWARD

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

there are also issues with its ally, AJSU, in Jharkhand. But for the Gandhis, it seems that their personal grudge against the Thackerays matters more than the party's interest.

S Bhalerao, Mumbai

CRIME & TREATMENT

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Treat the disease' (IE, November 12). Paedophilic tendencies should be treated with compassion and sympathy. One in 35 men show such a tendency. They should be given counselling and administered anti-depressants. The government should take late initiatives to accommodate the patients and ensure good treatment. It is important to treat the disease, not merely punish the diseased. This way we can reduce crimes and abuse towards children.

Muhammad Ansari, Kerala



FIROZ BAKHT AHMED

After the verdict

Muslims need to shun opportunist leaders and shed congealed stereotypes

MOST MUSLIMS HAVE welcomed the Ayodhya verdict as it is a balanced scorecard. The Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute was impeding the growth of the community in several ways. Gratitude is due to Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi who led the Supreme Court bench which relieved India of this problem. The government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has managed the fallout of the verdict — as well as of the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35-A in Kashmir.

It would have been much better if this dispute had been amicably settled out of court, as suggested in 2017 by the then CJI JS Khehar or, recently, by the constitution bench led by CJI Ranjan Gogoi. As a matter of fact, the Muslims should have offered this patch of land to the Hindus, stating that they are doing so as a goodwill gesture for Lord Ram, while leaving the rest to Allah and Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him). Certainly, the magic would have worked, and the animosity of Partition would have been history.

No doubt, after this gesture, the Hindus would have built not one but many mosques. Besides, this humane gesture would have obviated all scope for converting any other mosque — any monument, in fact — into a

temple. However, owing to the actions of some self-appointed leaders of the community, the Muslims have missed the bus.

The Muslims have always maintained that once a mosque exists, it will always remain till the Day of Judgment — the house of Allah can't be shifted. That is true in a religious sense, but in view of the circumstances, some settlement was needed. As the Muslims have their Mecca, Christians have Bethlehem, Jews have Jerusalem and Buddhists have Bodhi Gaya, the Hindus too must have their most important shrine. Muslims, most of the time, remained occupied with legalities. They couldn't properly process that their lives and lived realities are attached with the Hindus. If a matter like this was not sorted out amicably, it would have harmed the Muslim cause more than anything else.

We are not living in the Mughal times, nor in the Congress era. The RSS and its political wing, the BJP, are in power. The Muslims should have changed their outlook but, instead, they kept distancing themselves from these platforms. Not only this, a lot of vitriol is being poured against the Sangh Parivar. It is high time that the Muslims stop casting as-

persions on the RSS and BJP — especially during elections when many from the community make appeals to vote for any candidate who is capable of defeating the BJP candidate. In a democracy, a capable candidate, no matter from which party he or she belongs to, should be supported.

Even I used to think that the RSS, Jana Sangh and the BJP are against the Muslims. But at some point, I thought of interacting with them and found that this was my misconception. It was based on a misunderstanding. The RSS is a nationalist organisation that has its own strict set of rules and wants Muslims to do well. In fact, whenever Mohan Bhagwat, the RSS chief, has spoken of Muslims, he has been well-meaning — he has often said, publicly, that if the Muslim community is backward, India will also remain backward. He expressed his opinion too — alongside PM Modi — regarding the Ram temple judgment, and, said that it was a balanced one: Nobody should thump one's chest in victory or shed tears on defeat.

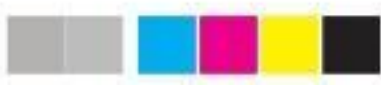
Some of the baggage Indian Muslims carry is due to the perception they believe the majority community has of them. That

perception is, in fact, inaccurate, made up of half-truths and cooked-up charges. The other burden is a result of their own inaction, which has led to the emergence of opportunist interlocutors — clerics and personal law boards. Muslims must come out of the control of these hypocritical, rigid clerics who lead them astray.

If Muslims want to progress educationally, socially and economically, they must now try to get out of the clutches of the rabble-rousing representatives or faux secularists — these are the very people responsible for their misery since Partition. Around 200 million Muslims have to exist in India with their non-Muslim brethren; they have to live in amity with them to take India towards success and glory.

PM Modi, who tells them to hold the Quran in one hand and a computer in the other, has been their well-wisher. However, Opposition leaders have been misleading them. It is time Muslims stopped being misled by such leaders who keep instigating the community against the RSS and the BJP.

The writer is the chancellor of Maulana Azad National Urdu University



TOPOF THE WORLD



Roula Khalaf takes over from Lionel Barber

BRITAIN
Financial Times gets 1st woman editor in its 131-year history

London: Roula Khalaf will become the first woman to edit the *Financial Times* in its 131-year history after Lionel Barber, Britain's most senior financial journalist, said he would step down. Barber said on Tuesday he would leave in January after 14 years as editor and 34 years at the Nikkei-owned newspaper. Khalaf has served as deputy editor, foreign editor and Middle East editor during her more than two decades at the salmon-pink *FT*. "It's a great honour to be appointed editor of the *FT*, the greatest news organisation in the world. I look forward to building on Lionel Barber's extraordinary achievements," said Khalaf.

BANGLADESH
16 killed after trains collide

Dhaka: At least 16 people were killed and 60 others injured in a head-on collision between two trains in Brahmanbaria district in central Bangladesh on Tuesday, railway officials said. A railway spokesman said the pre-dawn accident appeared to have occurred when Chittagong-bound Udayan Express was changing tracks at Mondobhag railway station in the district and the Dhaka-bound Turna Nishita coming from the opposite direction collided with it. "The salvage campaign is nearly completed as Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujan and our senior officials visited the scene to oversee the rescue drives," the spokesman said.

THAILAND
Three killed in court shootout

Bangkok: Three people were killed in a shootout at a Thai courtroom on Tuesday during a hearing into an inheritance dispute, according to police, who said two of the victims were lawyers. The gunman opened fire on the opposing side in the dispute in Chanthaburi provincial court before a guard shot back and fatally wounded him. National police office spokesman Krissana Pattanacharoen said three people including the assailant were confirmed dead, while others were injured in the melee. "Two are lawyers another one is the shooter," he said, adding that they are still investigating why the courtroom feud turned deadly.

IN EXCHANGE FOR KIDNAPPED U.S., AUSTRALIAN PROFESSORS

Afghanistan to free senior Taliban, Haqqani leaders in prisoner swap

Ghani says release of 3 militants, including brother of Haqqani chief, to pave way for negotiations

HAMID SHALIZI
KABUL, NOVEMBER 12

AFGHANISTAN WILL release two senior Taliban commanders and a leader of the Haqqani militant group in exchange for an American and an Australian professor who were kidnapped in 2016, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani said on Tuesday.

The government's decision to free Anas Haqqani and two other Taliban commanders in a prisoner swap was taken in the hope of securing direct talks with the Taliban, which has hitherto refused to engage with what it calls an illegitimate "puppet" regime in Kabul.

"In order to pave the way for a face-to-face negotiations with the Taliban, the government has decided to free Taliban prisoners in exchange for two university professors," Ghani said in a televised speech. Ghani said Anas Haqqani and Taliban command-



Afghan President Ashraf Ghani speaks about the prisoner swap in Kabul Tuesday. Reuters

ers Haji Mali Khan and Hafiz Rashid were being released. All three were captured in 2014.

The Haqqani network has in recent years carried large-scale militant attack on civilians. It is believed to be based in Pakistan and

is part of Afghan Taliban.

Anas Haqqani is the younger brother of Sirajuddin Haqqani, who is second-in-command in the Afghan Taliban hierarchy and leads the Haqqani network, considered to be the deadliest faction

EXPLAINED
Ghani likely looking ahead to potential Beijing meeting

DURING THE suspended US-Taliban peace talks, one of the sticking points was the militant group's refusal to directly negotiate with the Afghan government. The Taliban have repeatedly refused to talk to the Ghani government, which it considers a US puppet. After the US-Taliban talks were cancelled earlier this year, both Russia and China have attempted to play a bigger role in the Afghan peace process. China said on Monday that it was trying to organise an intra-Afghan meeting in Beijing involving both the Afghan government and the Taliban. The release of Anas Haqqani, who Taliban had named in their team to negotiate with the US, is likely an attempt by the Afghan government to get the group to the negotiating table ahead of a possible meeting in Beijing.

of the Afghan Taliban.

The Taliban had kidnapped US citizen Kevin King and an Australian Timothy Weeks, both professors, in August 2016 from the American University of Afghanistan in Kabul.

Ghani said authorities had been unable to discover where the Taliban were holding the two captive. "Information suggests that their health while being held by the terrorists has deteriorated," he said. REUTERS



Riot police during a standoff with university students in Hong Kong on Tuesday. Reuters

HK on brink of total breakdown, say police amid more violence

CLARE JIM & JESSIE PANG
HONG KONG, NOVEMBER 12

HONG KONG police fired teargas on Tuesday in the heart of the Central financial district and at two university campuses to break up pro-democracy protests which they said were bringing the Chinese-ruled city to the "brink of total breakdown".

The clashes came a day after police shot a protester at close range and a man was doused with petrol and set on fire in some of the worst violence in the former British colony in decades.

More clashes, teargas and arrests a day after a protester was shot and a man set on fire

A flash mob of more than 1,000 protesters, many wearing office clothes and face masks, rallied in Central for a second day during lunch hour, blocking roads below some of the city's tallest skyscrapers and most expensive real estate.

After they had dispersed, police fired teargas at the remaining protesters on old, narrow

Pedder Street. Police made more than a dozen arrests, many pinned up on the pavement against the wall of luxury jeweller Tiffany & Co.

Police later sealed off Pedder Street which was calm as office workers started leaving for home. "Our society has been pushed to the brink of a total breakdown," a police spokesman told a briefing, referring to the last two days of violence.

He said masked "rioters" had committed "insane" acts, such as throwing trash, bicycles and other debris onto metro tracks and overhead power lines, paralysing the transport system. REUTERS

Britain's Labour Party hit by large-scale cyber attack

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON, NOVEMBER 12

BRITAIN'S LABOUR Party says it has experienced a "sophisticated and large-scale cyber attack" on its digital platforms.

The main Opposition party said the attack did not succeed, because of "robust security systems." The party is confident that no data breach occurred. The party has re-

ferred the matter to the National Cyber Security Centre.

Britain will hold a national election on December 12, but is struggling with laws that have not yet been updated to face the digital age. The former chair of the British Parliament digital committee, Damian Collins, has been appealing for a coordinated approach across all parts of government to combat disinformation and protect the electoral system.

The work has heaped pressure on social media companies, who have faced global scrutiny following allegations that London-based political consultant Cambridge Analytica used data from tens of millions of Facebook accounts to profile voters. Former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton says she's "dumbfounded" the UK government has failed to release a report on Russian influence as the country prepares for national elections.



A member of security forces walks past the home of Palestinian Islamic Jihad field commander Baha Abu Al-Atta after it was hit by an Israeli strike. Reuters

Israel says airstrike killed Islamic Jihad commander in Gaza

FARES AKRAM & ARON HELLER
GAZA CITY, NOVEMBER 12

A PAIR of Israeli airstrikes targeted senior Islamic Jihad commanders in Gaza and Syria early Tuesday, escalating Israel's confrontation with Iran across the region and threatening to unleash another devastating round of cross-border violence with Palestinian militants.

In eastern Gaza, the Israeli strike killed Bahaa Abu el-Atta and his wife, setting off a furious barrage of Gaza-fired rockets that reached as far as the Tel Aviv heartland as Islamic Jihad vowed further revenge. The military said Abu el-Atta was the mastermind of recent attacks against Israel and the militant group's top commander in Gaza.

Meanwhile, Syrian officials said an Israeli airstrike in the capital, Damascus, targeted another Islamic Jihad commander, Akram al-Ajouri, who was not harmed.

Syria's state-run news agency said Israeli warplanes fired three missiles at al-Ajouri's home, killing his son and granddaughter. The Israeli military had no comment.

The sudden surge in violence looked to awaken Israel's increasingly open conflict with Iran and its proxies in the region. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has issued a series of warnings recently about alleged Iranian aggression.

Netanyahu also has been criticised by residents along the southern border and political rivals for a tepid response to recent militant attacks. Netanyahu's Security Cabinet held a lengthy emergency meeting to discuss further action.

Afterward, speaking alongside military chief Lt. Gen. Aviv Kochavi, Netanyahu said Israel had no interest in escalation but would do everything necessary to defend itself against people like Abu el-Atta, whom he described as an "arch-terrorist" and "the main generator of terrorism from the Gaza Strip". AP

Crisis in Bolivia: Morales heads to Mexico for asylum

REUTERS
MEXICO CITY, NOVEMBER 12

BOLIVIA'S FORMER president, Evo Morales, was flying to Mexico on Tuesday after fleeing his South American homeland, seeking refuge under a leftist government that has supported the veteran socialist in the wake of a disputed election.

Bolivia's first indigenous president came under Mexico's protection after he departed Bolivia late on Monday on a Mexican Air Force jet, Mexico's Foreign Minister Marcelo Ebrard said.

"His life and integrity are safe," Ebrard wrote on Twitter, after warning Morales was in danger and saying Mexico would offer asylum as part of its long tradition of sheltering exiles.

Mexico's support has helped cement its emerging role as a bas-



The former Bolivian president departed Bolivia late on Monday on a Mexican Air Force jet. Reuters

tion of diplomatic support for left-wing leaders in Latin America.

Morales, who governed for 14 years, said on Twitter he was thankful to Mexico but saddened to leave Bolivia for political reasons, following weeks of violent protests and unrest.

Kashmir a bilateral matter: Labour

London: Britain's Opposition Labour Party has stepped in to counter its perceived anti-India stance to urge that the Kashmir issue not be allowed to divide communities in the UK in the lead up to the December 12 general election, in the wake of protests from sections of the Indian diaspora.

The Chair of the Labour Party, Ian Lavery, issued a letter to stress

that Kashmir was a "bilateral matter" for India and Pakistan and that his party was opposed to external interference over the issue, as had been implied by some of the wording of a controversial emergency motion passed by the party at its conference in September.

The Labour leader stressed that his party held the Indian diaspora in the "highest regard". PTI

LEGACY OF INDONESIA'S MERCURY TRADE

Hidden cost of gold: Birth defects, brain damage and contaminated food

RICHARD C PADDOCK
CIDAHU, NOVEMBER 12

THOUSANDS OF children with crippling birth defects. Half a million people poisoned. A toxic chemical found in the food supply. Accusations of a government cover-up and police officers on the take.

This is the legacy of Indonesia's mercury trade, a business intertwined with the lucrative and illegal production of gold.

More than a hundred nations have joined a global campaign to reduce the international trade in mercury, an element so toxic there is "no known safe level of exposure", according to health experts.

But that effort has backfired in Indonesia, where illicit backyard manufacturers have sprung up to supply wildcat miners and replace mercury that was previously imported from abroad. Now, Indonesia produces so much black-market mercury that it has become a major global

supplier, surreptitiously shipping thousands of tonnes to other parts of the world.

Much of the mercury is destined for use in gold mining in Africa and Asia — and the trade has deadly consequences.

"It is a public health crisis," said Yuyun Ismawati, a co-founder of an Indonesian environmental group, Nexus3 Foundation, and a recipient of the 2009 Goldman Environmental Prize. She has called for a worldwide ban on



Miners use mercury to extract gold from crushed ore. NYT

using mercury in gold mining. Indonesia, the world's fourth most populous nation, stands out

for its huge number of outlaw gold miners and for concerns that some law enforcement officials

assigned to police the trade are instead profiting from it.

For decades, Indonesia got most of its mercury legally from the United States and Europe. But recognising the harm it was doing, Western countries began reducing mercury exports six years ago.

The mercury trade is lucrative, but the gold business it supports is far more profitable. By some estimates, Indonesia's illicit small-scale gold miners produce as much as \$5 billion a year.

To extract gold, the miners mix liquid mercury with crushed ore. Gold in the ore binds with the mercury to produce an amalgam of the metals. The miners heat the small lump with a blowtorch, sending mercury vapors into the air and leaving the gold behind.

But in mining communities, airborne mercury levels can be dangerously high. Wastewater containing mercury finds its way into fields, streams and bays, contaminating rice, fruit and fish, studies show.

Government officials have known about mercury-related health problems in the gold fields since at least 2012, Yuyun said, but they have not warned residents about the dangers. "It's a crime to deliberately conceal the damning results," said Yuyun, the lead researcher on small-scale mining at the International Pollutants Elimination Network. "People are dying and have little access to any effective treatment. The government has to stop the mercury trade and clean up the mess." NYT

GOLD

₹38,550

RUPEE

71.47

OIL

\$61.46

SILVER

₹45,080

Indian equity and forex markets were closed on Tuesday on account of Gauri Navaratri. *International market data till 1900 IST

SECTOR WATCH
FINANCE

‘Millennials among the most credit-conscious consumer segments’

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 12

THE NUMBER of self-monitoring Indian millennials — the generation of people born between 1980 and 2000 — grew by 58 per cent between 2016 and 2018, becoming one of the most credit-conscious consumer segments, while credit-conscious non-millennial consumers grew by just 14 per cent, recent study by TransUnion CIBIL has said.

Despite their high appetite for credit, the CIBIL study revealed that millennials are one of the most credit-conscious consumer segments in the country.

“These credit-conscious millennials self-monitor their credit scores regularly and have an average CIBIL score of 740,” it said.

While 51 per cent of self-monitoring millennials come from Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi collectively, millennials from Gujarat ranked highest when it comes to credit-consciousness with an average score of 747.

This was followed by Haryana at 743, and Rajasthan at 742. Featuring at the bottom of the list was Delhi with an average CIBIL Score of 734 and Tamil Nadu at 736, Cibil said.

As per the study, self-monitoring millennials show a preference for unsecured loans, with credit cards, personal loans and consumer durable loans

PREFERENCE FOR UNSECURED LOANS

■ Number of self-monitoring Indian millennials—the generation of people born between 1980 and 2000—grew by 58 per cent between 2016 and 2018, as per a study by TransUnion CIBIL.

■ Credit-conscious non-millennial consumers grew by just 14 per cent

contributing to 72 per cent of all loans availed by this consumer segment.

“Among secured loans, two-wheeler loans and auto loans had the highest demand, jointly contributing to 9 per cent of the total credit pie,” CIBIL said.

Sujata Ahlawat, vice-president and head-direct to consumer interactive, TransUnion CIBIL, said: “It is encouraging to see the rising trend in credit consciousness and good financial behaviour exhibited by Indian millennials. It’s also interesting to see that many lenders have started reaching out to this demographic with relevant product offerings. Since many millennials are at the beginning of their credit journey, reaching out to them at the right time will help lenders engage with them throughout their credit lifecycle.”

SBI RESEARCH CUTS FY20 FORECAST TO 5%; NOMURA PROJECTS 4.9%

July-Sept quarter growth set to fall to 4.2%, say reports

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
MUMBAI/NEW DELHI, NOV 12

WITH LEADING growth indicators, including the second straight month of contraction in factory output in September, pointing to the slowdown worsening further, India’s gross domestic product (GDP) growth for July-September is seen slipping to the sub-4.5 per cent level, much lower than the 25-quarter low of 5 per cent seen in April-June.

State Bank of India (SBI) and Nomura Global Markets Research, in their respective research reports, projected the country’s GDP growth for July-September to decelerate to 4.2 per cent, the lowest quarterly growth level in the 2011-12 (base year) series.

For the full year 2019-20, SBI has downgraded the growth rate to 5 per cent from 6.1 per cent earlier, while Nomura has projected GDP growth rate to be 4.9 per cent. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its October policy meet has cut the GDP forecast for 2019-20 from 6.9 per cent to 6.1 per cent, projecting 5.3 per cent growth in July-September and in the range of 6.6-7.2 per cent for October-March.

“We expect Q2 (September quarter) GDP growth at 4.2 per cent. Our acceleration rate for 33 leading indicators at 85 per cent in October 2018 is down to just 17 per cent in September 2019, with such decline gaining traction from March 2019. Even IIP growth number for September 2019 was -4.3 per cent, which is quite alarming. We are revising our GDP forecast for FY20 to 5 per cent from 6.1 per cent earlier,” SBI said in its Ecwrap report, indicating the deepening slowdown. However, it said the growth rate is expected to pick up pace in FY21 to 6.2 per cent. “We also expect revisions to GDP data as in the past, but that is likely in February 2020 as is the

EXPLAINED May lead to a rate cut by the RBI in December

A SHARP reduction in economic growth in the second quarter might prompt larger rate cuts from the Reserve Bank of India in the December policy.

SBI Research has, however, warned that rate cuts are unlikely to lead to any material revival, but result in potential financial instability as debt-financed consumption against an increasing household leverage had not worked in other countries and India cannot be an exception.

custom. In FY17, Q1 GDP figure was revised upwards from 7.1 per cent in every revision and finally settled at 9.2 per cent,” SBI said.

Nomura said IIP growth was expected to improve in September in preparation for pre-Diwali demand (in October). “Notably does this print suggest that the festive boost was largely absent, the non-synchronicity of the timing of the festival (Diwali was in November 2018) suggests elevated risk of a sharper fall in the next IIP print, depressed by the unfavourable base. This cements our assessment that Q3 (July-September) has almost universally been a washout for growth indicators vs Q2 (April-June), setting the stage for a disappointing GDP print (on 29 Nov). We forecast growth to slide further to 4.2 per cent y-o-y vs 5 per cent in Q2,” it said.

The SBI report said this growth rate in FY20 should be looked through the prism of synchronised global slowdown. Countries have witnessed 22-716 basis point decline between June 2018 and June 2019, and India cannot be isolated. India is also significantly lower in Economic Uncertainty Index when compared globally. “We also believe that Moody’s change in

Jul-Sept GDP numbers key, says DBS report

Singapore: July-September quarter GDP data, scheduled for release on November 29, will be important as headline growth has already slipped to a six-year low, said Singapore’s DBS Bank. A disappointing GDP report could lift USD/INR above its two-month range between 70.5 and 71.5 and bring it closer to year’s high around 72.5. PTI

sis of confidence in the financial markets, provision of central bank liquidity for NBFCs is necessary to ensure the stability of the financial system. With every passing day the risk increases that the not so better rated NBFCs in their quest to achieve the capital ratio could do it through deleveraging and reduction of their assets, thus prolonging the credit crunch,” the report said. “The woes of the telecom sector need to be addressed so that new investors are encouraged to set up new networks in the country. Simultaneously, it is perplexing that a growing economy is witnessing a contraction in power demand with Discoms buying less power for reasons well known,” SBI said.

Average PLF of thermal plants dipped to all time low of 48.9 per cent in October. Renewables generation declined by 6.4 per cent despite 15 per cent increase in installed capacity. “The government is doing the correct thing in addressing sector specific problems. NBFC, telecom, roads, power and real estate are sectors that require specific attention and there must not be any negative sector specific policy surprises in the current uncertain environment,” it said.

LABOUR STRIKE

Manesar shut, HMSI moves production to other factories

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 12

HONDA MOTORCYCLE & Scooter India (HMSI) has increased production at its plants in Rajasthan and Gujarat, as labour unrest at the Manesar facility has led to zero production for the eighth consecutive day on Tuesday. People aware of the development said workers at the other plants have been doing double shifts to make up for the output loss at the Manesar unit.

Production has been suspended since November 5 at the Manesar plant, which has a capacity of 1.5 million units per annum, as around 2,500 contract workers have gone on an indefinite strike. The strike was called to protest against retrenchment of over 200 contractual workers last week and the company cited low production and demand for two-wheelers as the reason for the layoffs. Even the 1,900 permanent workers are supporting the strike by the contractual workers. The other two plants have a production capacity of 1.2 million units each.

FE had first reported in August that the two-wheeler maker had let go off 700 contract workers, following a significant output cut due to the ongoing slowdown in sales and high inventory at the dealers. The latest lay offs is in addition to the previous one, Suresh Gaur, president at HMSI employees labour union, said.

While workers refrained from working since November 5, the company on November 10 wrote to the union members stating the normal operations will be suspended from November 11 and further notice regarding resumption of operations will be given. Workers have also been demanding Rs 1 lakh compensation for every year of service till the time of retrenchment.

Company increases production at its plants in Rajasthan and Gujarat

Emails sent to HMSI did not elicit a response. A company official, however, said since demand is subdued, a few days of production loss would not have much impact as dealers and firm’s stockyard are flushed with stocks and other plants are fully operational. “The call taken to shut production is to convey that contract staff are hired for a specific period based on demand and cannot be given similar treatment like the permanent workers,” the official said.

Gaur said the Rajasthan plant is just 25 km away from the Manesar unit and daily production numbers have increased there since last week. “While the company has cited slowdown in demand as the reason for such large scale layoffs, that could not be the only reason as other plants are functioning as usual,” Gaur said, adding the management has refused to have settlement talks.

Contract workers are usually hired for jobs like loading and unloading, transferring goods from one place to another, deploying material on the assembly lines and driving service vehicles.

While most manufacturers including Maruti Suzuki, Mahindra & Mahindra had let go off a few contractual staff in the last six months due to slowdown in vehicle sales, none of that led to labour unrest of this scale. A poor festive season demand in 2018 led to pile up of excess inventory at the dealers.

In the April-October 2019 period, HMSI’s production was down by around 20 per cent y-o-y. The company’s sales have been falling virtually every month since December 2018 in the range of 12-45 per cent y-o-y. FE

‘PE/VC investments remain flat at \$3.31 bn in Oct’

Venture investment activity in India slowed down both by value and deal volumes in October to \$3.312 billion in 91 transactions on account of poor show by the realty sector, an EY report said

CRITICAL TIMING
The report comes amid economic growth slipping to a six-year low of 5 per cent for the June quarter, and with analysts expecting it to go down to as low as 4.9 per cent in FY20

FUNDS RAISED
In October totalled to \$403 million, as against \$641 million in October 2018, it said

PE/VC INVESTMENTS
in 2019 have maintained a consistent monthly run rate of over \$3 billion, and have increased 16.5 billion to \$43.7 billion for the 10 months of the year, said EY’s partner Vivek Soni

\$114 MILLION, realty investments in October — a tenth of the \$1.45 billion in September

INTEREST in the infrastructure sector was driven from global buyout, pension and sovereign funds who continue to take large bets and the trend is



EXIT PERSPECTIVE
The sell-offs were 30 per cent lower at \$960 million as against the \$1.4 billion in the year-ago period and 64 per cent down as compared to September’s \$2.6 billion, it said

98 deals, which had seen investments of \$3.744 billion by private equity and venture capital funds in September, and \$3.336 billion in 64 deals in October 2018, the EY data showed

MAJOR INVESTMENTS
included Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (AIDA), Public Sector Pension Investment Board (PSP Investments), and National Investment and Infrastructure Funds \$1.1 billion investment in GVK Airport Holdings, it said

Future in India could be in doubt: Vodafone

REUTERS
LONDON, NOVEMBER 12

VODAFONE SAID its future in India could be in doubt unless the government stopped hitting operators with higher taxes and charges, after a court judgment over license fees resulted in a 1.9 billion euro group loss in its first half. Chief executive Nick Read said India, where Vodafone formed a joint venture with Idea Cellular in 2018, had been “a very challenging situation for a long time”, but it remained a sizable market where Vodafone had a 30 per cent share.

“Financially there’s been a heavy burden through unsupportive regulation, excessive taxes and on top of that we got the negative supreme court decision,” he said on Tuesday.

Vodafone had asked the government for a relief package comprising a two-year morato-

‘IT’S A VERY CRITICAL SITUATION’

■ Vodafone chief executive Nick Read said India had been “a very challenging situation for a long time” ...

■ “Financially there’s been a heavy burden through unsupportive regulation,

rium on spectrum payments, lower license fee and taxes and waiving of interest and penalties on the Supreme Court case, which centred on regulatory fees.

Asked if it made sense for Vodafone to remain in India without any relief package, he said: “It’s fair to say it’s a very critical situation.”

Read said Vodafone was not committing any more equity to India and the country effectively

excessive taxes and on top of that we got negative Supreme Court decision,” he said

■ Asked if it made sense for Vodafone to remain in India without any relief package, he said: “It’s fair to say it’s a very critical situation”

contributed zero value to the company’s share price.

Vodafone, the world’s second largest mobile operator, reported improving organic revenue growth as it saw signs of improvement in Spain and Italy and as it integrates its German cable acquisition.

It reported organic service revenue growth of 0.3 per cent in the first half, as it returned to growth in the second quarter, while organic core earnings rose

1.4 per cent.

It increased its forecast for adjusted core earnings to 14.8-15.0 billion euros from its previous forecast of 13.8-14.2 billion euros, but said India and lower cash flows following the sale of assets in New Zealand meant free cash flow would be “around” 5.4 billion euros, rather than “at least” 5.4 billion euros, as it previously forecast.

Read said he was pleased with progress in executing his strategy.

“This is reflected in our return to top-line growth in the second quarter, which we expect to build upon in the second half of the year in both Europe and Africa,” he said on Tuesday.

Read cut Vodafone’s dividend for the first time in May after tough market conditions and a need to invest in its networks and airwaves caused him to backtrack on his pledge not to reduce the payout.

L’Oreal, Nestle score the most at Alibaba’s Singles’ Day shopping fest

BRENDA GOH & JOSH HORWITZ
SHANGHAI/HANGZHOU, NOVEMBER 12

CHINESE SHOPPERS snapped up food supplements, facial masks and baby milk powder at the world’s largest shopping festival, with brands such as L’Oreal and Nestle among the biggest winners, Alibaba data showed.

The Chinese e-commerce giant’s annual Singles’ Day shopping blitz on Monday brought in a record 268.4 billion yuan (\$38.38 billion) in sales, more than six times the amount of online sales made in the United States on Black Friday last year.

It kicked off this year’s 24-hour shopping bonanza with a live performance by US pop star Taylor Swift followed by the live-streamed marketing of over 1,000 brands.

Alibaba said on Tuesday that 299 brands surpassed 100 million yuan in gross merchandise value, including LVMH’s Givenchy, home appliance manufacturers

The Chinese e-commerce giant’s annual Singles’ Day shopping blitz on Monday brought in a record 268.4 billion yuan (\$38.38 billion) in sales

Dyson and Philips and sports-wear maker Under Armour.

Fifteen brands made over 1 billion yuan in sales, it said. These included Huawei Technologies, Apple, Nike, Xiaomi Corp and Fast Retailing’s Uniqlo.

Food supplements were the most popular import product, while sales of makeup, diapers and face wash were also strong.

Sales growth for the annual shopping festival this year eased to 26 per cent, the weakest since the event started in 2009, in a reflection of how e-commerce sales in China have been slowing.

Analysts, however, said the growth rate had slightly beaten their expectations, saying that

more aggressive promotions, a focus on attracting more customers from rural cities, and even the overall slowing economy might have helped as people sought to buy goods at discounted prices.

Citic Securities had predicted a 20-25 per cent expansion, while Daiwa Capital Markets had an estimate of 23 per cent.

“What’s happened is that you’ve had a lot of consumers this year being a little bit more careful about their purchasing because the economy’s slowing down,” said Ben Cavender, managing director of consultancy China Market Research Group.

“I think this year especially, people were kind of waiting for Singles’ Day and kind of waiting to make some of those medium-sized purchases that they didn’t want to pay full price for.”

The event has been replicated at home and abroad, with Singles’ Day promotions found at rivals such as China’s JD.com and Pinduoduo as well as South Korea’s 11thStreet and Singapore’s Qoo10. **REUTERS**

FOR 3 PSU BANKS

BBB recommends 3 candidates as CEOs

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 12

THE BANKS Board Bureau (BBB) has recommended three candidates for the position of Managing Director and CEO in Bank of Baroda, Canara Bank and Bank of India. The Bureau has recommended Sanjiv Chadha, LV Prabhakar and Atanu Kumar Das, in order of merit, for the position of MD and CEO in BoB, Canara Bank and Bol. Chadha is currently Deputy MD with State Bank of India. While Prabhakar is Executive Director with Punjab National Bank, Das is ED with Bank of India.

BBB, the recruitment body for top officials of PSU banks and insurance companies, said AS Rajeev and Peruvemba Ramchandra Seshadri are on the reserve list.

Bank of India has been headless since July 1 after Dinabandhu Mohapatra retired as CEO. PS Jayakumar retired as MD and CEO

The Bureau has recommended Sanjiv Chadha, LV Prabhakar and Atanu Kumar Das, in order of merit, for the position of MD & CEO in BoB, Canara Bank, Bol

of BoB in October as his one-year extension ended. The government had extended Jayakumar’s tenure due to the bank’s merger with two smaller state-run banks — Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank.

On the other hand, RA Sankara Narayanan, who is the Canara Bank MD and CEO, will retire in January 2020. Last month, BBB had recommended Challa Sreenivasulu Setty for the position of MD in SBI. In August, it proposed Devesh Srivastava as the CMD of GIC Re. It selected Malay Kumar Poddar as the CMD of Delhi-based Agriculture Insurance Company (AIC).

REUTERS
WASHINGTON, NOVEMBER 12

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump on Tuesday took aim once again at the Federal Reserve for its interest rate policy in a highly anticipated speech that offered no fresh details on his administration’s long-running trade war with China.

With financial markets from frothy stocks to jittery bonds eager for word about the state of talks between Washington and Beijing, Trump instead bemoaned the fact that the United States has higher interest rates than other developed economies, and he took credit for the economy’s record-long expansion.

“Remember we are actively competing with nations that openly cut interest rates so that many are now actually getting paid when they pay off their loan, known as negative interest. Who ever heard of such a thing?” he told members of the Economic Club of New York.

“Give me some of that. Give



“We are competing with nations that cut interest rates so that many are actually getting paid when they pay off their loan ... Who ever heard of such a thing?”

DONALD TRUMP,
PRESIDENT, US

me some of that money. I want some of that money. Our Federal Reserve doesn’t let us do it.”

The Fed has cut interest rates three times since July, but that followed a string of nine increases since late 2015. Trump has repeatedly railed against the Fed for not lowering rates even further.

His speech had been eagerly awaited on Wall Street, where signals that the White House and Beijing are nearing a trade deal that could go a long way toward dispelling the uncertainty dogging the global economy have helped US stocks to record highs in recent days. The renewed op-

timism has also undercut the year’s big rally in safe assets like Treasury bonds.

Excerpts of the text of Trump’s prepared remarks, however, focused on the performance of the US economy and labour market since he took office.

As Trump spoke, the benchmark Standard & Poor’s 500 Index SPX edged down from the record high it had touched earlier in Tuesday’s trading session. It remained 0.25 per cent higher on the day.

As he often has, Trump pointed to the market’s run to a record as a validation of his economic and trade policies.

INTERVIEW WITH ARVIND PANAGARIYA

‘We should have a body like the US Trade Representative ... as part of PMO or MEA’

A WEEK after India opted-out from the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) negotiations, former NITI Aayog vice chairman ARVIND PANAGARIYA said it is India's interest to join the proposed body. He spoke with HARIKISHAN SHARMA about RCEP and other issues. Edited excerpts:

What is the reason behind India's decision to opt out from the RCEP deal?

Prime Minister (Narendra Modi) outlined many of these reasons as they were looking for a better bargain. Some of the concessions they were seeking were not offered. So, they chose to stay outside. My own reading is that this is not the final word, more negotiations will happen.

So you are still hopeful that India will join RCEP?

I think it is in India's interest and would imagine the PM recognises that. But, some of the concessions that India was asking for had not yet come through. It is a very large market; you have 3 billion people; 20 per cent of the global GDP is covered in that. So you can't be outside of it. That would mean that anything we export to those markets will be subject to very high tariffs whereas other 15 countries, who are members already, they will be exporting their products freely to each other's market. That leaves our exporters at a very big disadvantage.

Do you think India's domestic industry is ready for RCEP?

My view is that the political leadership has to be more courageous and take necessary action. You see, this is an argument that played out in 1991 also. At that time also, a lot of people in the industry were saying, let's open the competition domestically. Remember, at that time we used to have investment licences. So they were saying, remove investment licensing but let's not remove the tariffs and the import licensing because we will not be able to compete against the outsiders. But I think, at that time, the political leadership took the right decision. They showed the courage and they opened both — they



Former NITI Aayog vice chairman Arvind Panagariya

ended licensing and they allowed imports. At the end of the day, our industry did adjust. We did do it gradually ... I think we can do the same thing today.

There is a fear that cheaper imports will flood the Indian markets?

When you do a free trade agreement like RCEP, there will be a period of 15 to 20 years to implement it and lots of this implementation, countries backload. So you don't immediately knock down tariffs. You very gradually do it and a large part of the tariffs knock down towards the end of transition period. So, this whole thing about — we sign the deal today and the avalanche of imports of new products from China will begin is all wrong.

Is India's trade administration efficient to handle the deals like RCEP?

We should have a separate body like the office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) for trade negotiations, which is actually under the President's office. Similarly we should think of a negotiating office, which is actually part of the Prime Minister's Office or maybe the External Affairs Ministry. It can be headed by a political person in the rank of a Cabinet minister and manned by professionals such as lawyers and economists with some training in negotiating. Our Commerce Ministry, historically, has been very protectionist. So it is very difficult that any liberalising reform

will end up originating in the Commerce Ministry.

Coming back to RCEP, what gives you confidence that India will eventually sign the deal?

I believe in the PM. He wants to take the country forward. He is a risk-taking person. We have seen him in a number of areas. Ultimately, Indian industry has to compete in the global market. Otherwise, we are left isolated and Asia is a very large growing market to which gradually the central gravity of even global economy is moving. So we can not afford. I hope the PM sees that.

Do you think that by not joining RCEP, India is moving more towards the West?

We should try to have an agreement with the European Union also and down the road with the US. The US is a little harder because agriculture is a sensitive issue for us. With the US, it will be very hard to have an agreement if agriculture is not opened up. The US has very serious export interests in agriculture. It wants to open agriculture but for us it's hard. But the EU has less problems because they are not an exporter in agriculture. So we certainly do those also. This is a great time for India to bring in large multinationals as investors into the country and if they have duty free access to the large Asian markets, it will be an added kind of incentive for them to locate themselves in India. If RCEP is signed by other 15 countries and we are sitting outside, no multinational will want to come here.

... despite the reduction in the rate of corporate tax for new companies?

If they are coming only for the domestic market then the tax cut is the only thing that matters but generally, multinationals sell their products around the world so then they are going to see that by locating in India, they will be facing custom duties in those markets whereas if they locate themselves in one of the RCEP countries—Indonesia, Thailand or Vietnam—then they can tap that market duty free. On that account, it puts us on disadvantage.

‘MANY DIFFICULTIES ASSOCIATED WITH AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE MARKET COMMITTEE’

States should dismantle APMCs, adopt e-NAM for better price discovery: FM

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 12

FINANCE MINISTER Nirmala Sitharaman Tuesday said the Central government is impressing upon states to dismantle the Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMCs) and move towards a better platform by adopting electronic National Agriculture Market (e-NAM). A digital agriculture market at national level will ensure that farmers get better price for their produce, she said at 6th World Congress on Rural and Agriculture Finance jointly organised by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and Asia-Pacific Rural Agricultural and Credit Association (APRACA).

“The e-NAM has been pushed very much by the Union government and many states have agreed also to take it up at their level. Together with this, we're also making sure that the states are cajoled to reject the Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMCs). It has served its purpose at one time there's no doubt. But today there are many difficulties associated with the agricultural produce market committee,



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman with Chairman of NABARD Harsh Kumar Bhanwala at the 6th World Congress on Rural and Agriculture Finance, in New Delhi on Tuesday. PTI

which at every state level has become not so efficient in helping the farmers find better price points for their produce... We are talking with many states to

sort of dismantle that (APMC) and move towards e-NAM for farmers,” she said.

e-NAM is a pan-India electronic trading portal which net-

works the existing APMC mandis to create a unified national market for agricultural commodities. So far, 21 e-NAM mandis of eight states namely Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh have joined hands to start inter-state trade on e-NAM. Initially started with 25 commodities, e-trade facilities have been provided on 124 commodities with tradable parameters on e-NAM portal. Through inter-state trade, farmers get better market access, more buyers/traders and realise better prices for their produce.

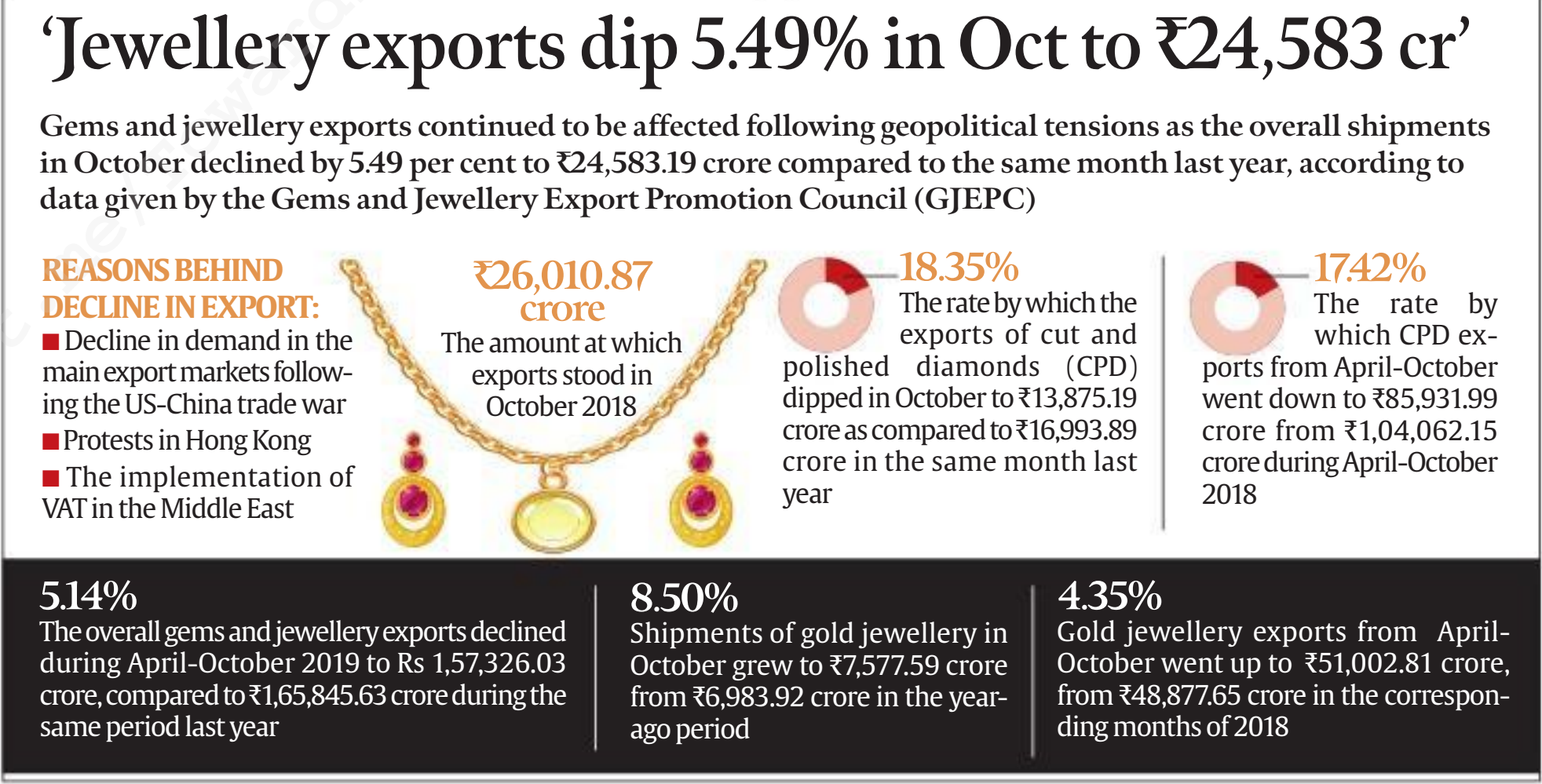
Sitharaman added that she had in the Budget announced formation of 10,000 Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) so that farmers have easy access to institutional finance. FPOs are largely those cluster or groups of farmers who are being brought together so that credit and other assistance can be extended to them and their marketing issues are also addressed with a clear objective of making the produce earn the money that it should be, she added.

“India provides \$200 billion agriculture credit every year to small and marginal farmers. This will be enhanced once the formation 10,000 FPOs, as an-

nounced in this year's Budget, will be functional. There will be a huge traction when the farmers will anchor the value chain, which in turn, will augment the value chain funding. These inclusive measures aided by technology interventions would bolster financial inclusion and rural financing efforts. NABARD Chairman Harsh Kumar Bhanwala said at the conference. He said NABARD's largest (Self Help Group) SHG-bank linkage programme benefiting millions of rural women will soon move to a digital platform.

The finance minister asked NABARD to take up immediate and necessary steps to extend support to the farmers in the Union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. This will ensure that the next crop of saffron, peaches, walnuts and other agriculture produce in the UTs is procured at the right time, she said, while highlighting the need to promote solar energy in the Ladakh region.

She emphasised that there is a need for the farmers contributing in solar energy generation, participation in wind energy, installing solar panels in his farms, etc and also to become an Urjaadaata from Annadaata.



Airtel submits bids for RCom spectrum

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 12

BHARTI AIRTEL, Bharti Infratel and private equity firm Varde Partners have submitted their bids for assets of Reliance Communications, while Reliance Jio has sought extension of the asset sale deal deadline by another 10 days.

Airtel has placed conditional bid to buy spectrum of RCom while Bharti Infratel has submitted bids for mobile towers, a Bharti spokesperson said.

Reliance Jio did not comment on an email query.

“The bid conditions include that the overall consideration will primarily be by way of the deferred spectrum payables to the government being passed on to us on terms and schedules applicable to such deferred payments,” Bharti Airtel spokesperson said.

Apart from real assets, RCom telecom assets on sale include spectrum holding of 122 MHz, which the firm before insolvency proceedings had estimated to be about Rs 14,000 crore, towers business for Rs 7,000 crore, optical fibre network Rs 3,000 crore and data centres worth Rs 4,000 crore. Sources said RCom Group's secured debt is about Rs 33,000 crore. Lenders have submitted claim of about Rs 49,000 crore in August.

Goyal flags ‘predatory pricing’ in e-comm

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 12

COMMERCE AND Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Tuesday flagged risks from the “predatory pricing” strategy of some e-commerce players in India, at a key gathering of BRICS ministers and officials in Brazil.

Speaking at a session on ‘Advancing BRICS Trade and Investment Cooperation — the road ahead’ in Brasilia, Goyal said: “I would like to highlight the adverse impact of predatory pricing indulged in by some e-commerce players which adversely impact millions of small retailers. It is important for e-commerce to follow the letter and spirit of the law.”

His statement comes barely a day before his scheduled meeting with US Trade Representative Robert E Lighthizer, aimed at narrowing differences over a limited trade deal that both the countries have been negotiating on for months now. In recent months, the US has expressed concern over India's FDI rules in e-commerce that ostensibly hit players like Amazon and Walmart-backed Flipkart. The rules clearly bar online marketplaces with foreign investments from offering discounts on products sold on their platforms and also prevent them from owning inventory, except in food retail.

E-retailers can't influence goods' prices: Draft rules

New Delhi: E-commerce companies cannot influence prices of products being sold on their platform and must adhere to fair trade practices, as per the draft rules proposed by the Consumer Affairs Ministry. The ministry has issued draft ‘The Consumer Protection (e-Commerce) Rules, 2019 and sought comments on the same by December 2. PTI

The government has already asked Amazon and Flipkart to reply to a set of questions on their operations, following allegations by brick-and-mortar stores that the e-tailers have flouted FDI rules, especially during the recently-concluded festive sales. For their part, the e-tailers have maintained that they have always complied with the FDI rules.

Goyal has repeatedly called upon e-tailers to comply with both the letter and the spirit of the FDI rules, cautioning that any deviation could invite government action. FE

Retain eligibility criteria for establishments in OSH Code: CII

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 12

EXTENDING THE provisions of the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code to smaller enterprises will increase their costs and hurt margins, industry body CII said on Tuesday.

As per the Factories Act, establishments must appoint welfare officers if they employ manpower of more than 500 persons.

The Code cuts this to 250 employees, which would impose a high cost burden on MSMEs now coming in this ambit. Other provisions too, such as canteen, face reduction in applicable employee limits, said the chamber.

As an alternative to lowering applicability criteria, the CII suggested that common facilities can be set up for establishments in a locality to avail of on cost basis. The proposed code enhances coverage of workers manifold as it would be applicable to all establishments employing 10 or more workers, where any industry, trade, business, manufacture or occupation is carried on, including IT establishments or establishments of the service sector.

IL&FS board okays sale of education arm to sole bidder

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 12

THE COMMITTEE of creditors (CoC) of IL&FS has approved the sale of the group's education arm, Schoolnet India, to Career Point Publications, which was the only party to put in a bid.

“With this sale, the group aims to address around Rs 650 crore of debt,” an official said requesting anonymity.

The group currently holds a 73.7 per cent stake in its education arm, and Schoolnet India holds 80 per cent stake in two group subsidiaries — IL&FS Skill Development Initiative and Skill Training Assessment Management Partners. The company said that after the sale,

The group currently holds a 73.7 per cent stake in its education arm, and Schoolnet India holds 80 per cent stake in two group subsidiaries

Career Point will assume responsibility for all of Schoolnet India's debt. As a part of the transaction, the winning bidder will also get Schoolnet India's entire stake in IL&FS Skill Development Initiative. Career Point made a binding offer to purchase the business and part of the debt of Schoolnet India's two subsidiaries.

Uber India gets fresh capital of ₹1,767 cr from Dutch arms

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 12

UBER INDIA has received Rs 1,767.46 crore in fresh capital from Netherlands-based entities Uber International Holding and Uber International, according to the company's RoC filings sourced from business intelligence platform paper.vc.

The recent funding is significantly higher than the last capital infusion made a couple of years ago — the two entities had jointly injected a little over Rs 40 crore in Uber India in 2017.

The fund infusion comes at a time when the US-based ride-hailing firm is looking at India to drive growth. Uber posted its largest-ever quarterly loss, a whopping \$5.24 billion in the three months which ended June 2019. Losses remained elevated at \$1.2 billion in Q3 2019.

At an event last month, Dara Khosrowshahi, CEO, Uber, said the company's growth will be defined by markets like India Africa and the Middle-East in the next ten years.

“Profitability metric of our business here (India) is improving. We will continue to remain and invest here,” Khosrowshahi said while launching Uber's public transport services in New Delhi, a first for the company in Asia. FE

BRIEFLY 80,000 BSNL, MTNL staff apply for VRS

New Delhi: Over 80,000 employees of BSNL and MTNL have already applied for the voluntary retirement scheme notified by the companies last week. Going by the response, it seems that the firms are set to achieve their target of 94,000 employees. FE

SJVN's profit after tax sees 44.93% rise

New Delhi: SJVN Limited has recorded a 44.93 per cent increase in Profit After Tax (PAT) during the second quarter of FY20. The PAT has increased to Rs. 623.50 crore from Rs. 430.21 crore in the year-ago period. In the first six months of the financial year, the projects of SJVN generated 7,498 million units of electricity, against 6,342 million units in the same period last year. ENS

Coast Guard's 3rd indigenous vessel soon

New Delhi: The third vessel of the indigenous project for 5 offshore patrol vessels for Indian Coast Guard will be launched on November 14 at Goa Shipyard. ENS

Moody's keeps Tata Motor's outlook negative

Mumbai: Moody's on Tuesday assigned a rating of Ba3 negative to Tata Motors' proposed issuance of senior unsecured debt instruments. PTI

Adani Ent plans posts net loss of ₹10 cr in Sept

Mumbai: Adani Enterprises posted a consolidated net loss of Rs 10.06 crore for the September quarter, against a net profit of Rs 79.6 crore in the year-ago period. FE

UltraTech to sell stake in ECBL, ECPL

New Delhi: UltraTech Cement on Tuesday said it will sell its entire stake in Bangladesh-based Emirates Cement Bangladesh (ECBL) and Emirates Power Company (EPCL) to Germany's HeidelbergCement for \$29.5 million. PTI

MAINLAND CHINESE ARE BEING ATTACKED IN HONG KONG

Black terror

To some, the city feels increasingly menacing



On November 2nd, protesters vandalised the office building of Xinhua, the mainland's state-run news agency, smashing its glass doors, spraying graffiti on it and starting a small fire in the lobby. AP

A FEW DAYS ago, Huang Qixuan, a 21-year-old from mainland China who is studying accountancy in Hong Kong, was walking through his campus, talking to his father by phone. He passed a black-clad local student who was holding a placard in support of the pro-democracy unrest that has racked the city for nearly five months. "It's chaotic," he said to his father in Mandarin, the mainland's common tongue. Incensed, the local shouted into Mr Huang's face in Cantonese, the language of most Hong Kongers. "Liberate Hong Kong!" the protester kept on yelling as he followed Mr Huang. "Revolution of our times!" chanted passers-by, encouraging the pursuer.

Communist Party-controlled newspapers in Hong Kong say the city is in the grip of a "black terror", a reference to the protesters' adopted colour. Mr Huang agrees, and has plenty of evidence to confirm his anxiety. On WeChat, a messaging app used by many mainlanders in Hong Kong, who include around 12,000 university students, videos have gone viral of attacks on people from China's interior. One such incident, on November 2nd, involved a woman who was ac-

costed by protesters in a touristy part of the city after she allegedly took close-up shots of people in masks (the government recently banned the wearing of them by demonstrators). During the encounter the woman's face was splattered with a sticky black substance. On the next day a mainlanders shouted "We are all Chinese, long live China!" inside a shopping mall. He then fled to escape an angry crowd, who swore and threw objects at a fireman trying to shield him.

During the past few weeks, such assaults have become more common. The protest movement, meanwhile, has increasingly taken aim at property connected with the mainland. On November 2nd protesters vandalised the office building of Xinhua, the mainland's state-run news agency, smashing its glass doors, spraying graffiti on it and starting a small fire in the lobby. Other mainland premises that have recently been vandalised include a branch of Tong Ren Tang, a pharmacy; an outlet of Xiaomi, an electronics company; and Chung Hwa, a bookshop, on which protesters sprayed the words "Chinazi income source". Some mainland-related shops have

erected metal barricades as shields against attacks.

Such incidents have contributed to a dramatic fall in the number of mainland tourists. In the first week of October, a national holiday, there were 56% fewer of them than a year earlier. At one tourist magnet, a large sculpture of a Bauhinia flower that was presented to Hong Kong by the central government, a mainlanders who has lived in Hong Kong for two years and earns money photographing tourists says that on a recent Sunday only about ten coaches stopped to let mainlanders off nearby. Before the unrest around 100 of them would have pulled up, he says.

Students from the mainland feel particularly vulnerable because many of those at the forefront of the unrest are people with whom they share their classes: locals who have daubed the pavements of campuses with slogans and filled whole corridors with political messages. In the West, Chinese students can flaunt their nationalism with strong support from their Chinese Students and Scholars Associations and a thumbs-up from Chinese diplomats. In Hong Kong, mainland student groups keep a low pro-

Students from the mainland feel particularly vulnerable because many of those at the forefront of the unrest are people with whom they share their classes: locals who have daubed the pavements of campuses with slogans and filled whole corridors with political messages

file, probably to avoid accusations by Hong Kongers that they are undermining the "high degree of autonomy" that China has promised the territory. Unlike Chinese students in the West, some of whom have demonstrated against Hong Kong's protest movement and torn down bulletin-board messages in support of it, mainland students in Hong Kong have usually been more restrained. Some avoid speaking Mandarin in public places, fearing a hostile response.

The mainlanders rub shoulders with a local student body that is far more staunchly anti-Communist than domestic students tend to be on Western campuses. On October 1st, China's national day, Mr Huang was among a few dozen mainland students who gathered to sing the Chinese anthem on the campus of the University of Hong Kong. The group was quickly surrounded by local students. Tensions escalated as the Hongkongers began yelling, in Cantonese, "Vindicate June 4th!" They were referring to the Tiananmen Square protests in 1989 which were bloodily crushed on that date.

Local students often regard their mainland counterparts as upholders of the Communist Party line. One of those who confronted Mr Huang and his group says locals sometimes ask mainlanders why they study in Hong Kong if they do not embrace freedom and democracy. "None of them ever answers," he says dismissively, asking not to be named because of his involvement in the recent protests.

It is true that few mainland students show much interest in the pro-democracy cause. Many regard politics as a sideshow to the much more pressing

need of landing a good job on the mainland. But Hong Kong's liberal culture does rub off on some of them. Julie Li (not her real name), who this year gained a master's degree from the Chinese University of Hong Kong, describes her own political transformation since she arrived in the territory in 2018. By reading Hong Kong's media, the 23-year-old discovered that a high-school classmate who had been arrested on the mainland for supporting a campaign for workers' rights had not, as the mainland's media claimed, "conspired against the country". Ms Li began paying closer attention to other human-rights abuses on the mainland and enjoying political debate with local classmates. Eventually she all but ceased to use WeChat, put off by its heavy censorship of news relating to Hong Kong's unrest.

Now, however, Ms Li finds the violence and vandalism unbearable. She wants to leave and is looking for jobs across the border. "I think the protests have degenerated into something sinister now," she says.

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JERUSALEM'S NEW NECROPOLIS

180 feet under

How Jerusalem is dealing with a grave shortage

WALKING THROUGH the Minharot Olam (Perpetual Tunnels) project in Jerusalem is like navigating a massive honeycomb. The developers have cut a mile (1.6km) of tunnels through the earth that are over 50ft (16 metres) high. Some are 18 storeys below ground. Within each, giant drills have burrowed thousands of holes into the walls and ground. Soon they will be filled not with honey, but bodies: 23,000 of them, to be exact.

This subterranean city of the dead, inaugurated on October 30th, lies beneath Har HaMenuchot, Jerusalem's largest cemetery, which is nearly full. Other local graveyards are already out of space; hence this novel solution. In some parts of Har HaMenuchot the dead are in high-rise structures. But these are costly and still take up a lot of space. Building down leaves more land for the living.

That is crucial for Jerusalem, where a growing population competes for scarce land — even the parts not imbued with religious meaning. A Jewish preference for burial (rather than cremation) sharpens the problem. Thousands of graves must be dug every year. "We've dreamed of going underground for 30 years," says Hananya Shachor of the Jerusalem Community Burial Society, a non-profit outfit that commissioned Minharot Olam. "But we had to wait until the engineers could come up with a plan to do it at a manageable price."

Israel's pension scheme covers the basic costs of funerals, and burial societies must provide free plots. But many Jews want to be buried in specific places — next to a spouse, perhaps, or with a view of the holy city. They are usually willing to pay extra: 40% of those buried in Jerusalem have bought their plots in advance

Mr Shachor says it will cost around \$70m. Special equipment drilled the rows of graves into the rock at a specific angle to avoid seepage of decomposing bodies. Smells are a worry, so filters will refresh the underground air four times an hour. Three large-capacity lifts will ferry funeral parties down. The tunnels are designed to let the elderly trundle through on their mobility scooters.

Israel's pension scheme covers the basic costs of funerals, and burial societies must provide free plots. But many Jews want to be buried in specific places — next to a spouse, perhaps, or with a view of the holy city. They



A worker at the construction site of a massive underground cemetery in Jerusalem. AP

are usually willing to pay extra: 40% of those buried in Jerusalem have bought their plots in advance. Official prices range up to \$6,000. The rights to prime spots can change hands

for much more.

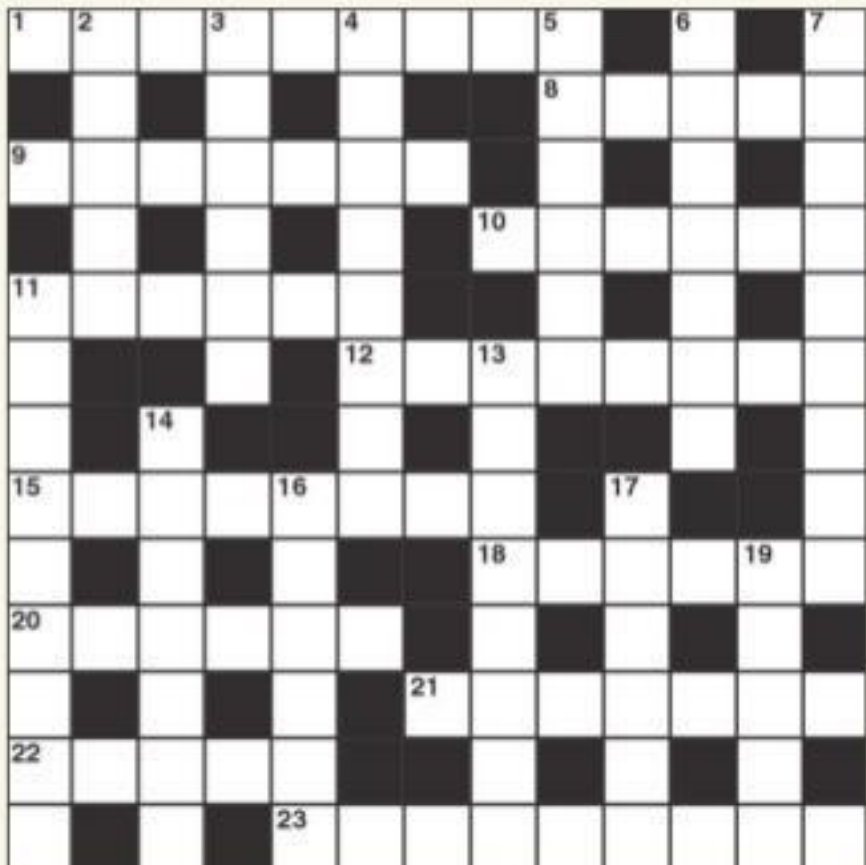
Minharot Olam's administrators believe that a cemetery sheltered from the weather, with fixed temperatures and round-the-

clock lighting, will appeal to customers. But no one has bought a plot there yet. Still, Mr Shachor is confident he will soon be digging deeper down. "This is the only way we can

ensure that the dead's final resting place doesn't come at the expense of the living."

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CROSSWORD 3961



- ACROSS
- DOWN
- 1 I can act it out, providing he plans the moves (9)

8 On the other hand, it's no loss (5)

10 Taxi runs into a horse - very gruesome (7)

11 Mike's love turns out to be from the north (6)

12 Make disclosures about meat (6)

15 Expressed at even greater length (8)

16 Hip seams split by stress (8)

18 Nassau provides hot baths (6)

20 Feels one would be mad to be out of them (6)

21 Some downy (7)

22 Attack on a clique (5)

23 It brings down the tone when depressed (4,5)
- 2 Present day maxim (5)

3 Steer awkwardly round a difficult problem (6)

4 Sees Carl is strangely unconcerned (8)

5 Ill feeling (6)

6 Queen of the Waltz? (7)

7 Tributes paid to organised labour (5,4)

11 Once rises develop on the stock market it may disappear (9)

13 A ticket and a drink is what many travellers need (8)

14 Language that disturbs his naps (7)

16 A note sent out by representatives (6)

17 Illicit way to transfer stock (6)

19 Perfume helps to make a romance possible (5)

Solutions Crossword 3960: Across: 1 Bugbear, 4 Rigid, 7 Iran, 8 Harvests, 10 Paper money, 12 Canada, 13 Scales, 15 Team spirit, 18 Composed, 19 Anon, 20 Ruining, 21 Stretch. Down: 1 Blimp, 2 Grasping, 3 Reason, 4 Review copy, 5 Gash, 6 Dismiss, 9 Cradle song, 11 Clarinet, 12 Chaucer, 14 Impels, 16 Tenth, 17 Impi.

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.

RVVEE

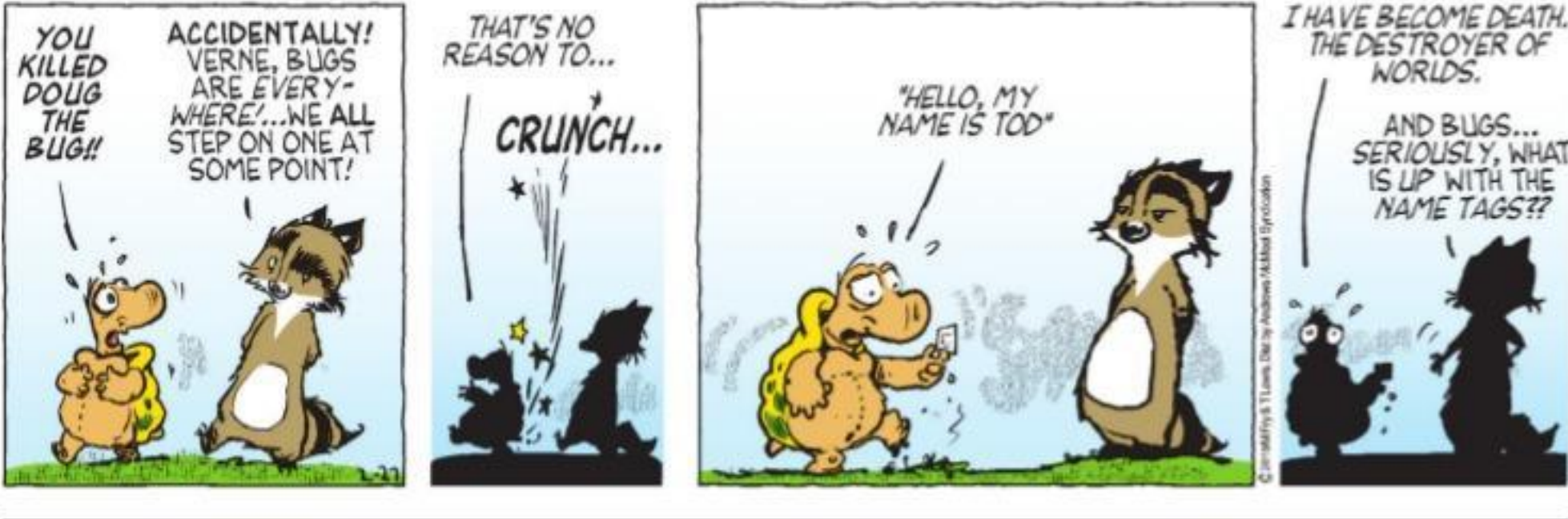
AEPRCN

PTZAO

BELSUH

Answer: God loves each of us as if there were only one of us. - Augustine of Hippo

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



SUDOKU 4028

Difficulty Level 3s
Instructions
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.



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

SOLUTION SUDOKU 4027



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

libra (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

Taurus (Apr 21 - May 21)

scorpio (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

Gemini (May 22 - June 21)

sagittarius (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

Cancer (June 22 - July 23)

capricorn (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

Leo (July 24 - Aug 23)

aquarius (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

Virgo (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

pisces (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

WESTERN RAILWAY - AHMEDABAD DIVISION

TENDER ADVERTISEMENT

SMM (DL) SBI on behalf of the President of India invites following electronic open tenders for supply of materials:

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Brief description of Material	Qty	Date & Time of E-Tender box closing
1.	72-19-5096	Sand Filling Machine	01 set	05-12-2019 11:00 hrs.
2.	72-19-5263	Heat Shrinkable Sleeve 20mm dia	1500 Mtrs.	05-12-2019 11:00 hrs.
3.	72-19-5265	Heat Shrinkable Sleeve 8mm dia	500 Mtrs.	05-12-2019 11:00 hrs.
4.	72-19-5257	Female Connector Temperature	95 Nos.	05-12-2019 11:00 hrs.

Regarding detailed tender notice containing purchase restrictions and detailed tender conditions, please visit website www.ireps.gov.in. Manual offers will not be considered.

Like us on: [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly) Follow us on: twitter.com/WesternRly

AWARDING VINYL WRAPPING ADVERTISEMENT RIGHTS

E-Tender Notice No. : C/257/LM/Vinyl wrapping Fresh 12019-20. Dated: 06-11-2019, Open e-tenders (two packet system) are invited by the undersigned for the following work: E-Tender No. : C-LMG-42-2019. Dated: 06-11-2019. Name of Work : Awarding license for panel advertisement rights (Vinyl Wrapping) on the inside surface of coaching stock of the following trains for a period of 05 (five) years.

Train No.	Number of rake	Number of coaches per rake	Inside & Total sq.ft. per Coach/per Rake	Rate per sq.ft.	Railway Reserve price for 1st year	
15630/29 Guwahati-Chennai Egmore Nagson Express	1	SLR - 2 General 2nd Class - 2 AC-2 Tier - 1 AC-3 Tier - 4 Pantry Car - 1	50 182 161 161 236 3068	100 364 161 644	₹105	₹105
Total SQFT for 1 rakes = 4337*4=17348 SQFT			4337	₹4,55,385/-		

Earnest Money: ₹ 9,200/- E-Tender will be closed at 11:00 hrs. on 07-12-2019 and opened at 12:00 hrs. on 09-12-2019. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available from 08-11-2019 to 07-12-2019 upto 11:00 hrs. in website www.ireps.gov.in.

Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Lumding

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER (ENTERTAINMENT BRANCH, 9TH FLOOR) DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND TAXES GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI

VYAPAR BHAWAN, I.P. ESTATE, NEW DELHI-110002

Attention: Organiser & Participants of events like Plays, Fashion Shows, Celebrities events, Circus Shows, Music Nights, Seminars, Exhibitions etc.

Under the provisions of the Delhi Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 the organisers & participants of the Event/Shows/Plays as mentioned above are required to obtain registration under Section 24 of the DGST Act 2017 as casual taxable person, provided the organiser/participant is not already registered. For registration as a casual taxable person, the registration has to be obtained at least 5 days prior to the commencement of the event u/s 25 of the DGST Act and the estimated tax due be paid in advance u/s 27(2) of the DGST Act 2017.

The owners of venue for such events like **Hotels/Banquet Halls/Restaurants/Exhibitions Hall/Auditoriums/Stadium/Farm Houses** must also ensure that the organisers obtain registration and discharge their liabilities under the aforesaid Act mandatorily. Non compliance of the provisions of DGST Act 2017 is liable to attract penal action and recovery of dues with interest. The relevant provisions of the DGST Act 2017 and CGST Act 2017 are available on the website <http://dvat.gov.in>. For further clarification the **Entertainment Branch, 9th Floor, Departemnt of Trade and Taxes, GNCTD be contacted.**

Sd/- Assistant Commissioner (GST) DIP/Shabdarth/0991/19-20

SEARCH OF KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo), **Namely: Savita, D/o: Sh. Raghu Mandal, R/o: A-15, Rose Udaan, Kamla Nagar, Delhi, Aged: 14 years**, has been kidnapped from the area of P.S. Roop Nagar, Delhi, vide FIR No. 158/19 u/s 363 IPC, Dated 18.09.2019, has been lodged at P.S. Roop Nagar, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:

Complexion: Shallow, Height: 4'9" Feet, Face: Round, Built: Thin, Clothing: White Top, Blue Trouser and Chapple in feet.

Any person is having any information/clue about this kidnapped girl, may inform SHO, Roop Nagar, Delhi at E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in or website : <http://cbi.nic.in> Tele No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641

S.H.O. P.S. Roop Nagar, Delhi Ph. 011-23844632

DP/539/N/19.

AWARDING VINYL WRAPPING ADVERTISEMENT RIGHTS

E-Tender Notice No. : C/257/LM/Vinyl wrapping Fresh2019-20 Dated: 06-11-2019. Open e-tenders (two packet system) are invited by the undersigned for the following work: Tender No. C-LMG-31-2019. Dated: 06-11-2019. Name of work: Awarding license for panel advertisement rights (Vinyl Wrapping) on the inside surface of coaching stock of the following trains for a period of 5 (five) years.

Train No.	No. of rake	Number of coaches	Inside & Total sq.ft. per Coach/per Rake	Rate per sq.ft.	Railway Reserve price for 1st year
12505/06 Guwahati-Anand Vihar Terminal	4	AC-2 Tier-1, AC-3 Tier-4, Sleeper Class: 12	324 347 335 4020	324 1388 105	22928 Sqt x ₹105
Total Sqft. for 4 rakes: 5732 x 4 = 22928 sqft.			5732	₹24,07,440/-	

Earnest Money: ₹48,200/- Date & time of closing of tender: 07-12-2019 at 11:00 hrs. and opening of tender: 09-12-2019 at 12:00 hrs. For details please visit our website www.ireps.gov.in

Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Lumding

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

DEFENCE INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY (A deemed to be University under Section 3 of UGC Act, 1956) Girinagar, Pune - 411 025 (An Autonomous Organisation fully funded by DR D&D, MoD, GOI) Telephone No.: 020-24304236 / 24304339 Fax No.: 020-24389318 / 24385909

Tender Notice No.: DIAT/MMG/2019-20/03 Date: 08-11-2019

OPEN TENDER NOTICE

1. The Vice Chancellor, Defence Institute of Advanced Technology, (DIAT) (Deemed University) Girinagar, Pune - 411 025 invites tender from government approved original manufacturer(s) / accredited supplier(s), authorised wholesale distributions of the manufacturers / Co-operative stores / stockist etc:-

OPEN TENDERS (No. of Items:- 08)

1. Procurement of Router, Core Switches and Networking Components.	(As Per Specifications)
2. 1 Year's Comprehensive Annual Maintenance for Tecnai G2 with Accessories.	(As Per Specifications)
3. Real Time High-Performance Digital Oscilloscope.	(As Per Specifications)
4. Creating Research Facility for Photonics Radar.	(As Per Specifications)
5. Annual Maintenance Services of Hygiene for Three Years.	(As Per Specifications)
6. Laser Wavelength Meter.	(As Per Specifications)
7. Hiring Services for POINTS Cafeteria.	(As Per Specifications)
8. Targets and Substrates.	(As Per Specifications)

2. Due date of submission of Quotation: 12th December, 2019 at 1600 Hrs.

3. For more details please refer - (under MMG - Tenders) on website www.diat.ac.in

Vice Chancellor DIAT (DU)

Karnataka Evaluation Authority (ISO 9001-2015 Certified Authority) # 542, 5th Floor, 2nd Stage, M.S. Buildings, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru - 560 001. Ph: 080-22353938, 22032561 Fax: 080-22283541 E-mail: keagok@karnataka.gov.in Website: www.kea.karnataka.gov.in

No. KEA 77 RFP (PROC) 2019 Date: 12-11-2019

NOTIFICATION

Seeking "Request for Proposal" (RFP) from eligible Evaluation Consultant Organizations to take up evaluation of studies under QCBS method of KTPP Act.

Karnataka Evaluation Authority (KEA) is a Technical Agency for guiding and overseeing the evaluation of all Public Policies, Programmes, Schemes, Boards, Urban and Rural Bodies and State undertakings in Karnataka, KEA intends to evaluate few schemes of the Government of Karnataka.

All the Evaluation Consultant Organizations (ECOs) who intend to apply must carefully go through all the sections of this tender document, Interested ECOs are requested to upload filled Technical and Financial Proposals as prescribed in the tender document along with the letters to the e-Procurement Portal Website: <https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in> after downloading the required documents hosted in the same website.

The applicants have to pay Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) of Rs. 40,000/- online which is refundable to non-selected ECOs.

The Last Date and Time fixed for uploading the filled documents and to make the payment of EMD is on or before 16-12-2019 at 17.30 hours.

DIPR/Bengaluru/R.O.No.1664/2019-20 Sd/- Chief Evaluation Officer

Bank of Baroda POSSESSION NOTICE (for Immovable Property)

[As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002]

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the BANK OF BARODA under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with rule 3 and rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice calling upon the borrower(s) to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the receipt of the said notice.

The borrower(s)/guarantor(s)/mortgagor(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower(s)/guarantor(s)/mortgagor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property/ies described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said rules.

The borrower(s)/guarantor(s)/mortgagor(s) in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealings with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of the BANK OF BARODA for the amount stated herein below and further interest thereon at the contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time, available to redeem the secured assets.

Name of Borrower / Guarantors & Description of Immovable Properties

Branch / Name of Borrowers / Date of Demand Notice / Date of Possession / Amount Outstanding	Description of the properties
Branch: Patna City M/s Nisha Chawal Bhandar, Prop.-Mr. Vinod Mahto S/o Daroga Mahto Demand Notice: 04.09.2019 Date of Possession:07.11.2019 Amt: ₹15,64,231/- (Rupees Fifteen lacs sixty four thousand two hundred thirty one only) + Int., charges & expenses.	Equitable mortgage of land & building located at Moh-Khanger Gali, Patna City, PS-Malsalami, PO-Madho Mills, Patna-800008 bearing Circle No.-214, Ward No.-71/54/35/30, Sheet No.280, MS Plot No.1973P Thana No.54, Dist.-Patna. Boundary of the property: North-Gali, South-Mahendra Yadav, East-Mahesh Prasad, East-Vendor.

Date : 07.11.2019 Place : Patna City Authorised Officer Bank of Baroda

AWARDING VINYL WRAPPING ADVERTISEMENT RIGHTS

E-Tender Notice No. : C/257/LM/Vinyl wrapping Fresh2019-20 Dated: 06-11-2019. Open e-tenders (two packet system) are invited by the undersigned for the following work: Tender No. C-LMG-37-2019. Dated: 06-11-2019. Name of work: Awarding license for panel advertisement rights (Vinyl Wrapping) on the inside surface of coaching stock of the following trains for a period of 5 (five) years.

Train No.	No. of rake	Number of coaches	Inside & Total sq.ft. per Coach/per Rake	Rate per sq.ft.	Railway Reserve price for 1st year
15601/02 Silchar-New Delhi-Silchar	2	SLRD-2 General Second Class-4 Sleeper Class: 8 Pantry Car-1 AC-3 Tier - 4 AC-2 Tier-1 First Class AC-2 Tier-1	50 182 161 161 236 3068	100 364 161 644	₹105
Total Sqft. for 2 rakes: 3682 x 2 = 7364 sqft.			3682	₹7,73,220/-	

Earnest Money: ₹15,500/- Date & time of closing of tender: 07-12-2019 at 11:00 hrs. and opening of tender: 09-12-2019 at 12:00 hrs. For details please visit our website www.ireps.gov.in

Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Lumding

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

छत्तीसगढ़ राज्य सहकारी विपणन संघ मर्यादित छठवीं मंजिल, टॉवर, "सी" कमर्शियल कॉम्प्लेक्स, सी.बी.डी., सेक्टर-21, मुन्हाखल्य, नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर, (छ.ग.)

website- www.markfed.cg.nic.in, Email id: mf_ctrilroom_raipur@gov.in

क्रमांक/रेशनरी/43/4008/2019 न.ग.अ.न., दिनांक 11.11.2019

कार्याय से कम्प्यूटर, प्रिन्टर, लेपटाप प्रदाय हेतु पुनः ई-निविदा सूचना

छ.ग. राज्य सहकारी विपणन संघ मर्यादित, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर मुख्यालय, जिला कार्यालय, धान/खाद संग्रहण केन्द्र हेतु विपणन संघ के निर्धारित ई-निविदा के माध्यम से (जिसमें विस्तृत निविदा निर्देश एवं शर्तों आदि वर्णित है) कार्याय से कम्प्यूटर, प्रिन्टर, लेपटाप प्रदाय हेतु दिनांक 12.11.2019 से 28.11.2019 तक आमंत्रित की जाती है।

निविदा सूचना वेबसाइट <http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> में जाकर संबंधित इच्छुक निविदाकर्ता द्वारा ऑनलाईन रजिस्ट्रेशन निविदा-प्रपत्र में दर्शाए गए अनुसार ऑनलाईन पूरी जा सकता है। निविदा प्रारूप तथा शर्तों एवं निबंधनों का अवलोकन विपणन संघ के वेबसाइट www.markfed.cg.nic.in पर निविदाकर्ता के अध्ययन हेतु गाइडलाईन के रूप में उपलब्ध है। ई-निविदा की कार्यवाही के संबंध में अन्य किसी भी प्रकार की जानकारी के लिए Mjunction में सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है। निविदा में कोई भी संशोधन किया जाता है तो वेबसाइट पर देखा जा सकता है।

E-mail: helpdesk.cgeproc@mjunction.in, Phone No.- 18004199140

हस्ता/- महाप्रबंधक(रेशनरी) मुख्यालय नवा रायपुर

23491

CHENNAI METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

NOTICE INVITING TENDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

Sealed bids are invited from the eligible bidders for the following work as per the procedure of CMWSSB under two cover system conforming to the Tamil Nadu Transparency in Tenders Act, 1998 and Rules 2000.

1 Phase I – Package-30 – Replacement of sewage pumping main from Natesan Nagar Sewage Pumping Station to Koyambedu Sewage Treatment Plant in Ln.127, Area X - Cont.No.CNT/SEW/CRRT/Phase I/062/2019-20 – Bid Security – Rs.2.21 Lakhs
2 Phase I – Package-31 – Providing 400 mm dia Pumping main from Greams Road Pumping Station to Langs Garden Sewage Pumping Station in Area IX - Cont.No.CNT/SEW/CRRT/Phase I/063/2019-20 – Bid Security – Rs.2.17 Lakhs
3 Phase I – Package-32 – Replacement of sewage pumping main from CIT Nagar Sewage Pumping Station to Ashok Nagar 6 th Avenue in Area X - Cont.No.CNT/SEW/CRRT/Phase I/064/2019-20 – Bid Security – Rs.4.15 Lakhs
4 Phase I – Package-33 – Replacement of 900 mm dia JBIC main by 1000 mm dia CI pumping main from Padi Flyover to Kodungaiyur Sewage Treatment Plant - Cont.No.CNT/SEW/CRRT/Phase I/065/2019-20 – Bid Security – Rs.18.83 Lakhs
5 Availability and Cost of Bid document in the form of CD (in person): 14.11.2019 to 17.12.2019, Grievances Redressal & Facilitation Officer, CMWSS Board (Telephone: 044-28451300 Extn. 217) for Rs.5,250/- (including GST) Through Website: www.tenders.tn.gov.in
6 Date of Pre-Bid meeting : 27.11.2019 at 11.30 A.M
7 Bids will be received upto 03.00 PM and opened after 3.30 P.M on 18.12.2019.
8 For all other details refer bid document in the website: from 14.11.2019.

DIPR/4239/Tender/2019 SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (CONTRACTS & MONITORING)

SNAP SHOTS



Roaring Time

AMERICAN POP STAR Katy Perry (*pictured*) is set to enthral Mumbai audiences with her first performance in the city this weekend. The *Roar* singer performed in India during the Indian Premier League opening ceremony in Chennai in 2012 and had made Rajasthan her wedding destination in 2010. At a press event on Tuesday, the Santa Barbara-based singer said, "I am extremely happy to be back in India. It's been far too long. I am looking forward to singing for all my Indian KatyCats." Director Karan Johar and actor couple Deepika Padukone-Ranveer Singh will host a party for Perry before the concert. She will perform at the OnePlus Music Festival at DY Patil Stadium on November 16. The event will also have other artistes, such as Dua Lipa, Amit Trivedi, Ritviz, The Local Train and Aswekeepsearching, in performance.



In New Lands

NETFLIX IS producing its first Dutch film — a war drama *The Battle of the Scheldt*, which will release in November 2020. Set in late 1944 and shot in Dutch and English, the film centers on the battle that claimed 10,000 lives and secured supply lines for the Allied forces' to defeat Nazi Germany. It follows the lives of three people involved in the conflict: a young Dutchman fighting for the Germans, a stray English glider pilot and a local girl who is part of the resistance movement. Actors Gijs Blom (*pictured*), Jamie Flatters, Susan Radder will star in the film. Putting down roots in the Netherlands, Netflix will open its European headquarters in Amsterdam next year.



Recording Self and the Nation

An exhibition presented by The Citizens' Archive of India shares personal memories of India's 'first citizens'

DIPTI NAGPAUL

THEY NEVER went seeking the extraordinary but as the team of The Citizens' Archive of India (CAI) started to chronicle the stories of India's 'first citizens', they realised that every ordinary story had an extraordinary element. For example, the story of Raviprabha Burman's education is also one of a strong-willed progressive woman. As the CAI website states, Burman, 92, grew up in Mathura during the British rule. It was a time when women's education was not only uncommon but also unpopular among locals. However, against all odds and the wishes of her father, Burman's uneducated mother sent her to school. This battle on Burman's

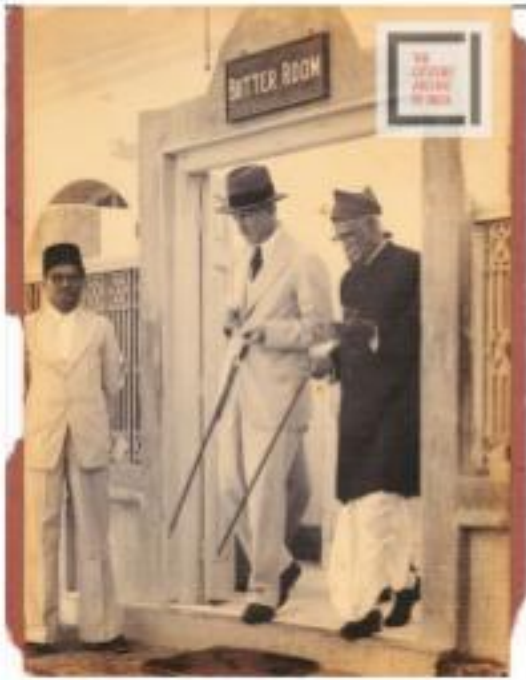
behalf was later fought by her uneducated husband's mother, who made sure that her daughter-in-law completed her masters. Burman isn't a celebrated figure in Indian history but her story is inspiring nevertheless. It is tales like hers that CAI intended to share when it launched in 2016. Three years and 230 interviews later, the digital archive project is holding its first exhibition. Titled "Life As They Knew It: Stories from India's First Citizens", it will showcase select stories from the archive at Mumbai's Chemould Prescott Road on November 14 and 15. Through the exhibition, Archive Director Malvika Bhatia hopes to attract potential donors for the project, which they intend to expand to other cities as well. "The interviews are the easy part, where we get to know the

people, listen to their stories. After the interview, we transcribe, sometimes translate, and give them keywords and a theme. It's a lot of hard work," says Bhatia, adding that they have recorded interviews in Hindi, English, Marathi, Gujarati, Kutchchi and Tamil so far. Founded by Rohan Parikh, managing director of Apurva Natvar Parikh Group, CAI has been chronicling oral histories through eyewitness accounts and personal narratives. These are collected through interviews and fill the gap between written records and lived experiences. The archive attempts to videograph the interviews and also collect photographs of each subject. Over the last two years, CAI has tapped into the memories of over 200 people who have



EXCHANGING WORDS

More than 160 letters exchanged between English author Ian Fleming, and his wife, Ann, that chart their journey from a secret affair to the bitter end of their marriage, will be auctioned by Sotheby's in December. Written over 20 years, they also provide an insight into the rise of James Bond, the character Ian created.



(Clockwise from left) Suman Desai with her Mercedes in Bombay in the '60s; an undated photograph of Doongursee Shyamji Joshi with the Governor of Sind, as they inspect the Karachi Panjrapole; Mohammad Anis Shaikh shows the CAI team a ticket for *Mughal-e-Azam* that he has saved from 1960 Photo Source: The Citizens' Archive of India

seen the country become what it is today, in order to inform our understanding of history beyond what we read in textbooks. As custodians of these stories, the team at CAI is cautious when dealing with the digital medium. At the same time, they want to be as accessible as possible. "The idea is to expand our archive and also control access. We hope to build an online catalogue where we will provide a theme to each interview and give access on request," adds Bhatia. The exhibition will be a mix of interviews, photographs and quotes from the interviews. Eleven videos will also be showcased. Bhatia explains that the selection was made on the basis of versatility of content. "We were very keen to have a theme for the exhibition at first, but then we realised the theme of our project is quite interesting. We do have sections. For instance, there is one where we have showcased exhibits of people talking about their early years." While each interview in the archive looks at personal experiences and memories, they are never approached from a political angle. Many of these are thus unintentional albeit interesting commentaries on caste, class and culture of the times. Explaining their approach, Bhatia says, "Most of them have a sound reason for their beliefs and the archive does not intend to question their belief."

ON THE LOOSE



LEHER KALA

Justice Misunderstood

One should not need a dictionary to understand judgments

IN A bizarre windfall for a murder accused, she has (temporarily) evaded jail because the Supreme Court repatriated a case back to the Bombay High Court as they couldn't decipher the decision. The Supreme Court has said, "On perusal of the impugned order we find it is unintelligible and we could not understand what has been decided by the High Court." (Never mind that I had to Google 'impugned'). The background is that a political confrontation in a family in Ahmednagar led to a murder and two cross complaints in 2016. An advocate working on the case, SS Chapalgaonkar, has said that while the judges were dictating the complicated order, it was recorded wrongly, leading to some confusion.

The old adage goes, 'justice delayed is justice denied'. But what can be said about convoluted sentences that confound lawmakers so much that the verdict is lost in between? Imagine the frustration for the family of the victim, that frilly and redundant sentences deprived them of closure. Professional writers like to play with words because like a condiment elevates an ordinary meal, a cleverly phrased sentence provides clarity. Lawyers spend a lot of time choosing words as well but with the opposite intention, of obfuscating the reader. It's not that lawyers suffer from terminal verbosity. There are good reasons for their long-windedness. It's a clever tactic to play on legal loopholes (brevity never suits one of the sides embroiled in a lawsuit). So 'hereinbefore' and 'thereby' it shall forever be.

We live in a world where people consume news 'in shorts' and there are literary competitions (with good prize money) for writing a short story in 160 characters on Twitter. This short attention span generation demands content in easy, digestible chunks. Despite that, it's not just lawyers, most people whose professions involve writing continue to believe style trumps simplicity any day. Blame this on India's education system, where an inexplicably large number of students manage a 95 on 100 in a language exam. The trick to acing English language examinations is to reproduce, exactly, vast swathes from the textbook, verbatim. Kids mug up the flowery syllabus and regurgitate it appropriately. Voila! The 95 per cent may be assured, but what follows is a lifetime of thinking that using words like 'therefore' are a perfectly acceptable way to express what we feel.

I have just finished reading the first two volumes of Marcel Proust's very addictive *Remembrance of Things Past*, where the dreamlike writing often extends to 70-word sentences. It has been like a study of English, making sense of how it's possible to construct a sentence of that length with just two commas. I highly recommend it to anyone suffering from insomnia not because it's boring — it's not — but it is exhausting. Sleep comes as sheer relief to the alternative, the effort required to fully absorb the language. There are rare cases like the striking down of Section 377, the colonial era ban on gay love, that a verdict rich in poetic flourish helps make a point more poignantly. The judgment, which runs into 493 pages, borrows lavishly from English literature. "I am what I am, so take me as I am," it begins, quoting the philosopher Goethe, to emphasise the significance of individuality. The lives of Shakespeare, Oscar Wilde and Michelangelo were touched upon to legalise 'the love that dare not speak its name'. The purple prose overload may be forgiven when the Supreme Court is rewriting history. For regular folk doing the rounds of Tis Hazari for property disputes and suchlike, nothing like another ode to succinctness: less is more, spare is fair.

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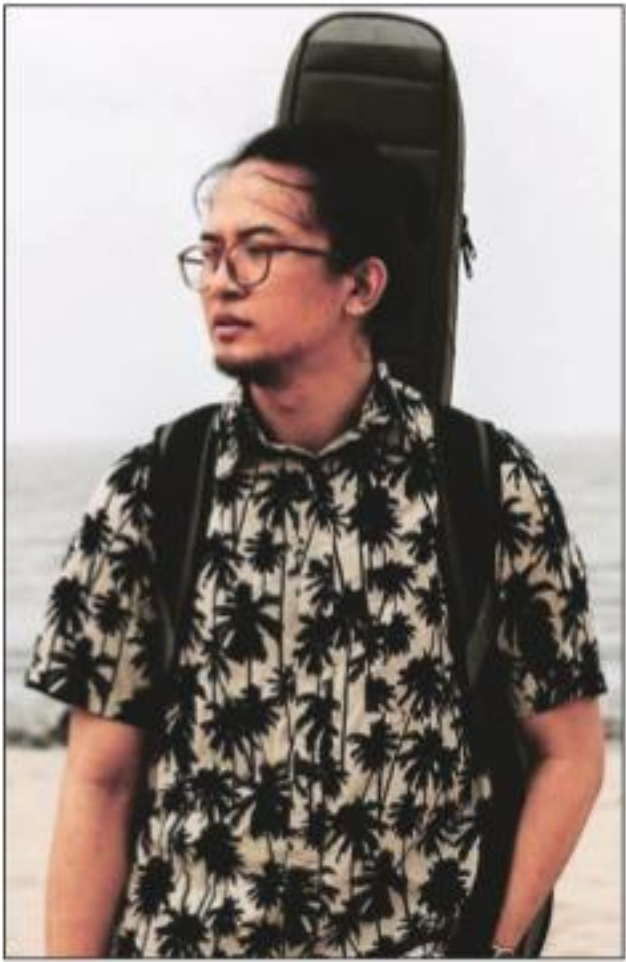
Soundtrack of a City

In Mumbai, a 26-year-old from Arunachal Pradesh is quietly making his mark in the independent music scene, as he builds bridges between home and away

TORA AGARWALA

AFTER EVERY concert of Taba Chake, people come up to him and exclaim, "Wow, you can speak Hindi too." The musician from Arunachal Pradesh is amused, but patiently explains each time: "Yes, I am from Arunachal Pradesh. Yes, we do speak in Hindi too. No, I am not Chinese." But last week, when Taba was tagged in a video on Instagram, he was caught by surprise. It was a cover of his Nyishi song, *No damalo*, by a singer from Mumbai. "And it was perfect. Every note. Every pronunciation," says Taba. *No damalo* is one of the three Nyishi songs — a language spoken in different degrees of variation in parts of Arunachal Pradesh — in Taba's recently launched album, *Bombay Dreams*, a folksy ode to the city he moved to in 2015. Since the 10-song album (a mix of English, Hindi and Nyishi) dropped in April, it's been topping Apple India charts, selling out at independent gigs in Mumbai, Bengaluru and Delhi, and has quickly earned 26-year-old Taba more than 50,000 followers on Spotify — establishing him as a new favourite in independent gig spaces around the country.

What confounds the singer-songwriter is not just his sudden popularity in the indie-music scene, but the wide acceptance the songs in his mother tongue are getting. According to data available from Census 2011, there are about 300,000 Nyishi speakers, most of whom belong to the eponymous tribe from Arunachal Pradesh, perhaps the most linguistically diverse state in the country. Yet when Taba grew up in a village called Rono in Papum Pare district, English and Hindi were the languages one aimed at mastering. Now, years later, hearing Nyishi roll off another tongue, in a land so far and so different from home, makes Taba proud. "Truly, music has no boundaries," says Taba, "I decided to sing in Nyishi because I thought it would help educate people about Arunachal Pradesh. Actually no one knows anything about



Taba Chake; (left) cover of his album *Bombay Dreams* Photo courtesy: Taba Chake

Arunachal Pradesh — that there are a number of tribes, that each tribe has its own language, one very different from the other. And that we are probably the only state in the Northeast, who does speak a fair amount of Hindi," says Taba. The diversity in the plethora of tribal languages within Arunachal Pradesh has led its residents to use Hindi more often than one would imagine in this corner of India. "I remember after one of my concerts, a bunch of Assamese guys came to me with their Pune friend and said to the latter: 'You make fun of our Hindi... but listen to this guy, listen to him break your stereotype,'" recalls Taba.

The three Nyishi songs, *No damalo*, *Hugulo* and *Ngo akin*, have got Taba messages from places as far-flung as Delhi and Madrid. "The funny part is my Nyishi isn't very good — its dialects are still being standardised, and often I can't find the right word for the emotion I am trying to express... and that is when I call my mother for help," says Taba. The lyrics of all his songs, including the ones in Nyishi, are up-loaded along with the video. His mother, who still lives in Rono, had a formative influence in his musical journey. "As a child, she would listen to Bollywood songs, or hum old folk songs. My uncle would bring cassettes of Michael Learns to Rock from Shillong," says Taba. Yet, it was only in school, impressed by one of his "more urban" classmates from Naharalagun, that Taba realised that this (music) was what he wanted to do in life. "I told my parents that I wanted to go to Bengaluru to study music. I sold my car, and I was off," says Taba. This was around 2010, a time, Taba says, Arunachal Pradesh was untouched by cafes and music festivals. "Right now we have festival after festival but back then, trust me, the only cafe we had was a cyber cafe," he says, with a laugh, "Even if they were unsure of my journey, it was brave of my parents to let me go." Earlier this year, Taba launched *Bombay Dreams* in a gig in Mumbai. "It was a space called Habitat, I was worried whether people would come, but not only was it sold out — people were actually singing at the concert. It changed everything," says Taba, who describes himself not as an 'independent musician' but a 'mix indie'. "Because I am influenced by all genres — jazz, rock, metal, pop," he says. Just a couple of years ago, a scholarship had got him into the prestigious Swarnabhoomi Academy of Music in Chennai, but he dropped out before graduating. "It was too theoretical for me. All I wanted to do was play from my heart," says Taba. And that is exactly what he is doing now — in the languages he wants to.



Dastangos Ainee Farooqui (left) and Nusrat Ansari

History and Beyond

A new dastangoi production recounts the horrors of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre

SURBHIGUPTA

Kis zaban se kah rahe ho aaj tum sauda-garo, dahr mein insaniyat ke naamko uncha karo, jis ko sab kahte hain hitler bhediya hai bhediya, bhediyе ko maar do goli pae-amn-o-baqa... Dastango Ainee Farooqui recites Urdu poet Josh Malihabadi's *East India Company ke Farzandon Se* — his powerful response to the Jallianwala Bagh massacre — to begin her *dastan*. She moves beyond historical facts and turns towards other giants in Urdu literature — Saadat Hasan Manto, Krishan Chander, Allama Iqbal — to weave the haunting story in the history of Indian freedom struggle. Farooqui, along with Nusrat Ansari, will stage *Dastan-e-Jallian* in Delhi. "We have all heard of the massacre, we know of the barbarity. But we recognise this as the handiwork of just one person — General Dyer — but it wasn't just him. It was the social structure of the time and racial discrimination that led to it. It was not an aberration in history, the whole system was Jallianwala Bagh — the repression, suppression, discrimination in the everyday," says Ainee, who wrote it to mark the event's centenary year. An MPhil in history from University

of Delhi, Farooqui's research focuses on the school history textbooks produced after Independence, where she attempted to study textbooks as devices of publicity, performative nationalism, and pedagogy. She started engaging with the art form of dastangoi, and learned the ropes from Mahmood Farooqui, as she felt it was a medium through which history can break out of the classrooms to reach a wider audience. She and Ansari conduct workshops in schools across Delhi. For this *dastan*, Ainee also turned to the Hunter Commission Report, which examined the event, and also the Minority Commission Report, which was submitted by the Indian members of the Hunter Commission. "You also find snippets from the pamphlets and poetry written by witnesses and victims in the *dastan*, which we sourced with the help of historian Shahid Amin," she adds. There are also verses from Rabindranath Tagore's speech after he returned his knight hood.

The performance will be staged on November 14, 6.30 pm, at India International Centre, Delhi. Tickets on bookmyshow

Indore cricket centre

Passion for the game in the city provides a counterpoint to those who want the 5-day game played at traditional venues only

SANDEEP DWIVEDI
INDORE, NOVEMBER 12

ONCE UPON a time in Indore, Steve Bucknor helped a corporator win a local municipal election. This charming little story, a favourite among old-timers here, one that gets embellished with every narration, reconfirms Indore's eternal love for cricket. It also counters the Indian captain Virat Kohli's insistence on confining Test cricket to five traditional centres. "We should have five Test centres. Period" — was how he put it after the South Africa series.

Back to Bucknor. It was the early 90s, Zimbabwe was in the city for an ODI, and so was the Jamaican umpire. While visiting the venue on match eve, Bucknor met a noisy bunch of young men. Introducing themselves as his ardent fans, they drowned him in marigold garlands. In the melee, without the West Indian realising, one of the boys hung a placard, with a message in Hindi, around his neck. The ever-smiling West Indian didn't mind, he played along.

The next morning the local newspapers gave the true picture. The fans were actually urchins from the slums next to the stadium. They had been hired by a local politician for the municipal polls. For a packet of 'aloo puri', they would roam around the city wearing the 'vote for...' banner. Bucknor was conned into doing the same while taking a lap around the stadium, all the while waving at the thousands who had turned up to watch the nets.

Folklore has it that the endorsement from cricket's most reliable decision-maker of that era went a long way in deciding the tight electoral contest. Such was Indore's trust in Bucknor, and cricket. They took his word even for choosing their representative in the municipality.

Over the years, that hasn't changed. Indore takes its cricket, cricketers, and even umpires, very seriously. It's the only city that has a city square with a giant replica of the World Cup trophy that India won in 2011 and a larger-than-life statue of Colonel CK Nayudu playing a lazy late cut at the centre of a park named after him.

With history and heritage, would it be fair to restrict the game's most storied format to just Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and Bengaluru? Does this over-enthusiastic city that clings to its cricketing legacy like a family heirloom deserve a ruthless snub for future Tests?

■ ■ ■

Sanjay Jagdale, Madhya Pradesh's Mr Cricket, puts up a strong case for his city. He has been a player, selector and administrator. He has been around. "I was the one who initiated the move that Tests should be played at smaller centres. There was too much cricket at big centres. They have Tests, ODIs, Ranji Trophy, IPL... The paying capacity of a common man is limited. How much cricket are you going to feed the fan at bigger centres. There should be rotation," he says.

And when the rotation did take place, Indore delivered. In 2016, Holkar Stadium hosted its first ever Test and the fans came in droves. There was a virtual full house on all match days.

Madhya Pradesh Cricket Association's (MPCA) head curator, Samandar Singh Chouhan, talks about the mass inflow from across the state. "People from villages around Indore came here in bus loads. This region doesn't get quality cricket, so nobody wanted to miss the chance to watch a Test." Chouhan says the city's cheap lodging and boarding options make the trip to Indore less stressful for those from the city's outskirts. "They wouldn't just take the daily passes and go back to their village. They would stay here for five days. A visit to the city to watch Test cricket, it was a very tempting option."

For its second Test, Indore is expecting a sequel. On the road leading to the stadium, a rangoli artist is at work. Over morning *poha*, Indore's staple, there is talk about Rohit Sharma's form in T20 and the return of Virat Kohli. Jagdale says the ticket sales have been brisk. "About 10,000 season passes have been sold and once we start selling the daily tickets there will be more interest," he says. The 30,000 capacity stadium is quickly filling up. ICC's marketing men in Dubai, responsible for selling the World Test championship to the cricketing world, might be tempted to take a flight here.

But then there is something about Indore that makes it uniquely different from any other Test venue or B towns across the country. Their love for the game isn't comparable to say a Chennai or Mumbai. Jagdale tries to explain the mystery of his city's Test match attraction. "I will not say Indore is cricket knowledgeable as say Chennai or Mumbai but this is a very lively city, Indorians always want to go out and enjoy."

■ ■ ■

Prakash Purohit, a respected editor and a popular columnist, is best equipped to decipher this intriguing phenomenon. An eager follower of the city's pop-culture, he has his ear to Indore's ground. Purohit calls Indore a "utsav priya seher".

"This is a city where people need something to do all the time. If they have nothing they will just walk to the city's various food joints to have namkeen or mithai. This is the character of the city. You need to go out every day, it's an unwritten rule," he says.

Purohit has hit the nail on the head. The local newspapers have lengthy listing pages. The Page 3 spills over to Page 4, 5 and 6. Last weekend, the city hosted television awards where ticket rates were as high as Rs 25,000. A day before the event, there was a dress rehearsal. Locals say that hundreds turned up to watch minor telly celebrities taking lessons from choreographers. A day after the event, a couple of hangers on are having tea on the footpath outside the venue, Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium. "Stayed up till late, waited 5 hours to get a glimpse of Kapil Sharma," one says. His friends' jaw would need wiring, the way it dropped.

An entertaining raconteur; Purohit gives an idea about Indore's outdoor-addiction by describing a typical weekend. "Go out on a Saturday or Sunday and you will find even the theatres that are showing the biggest flop film are full. You can even go to the worst restaurant possible and you will see a crowd there. In our city, we judge a movie or a restaurant only from Monday. Before that everything is fine because we need an excuse to go out," he says.

When it comes to cricket the same set of rules apply. "Trust me this is a city of show-offs. There are some serious watchers but most go to the stadium to be seen, either on television or to post pictures on social media. And, of course, to boast about it later."

For several days after an international game at the Holkar Stadium, the city's various hangouts turn into cricket *addas*. Locals say that in case one has missed the game, it is better to go into hiding.

With exaggerated tales of match-day excitement, the less fortunate are made to feel like miserable losers. Purohit it seems has missed a few matches at Holkar for he knows the lines by heart. "They make those who weren't there for the game feel wretched. They would make the most mundane game sound like a thriller. *"Kya match hua, kya match tha, itna maaza kiya, dari le ke gaye the, khaana khaya, patte khele"*. Playing cards while watching cricket, that's an Indorian's ultimate dream.

■ ■ ■

There is another section of this intriguing city that played a big role in increasing the match day foot falls. They are secretive, they have deep pockets, they are the *satorias*



India captain Virat Kohli during a training session on Tuesday in Indore, the venue for the first Test against Bangladesh. Kohli had called for a maximum of five Test venues in the country. *PTI*

"I was the one who initiated the move that Tests should be played at smaller centres. There was too much cricket at big centres. They have Tests, ODIs, Ranji Trophy, IPL... The paying capacity of a common man is limited. How much cricket are you going to feed the fan at bigger centres. There should be rotation."

SANJAY JAGDALE
FORMER BCCI SECRETARY

(punters). Indore's love for betting is as old as the city itself.

Back in the day, in the pre-independence era, Indore's leading businessman Seth Hukum Chand started the speculative trade in commodities. Known as the Cotton King he owned several mills, lived in a sheesh mahal and, some say, even loaned money to the Holkars. But then Indore believes in explaining things through tales, the ones embellished with every narration. This one is about his riches and his rutbaa (status).

Once Seth Hukum Chand was travelling in his own private railway carriage and his newspaper flew out of the window. He called the attendant and asked him to stop the train. The Railways employee was a stickler for

"People from villages around Indore came here in bus loads. This region doesn't get quality cricket, so nobody wanted to miss the chance to watch a Test. They wouldn't just take the daily passes and go back to their village. They would stay here for 5 days. A visit to the city to watch Test cricket, it was a very tempting option."

SAMANDAR SINGH CHOUHAN
MPCA HEAD CURATOR ON THE PREVIOUS TEST

rules. He told the Seth that the train stops only if something valuable falls off the train. Non-plussed, the Cotton King threw his diamond ring out of the window. The train was stopped and Seth got his newspaper. "As for the diamond ring, people are still searching," Purohit has the all the punchlines.

The editor says cricket surely attracts a lot of bettors. "This is a city of compulsive gamblers. When Seth Hukum Chand didn't have anything to bet on he would toss his shoe and bet which side it will fall."

Many fear the India vs Bangladesh Test might have the same excitement as a shoe toss. But then Indore doesn't mind. They can be expected to turn up in numbers with their *dari* and pack of cards.

Bangladesh wary of India's spin threat

Indore: It's India's fast bowling unit which is now feared in Tests but Bangladeshi batsmen are more concerned about handling spin twins Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja during the two-match series, top-order player Mohammed Mithun said on Tuesday. Mohammed Shami, Umesh Yadav and Ishant Sharma are expected to be more than a handful during the series but Mithun seemed more wary about the Ashwin-Jadeja threat.

"We all know the strength of their bowling line-up. We are working on how to tackle their spinners as it is batting-friendly for the first two days but afterwards their spinners come into play as they try to attack the opposition," he said. "We are working on some technical aspects keeping our focus on how to handle them," Mithun said.

They are expecting that batting coach Neil McKenzie will help them decode the Indian spinners. **PTI**

Hat-trick hero Chahar takes three wickets in four balls



Deepak Chahar took six wickets for seven runs, including a hat-trick, against Bangladesh on Sunday. *File*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, NOVEMBER 12

MEDIUM-PACER Deepak Chahar followed up his hat-trick in the final India-Bangladesh T20 international with almost a repeat, taking three wickets in the space of four balls for Rajasthan against Vidarbha in a Group 'B' match of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy T20 tournament here on Tuesday.

However, his heroics (four wickets in an over) went in vain as Rajasthan went down by 1 run (via the VJD method) finishing with 105 for 8 in a game to reduced to 13 overs due to rain. The fast-improving Deepak Chahar, who on Sunday last became the first India player to take a T20 international hat-trick and also the best ever bowling figures (6 for 7), picked up the wickets of Darshan Nalkande, Shrikant Wagh and Akshay Wadkar off the fourth, fifth and sixth balls of the final over of Vidarbha's innings, but missed the three-peat as he bowled a wide in between.

His performance helped Rajasthan restrict the opponent to 99 for 9 in 13 overs. After scalping the wicket of Rupesh Rajkumar of the first ball of the over, he dismissed Nalkande off the fourth.

However, he delivered a wide the next ball and then dismissed Wagh and Wadkar off the next two to finish with figures of 4 for 18 in 3 overs.

BRIEF SCORES: Vidarbha 99 for 9 in 13 overs (Akshay Kolhar 24, Deepak Chahar 4/18 lost to Rajasthan 105 for 8 in 13 overs (Manender Singh 44, Akshay Wakhare 3/15). Vidarbha: 4 points, Rajasthan: 0.

Mumbai's fourth win

Mumbai registered its fourth win in the league stage of the Syed Mushtaq Ali trophy in Mumbai on Tuesday after beating Pondicherry by 27 runs. The title favourites have beaten Mizoram, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh in their first three games. Asked to bat, Mumbai rode on a blazing half century by skipper Suryakumar Yadav (57 off 37 balls) to post a descent 171/6 on the board.

Their in-form openers Jay Bista (29 off 21 balls) and Aditya Tare (20 off 14 balls) conjured 48 runs for the first wicket before Bista was cleaned up by R Vinay Kumar (1-44).

Tare too fell in quick succession as the hosts were reeling at 52 for 2. But then Surya, who is scoring runs in every game, took the responsibility and steadied the ship in company of Shreyas Iyer (19) as the duo stitched a 49-run stand for the third wicket. **BRIEF SCORES:** Mumbai 171/6 (Suryakumar Yadav 57, Siddhesh Lad 39; Sagar Trivedi 4-29) beat Pondicherry 144/7 (Paras Dogra 45, Anand Subramanian 39; Shams Mulani 2-25) by 27 runs.

SOCIAL MEDIA SUPERSTAR

Famous dancing cop who directs traffic has a cricket connection

SANDEEP DWIVEDI
INDORE, NOVEMBER 12

BACK IN the day, Ranjit Singh was called Jonty Rhodes on Indore's junior cricket circuit. Now with more than a lakh Facebook followers, 24,000 Instagram followers and 2 crore Youtube views, he is the city's "world-famous" dancing traffic cop.

On Monday, Ranjit's two worlds met as he was deployed at the Holkar Stadium to ensure that the buses carrying the India and Bangladesh teams sail smoothly through this cricket-crazy city.

As the players trained on the field ahead of the Test starting on Thursday, Ranjit was on the turf close to the dressing room as he looked back at his own cricketing days. "I was an under-19 cricketer for Madhya Pradesh. I used to field in the covers and there wasn't a ball that could pass me," he says squatting a bit and throwing his hands out to pluck an imaginary cricket ball from thin air.

The very next moment, almost seamlessly, he starts making those robotic moves that have made the 41-year-old father of two, a Michael Jackson fan, an internet sensation.

"Growing up, I loved dancing and cricket but my family's poor financial condition forced me to give up both. Once I joined the police force, I got busy with my job and I never thought about any of those things," he shares.

But a tragic morning changed Ranjit's life. It had started with the traffic constable losing a very close friend in a road accident. Posted at the city's busy square, he couldn't stand still. He was getting restless as memories of his departed friend kept hitting him hard. To overcome anxiousness, Ranjit started pacing the road while directing the vehicles. That's when the magic happened.

"While walking forward and backward and moving hands asking people to stop and move, almost sub-consciously, the dancer deep inside me kicked in. Before I knew, I was moon-walking, making those Jackson moves," he says. His senior at the site asked him to continue doing what he was doing since it was making him feel better.

More encouragement by colleagues resulted in Ranjit continuing with his novel and immensely entertaining traffic management method. Soon the lean traffic constable, with Rayban sunglasses, handlebar moustache and Bollywood hero looks got a nickname.



Dancing policeman Ranjit Singh at the Holkar Stadium in Indore. He was part of the personnel tasked with ensuring smooth travel of the teams. *File*

Ranjit's dance was too 'cool' to stay off social media. And when it eventually happened, the dancing traffic cop from Indore was charming net surfers and going viral. Since then, life hasn't been the same. Ranjit is easily Indore's most recognisable face.

"They started calling me Singham sir and the square where I was posted was known as Singham square," he says.

Did it ever feel embarrassing or did he ever have a change of heart, one asks. Ranjit narrates an incident which made his resolve to keep moon-walking stronger. "Once I was dropping my little girl to school and everyone on the road would shout at me 'Singham sir, Singham sir'. She was just six then. She didn't say a word all along the way but once I dropped her at the school gate, she stood a while looking at me. After that, she looked

me in the eye and saluted me. Why would I ever change after that?" he says.

Ranjit's dance was too 'cool' to stay off social media. And when it eventually happened, the dancing traffic cop from Indore was charming net surfers and going viral. Since then, life hasn't been the same. Ranjit is easily Indore's most recognisable face. He has appeared on several television shows, one with Amitabh Bachchan. He says he has had Bollywood offers and also shows a mail from Mumbai Police inviting him for a Traffic Cop Expo as a special guest.

While narrating his story, Ranjit acknowledges calls of 'Singham Sir' from the terraces and moonwalk requests. He says the India cricketers also recognise him. "Ajinkya Rahane always asks me to accompany him to the Ganesh temple here," he says.

Ask him if he ever thought that he would be a break-dance celebrity while being a traffic constable and he gets philosophical. "I have learnt one important lesson. Life gives you a stage to realise your dream when you least expect. You need to grasp that moment. I did."

It's not for nothing they used to call him Jonty Rhodes.



Dhanush won individual and team gold medals in the 10m air rifle junior event.

Hearing-impaired shooter Dhanush wins double Asian gold

NITIN SHARMA
CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 12

DHANUSH SRIKANTH won the individual and team gold medals in the men's 10m air rifle junior event at the Asian Shooting Championship in Doha. While sharing his joy with his parents back in Secunderabad, the 17-year-old used a bit of English and sign language on the video call. "Dhanush was born with a hearing impairment but we never saw it as something that could hamper his ability and talent. He got his first cochlear implant at the age of one but it was replaced at the age of nine, as it malfunctioned. Me and my wife wanted him to believe that he can achieve anything in

life," his father Srikanth, who works as a project manager in Bengaluru, said. On Monday, Dhanush paired up with Shreya Agrawal to clinch the gold in 10m Air Rifle mixed team junior title with a 16-14 win over China, and a day later took the individual honours with a score of 248.2 in the final, beating China's Jiang Xuanle by 2.5 points. Dhanush had shot 625.3 in qualification. "Dhanush's biggest strength has been the ability to handle the situation very well and he can execute shots as he likes to and as he has practised in training. In the final, he got a yellow card after he loaded early but recovered. I hope this first international medal will propel him to further glory," says Suma Shirur, high performance director of the Indian junior team. London Olympics bronze medallist

Gagan Narang has played a key role in Dhanush's progress as a shooter. It was an advertisement for Narang's Gun for Glory academy in 2015 that helped the youngster's take a big leap in the sport. He won the junior, youth and senior titles in the Telangana State Shooting championships last year and followed that with a gold in U-21 category at the 2019 Khelo India Games in Pune. "I am happy with the way Dhanush is progressing. He is very persistent in his training and keeps on doing things told to him until he gets it right. I was looking to train a shooter like him and when he came to train, his parents' first question was whether he can shoot? And I said most definitely yes, as he might shoot better than most of us as his other senses would be stronger. We developed a shooting sign language with him and

When (Dhanush) joined the academy, it posed us a challenge initially. We relied on lip movement and sign language initially apart from making him understand the technical points of the sport on paper and by making drawings."

NEHA CHAVAN,
GUN FOR GLORY ACADEMY COACH ON WORKING WITH DHANUSH

I am happy that he has been able to turn his impairment into his biggest strength," says Narang. Prior to the Asian Championships, Dhanush had shot 252.5 in the junior event at the nationals trials in June, a score better

than the world record of 251.2. He followed that score with a score of 252.1 in the senior men's final in the national trials in September and won the gold medal. Dhanush had shot 626.9 in qualification, better than Narang himself, who managed 623.4. "When he joined the academy, it posed us a challenge initially. We relied on lip movement and sign language initially apart from making him understand the technical points of the sport on paper and by making drawings. With time, we understood him and he understood us," academy coach Neha Chavan recalls. "This year, when he won the gold at the Khelo India Games, it motivated him a lot. His score of 629.7 was as good as those of senior shooters and it gave him a lot of confidence."

Warming up for a sub-zero challenge

After unconvincing draw against Bangladesh, India prepare for tricky Afghanistan tie in Dushanbe

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NOVEMBER 12

SUB-ZERO TEMPERATURE, a spate of injuries, poor away form and a tricky, equally desperate opponent. When the groups were drawn for 2022 World Cup and 2023 Asian Cup joint qualifiers, Afghanistan away was always going to be a tricky tie for India. Many had even rated this tie as a potential banana skin for Igor Stimac's side in what otherwise looked like a sure-shot 12 points from the two matches each against Bangladesh and Afghanistan. However, an embarrassing 1-1 draw against Bangladesh has punctured the optimism that surrounded the team after they returned from the home of Asian champions Qatar with one point. The Afghanistan tie thus assumes a lot of significance, not just in terms of India's position on the points table but also to gauge whether the Bangladesh performance was a one-off or if it was the beginning of the team's unravelling after a scarcely-believable run. But the gritty Afghans aren't the only concern for Stimac. The Croatian has been left to deal with the elements of nature too, as he leads his under-strength team to Tajikistan's capital Dushanbe in search of maiden win of this campaign.

Afghanistan, a tricky opponent Going by past results, India have enjoyed an upper hand over Afghanistan. The two teams have played each other on eight occasions and India have won six times. But the Afghans have shown signs of improvement in the last two matches.

They outplayed India 2-0 in the 2013 South Asian Football Federation Cup final and then stretched them in the 2015/16 final, before losing 2-1 after extra time. Afghanistan have since started to play in a more competitive Central Asian zone. The switch seems to have worked for them, as they have managed to hold teams like Jordan, Vietnam and Palestine to draws in recent times. They started their 2022 World Cup qualifying campaign with a 6-0 hammering away at Qatar, but they recovered to beat Bangladesh 1-0 before losing 3-0 to Oman. It's been a tough year for them on and off the field, as they have been forced to play their home matches in Dushanbe owing to security concerns in Afghanistan.

Turf, temperature concerns India have prepared for a match that will most likely be played in sub-zero temperature by practising in humid conditions, where the mercury stays around 30-degree centigrade. Since there are no direct flights to Dushanbe, India were forced to make a stopover in Dubai. They will reach Dushanbe only on Wednesday, a little more



India have prepared for a match that will most likely be played in sub-zero temperatures by practising in Dubai's humid conditions, where the mercury stays around 30-degree centigrade. AIFF

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than 24 hours before kickoff. For Stimac, acclimatisation is the biggest concern. "The climatic condition in Dushanbe is very different from what we have experienced in India at this time. It's very cold and mercury level drops to closer to sub-zero," Stimac was quoted as saying by PTI. "Moreover, the match is scheduled on an artificial turf which our players are not used to. Afghanistan have chosen the venue to make others' life difficult and we have an uphill task in front of us to overcome it." India reached Dubai on Monday night, had a training session on Tuesday morning. Later in the day, they took another flight for Dushanbe, where they were expected to reach only on Wednesday morning. Stimac admitted the journey to Dushanbe and the flight itinerary was 'tedious'. It only adds to the tricky nature of this tie. "As professionals, we have to adapt to newer challenges," Stimac said.

Away blues India haven't been great at adapting to new challenges. The team has perennially been poor travellers. Sample this: since 2015, the team has lost half of its matches away from home and the few wins they have managed have come against teams inferior to them, like Bhutan, Laos and Macau. No doubt, there has been an improvement in the last year or so as the string of encouraging performances against China (0-0), Thailand (1-0 win) and Qatar (0-0) at their homes showed. The challenge, however, for India will not just be to find a goal, something they've struggled for in this campaign, but also to ensure they do not concede given how fragile the back-line has looked. Injuries to talismanic defender Sandesh Jhingan and midfielder Rowlin Borges, who uses his strong physique to win tackles and shield the defence, will make India vulnerable at the back. The central defensive pairing of Adil Khan and Anas Edathodika did not exude confidence against Bangladesh and Rahul Bheke was guilty of leaving gaps on the right, which gave them space to launch attacks. Whether Stimac will be tempted to shuffle the back-line remains to be seen. India's 2017 under-17 World Cup hero Dhiraj Moirangthem has received his first senior team call-up, but it is unlikely he will make the cut for the first 11. Gurpreet Singh Sandhu will remain the first-choice keeper

Ready to host ties in Srinagar: Real Kashmir

New Delhi: Real Kashmir FC co-owner Sandeep Chattoo on Tuesday said he is confident of conducting his side's home matches of the upcoming I-League in Srinagar. The abrogation of Article 370 and the ensuing communication lockdown in the valley had raised concerns over the visiting teams' security, but Chattoo said they are ready to go ahead with the home matches. "We have unofficially been informed about our matches. We will be playing at home and 12th (December) is our first home game. You all are welcome," Chattoo said on the sidelines of the unveiling of the team's new jersey, alongside its partner Adidas. Asked about the assurances from the concerned security agencies, he said they will expect the same guarantees clubs from other states get while hosting their home matches. PTI and a lot will rest of his shoulders if India are to return with three points. Sandhu will have to marshal the inexperienced defence once again to make sure they do not concede a goal. "Maintaining clean sheets will be of paramount importance in order to stay alive in the race," full-back Subhashish Bose told the aiff.com. "We will need to be sharper."

PTI/ENS
NOVEMBER 12

TOP INDIAN shuttler Kidambi Srikanth advanced to the men's singles second round without playing a shot after his opponent Kento Momota's pull-out while Sourabh Verma entered the main draw of the Hong Kong Open after clinching straight-game wins in his two qualifying clashes here on Tuesday. Srikanth was to play against Momota in the first round on Wednesday but the Japanese world number one pulled out of the tournament on Tuesday. The reasons for his withdrawal were not known. A few days back, the 24-year-old Momota had beaten Taiwan's world number two Chou Tien-chen to claim his 10th title of the year at the Fuzhou China Open. World number 10 Srikanth will now face either compatriot Sourabh or Frenchman Brice Leverdez, who will clash in the second round on Wednesday, to reach the quarterfinal. Sourabh, seeded fourth in the qualifiers, first defeated Thailand's Tanongsak Saensomboonsuk 21-15 21-19 before getting the better of Lucas Claerbout of France 21-19 21-19 in the final qualifying round.

In the mixed doubles, the Indian pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Ashwini Ponnappa rallied from a game down to beat the Thailand duo of Nipithon Phuangphuaet and Savitree Amitrapai 16-21 21-19 21-17 in a 55-minute match and advance to the second round. But in another mixed doubles first round match, the Indian duo of Pranaav Jerry Chopra and N Sikki Reddy lost 10-21 18-21 to the third seeded Thai pair of Dechapol Puavaranukroh and Sapsiree Taerattanachai to bow out of the tournament. The other Indians featuring in the men's singles main event will start on Wednesday. B Sai Praneeth, Sameer Verma, H S Prannoy and Parupalli Kashyap are those in fray in the competition. Sourabh's brother Sameer will be up against Tzu Wei Wan of Taipei. B Sai Praneeth too has a tough opening round encounter against third seed Shi Yu Qi of China, while Prannoy and Kashyap will take on China's Huang Yu Xiang and Kenta Nishimoto of Japan.

Miss following football: Gopi NATIONAL COACH Pullela Gopichand caught up with the sport that's catching the younger generation's imagination: football. Lending his considerable coaching heft to a mentoring programme for football's grassroot coaches as part of a mass-scale event in Mumbai, he said the game has got even budding shuttlers hooked. "I used to watch World Cups but I'm not a regular watcher of all the leagues. However, the sport's definitely caught the imagination of young Indians and even at the academy (in Hyderabad), they are immersed in their spare time into fantasy leagues and everything," Gopi said. What's more, at home, the television is monopolised by his football-loving son, Sai Vishnu,



National coach Gopichand rued that a packed calendar, along with the pressure of Olympic qualification has not given any respite to the players.

which has driven another sport out of focus. "I barely get to watch cricket since my son is always watching football. I end up being the only one at home that wants to watch cricket because I think people have moved to other sports - badminton, tennis and football." As part of the day-long mentoring, the Dronacharya awardee with two Olympic medals from his wards, took questions on topics as wide as parents, grassroots planning and how coaches needed to be role models themselves. "I was fortunate to have some very good coaches growing up. So I just talked them through what a good coach needs to be like." He also said it was refreshing to have an Indian men's doubles pairing do well internationally, even as he remained hopeful that the singles players would be back on track as they slowly emerge from setbacks of illness and injury. India continues to sweat over the slow recoveries of HS Prannoy, who was down with dengue, and K Srikanth, who has been battling injuries.

No scope for break PTI adds: Gopichand on Tuesday rued that the tournament calendar, packed with mandatory events, combined with the pressure of Olympic qualification has not given any respite to the players, who are now dealing with injuries and lack of form. "There is no respite. You are actually playing way too many tournaments. If you look at world badminton, a number of players have withdrawn (from tournaments) from Tai (Tzu Ying) to Carolina Marin," said Gopichand. "Ideally Sindhu should have rested but world badminton makes it mandatory for you to play all the 1000s, 750s and 500s. So we almost end up playing 14-15 tournaments which are mandatory."

[SPORTS BAR]



Kathuniya claims bronze at Para worlds

Promising Yogesh Kathuniya overcame three foul attempts to claim the bronze medal in men's discus throw F56 final at the World Para Athletics Championships and sealed India's seventh slot at the 2020 Tokyo Paralympic Games. Praveen Kumar had ensured India's sixth qualification spot on Monday evening with a fourth-place finish in the men's high jump T64 final. Under International Paralympic Committee rules, the top four ranked athletes at the World Para Athletics Championships in each of the individual medal events on the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Programme (excluding Marathon) will obtain one qualification slot for their respective country. The 23-year old Kathuniya hurled the discus to a distance of 42.51 metres in his sixth attempt to take the bronze.

Joshi eyeing second Panasonic Open title

No golfer has won the Panasonic Open India more than once and India's Khalin Joshi will be among the select band of players to try and do it for the first time, when the event tees off at a new venue on Thursday. The USD 400,000 full field Asian Tour event will be played from November 14-17 at the Classic Golf and Country Club in Gurgaon for the first time. The previous editions were held at the Delhi Golf Club. The 2019 edition will see five of the eight previous winners return to the event with Joshi leading the way and Shiv Kapur, Mukesh Kumar, Chiragh Kumar and Digvijay Singh giving Joshi company in the winners' gallery.

Asian Youth Boxing: 2 Indians enter quarters

Two Indian boxers — Ankit Narwal (60kg) and Aman (+91kg) — advanced to the quarterfinals of the Asian Youth Championships in Ulaanbaatar on Tuesday. While Aman defeated Uzbekistan's Makhmudov Minukhsin 5-0, Ankit prevailed 3-2 over Mongolia's Tulga Oyunbaatar. However, Mohit (75kg) lost 2-3 to Kazakhstan's Bektas to bow out in the opening round itself. India were assured of two medals in the event after Komalpreet Kaur (+81kg) and Sushma (81kg) got direct entry into the semifinals owing to the small size of their respective draws in the women's competition.



Leonard's first five points all came on free throws, including two technicals. AP

Leonard leads Clippers past old team Raptors

Kawhi Leonard wasn't at his best against his former team. His new teammates knocked down big shots and won anyway. Leonard struggled to 2-for-11 shooting and had nine turnovers, but Lou Williams led a big effort from the bench with 21 points and the Los Angeles Clippers beat the defending NBA champion Toronto Raptors 98-88 on Monday night. Leonard finished with 12 points, 11 rebounds and nine assists to go with those nine turnovers, prompting Clippers coach Doc Rivers to joke about "almost a quadruple-double." Throughout the game, Leonard faced plenty of double coverage. "As soon as I walked across half-court they tried to get the ball out of my hands," he said. "They did a great job on me defending and sending an extra body. It got me better and it's going to get my teammates better." Last season, Leonard led the Raptors to their first championship, averaging 30.5 points and 9.1 rebounds in 24 postseason games to earn his second Finals MVP award. "I had a great time there. It's the next chapter now. I can't live in the past," he said.

Watson heads Aussie Cricketers' Association

Former all-rounder Shane Watson has been appointed as the president of the Australian Cricketers' Association (ACA), a position, he says, will help him "to give back to the game". The appointment was made at the ACA's Annual General Meeting (AGM) which took place here on Monday night. "I am truly honoured to be elected as the President of the ACA as it evolves into the future. I have big shoes to fill with the people who have gone before me and I am super excited about this opportunity to continue to give back to the game that has given me so much," Watson tweeted following his appointment. Watson had represented Australia in 59 Tests, 190 ODIs and 58 T20Is.

Doping ban for Kenya's marathoner Kiptum

Former half-marathon world record holder Kenya's Abraham Kiptum has been given a four-year doping ban, the Athletics Integrity Unit said. The ban follows irregularities that showed up on Kiptum's biological passport, which is used to track potential doping. "The World Athletics Disciplinary Tribunal has banned the long-distance runner for four-years with effect from 28 April 2019," a statement on Twitter said on Monday. The Tribunal suspects the 30-year-old Kiptum has of blood doping, but the athlete has denied any form of doping or blood manipulation.



WADA wants lengthy suspension for Sun

The World Anti-Doping Agency wants China's star swimmer Sun Yang banned for up to eight years for alleged doping rules violations. The Court of Arbitration for Sport said on Friday that WADA requests a ban of two to eight years. Sun served a three-month ban in 2014 for a positive test. If WADA wins, the three-time Olympic freestyle champion will miss the 2020 Tokyo Games. WADA has challenged world swimming body FINA's ruling to merely warn Sun after a disputed attempt by sample collectors to take blood and urine from him at his home in China in September 2018. WADA believes Sun broke anti-doping rules by refusing to submit to a sample collection. All sides agreed to Sun's request to hold a first CAS appeal in public for 20 years. A verdict is unlikely until early next year.

Zverev makes light work of giant

Beats 19-time Grand Slam winner Nadal in straight sets at the ATP Finals; Federer back on track

AP/REUTERS
LONDON, NOVEMBER 12

AFTER BEING thoroughly outplayed by defending champion Alexander Zverev at the ATP Finals, Rafael Nadal refused to make any excuses. The top-ranked Spaniard wouldn't blame the abdominal problem that forced him to pull out of the Paris Masters semifinals just nine days earlier, or a hand injury that kept him sidelined before that. And he bristled at the notion that his recent marriage could be a factor in a sub-par performance.

Something was clearly off for Nadal, though, who lost 6-2, 6-4 to a player he had a perfect 5-0 record against before Monday's match at the O2 Arena.

Nadal dropped his serve three straight times, didn't force a single break point, and his normally powerful forehand was responsible for more than four times as many unforced errors (13) as winners (3).

Still, Nadal insisted there was nothing wrong with him physically.

"I did not feel pain in the abdominal at all," he said. "So the physical issue was not an excuse at all. The only excuse is I was not good enough tonight."

Nadal hasn't finished a tournament since winning the U.S. Open in August, also pulling out of Shanghai because of a hand injury. That lack of playing time certainly isn't helpful coming into an event featuring only the top eight players in the world, rather than lower-ranked early opponents.

He still has to face Stefanos Tsitsipas and Daniil Medvedev in round-robin play, and probably has to beat both in order to reach the semifinals. "Knowing that I would not be at my 100% in terms of feelings, in terms of movement, in terms of confidence or hitting the ball, I needed my best competitive spirit this afternoon, and I was not there in that way," Nadal said. "I need to play much better in two days."

The Spaniard then got a bit testy when a journalist asked whether his October marriage to longtime girlfriend Maria Francisca Perello has changed his outlook on the game at all. "Honestly, are you asking me this? Is that a serious question or a joke?" Nadal bristled. "It is a big surprise for me (that) you ask me this after I have been with the same girl for 15 years and having a very stable and normal life. Doesn't matter if you put a ring on your finger



Alexander Zverev beat Rafael Nadal 6-2, 6-4 to register his first victory against the Spaniard in six matches. *Reuters*

Honestly, are you asking me this? Is that a serious question or a joke?. It is a big surprise for me (that) you ask me this after I have been with the same girl for 15 years and having a very stable and normal life. Doesn't matter if you put a ring on your finger or not."

RAFAEL NADAL
ON MARRIAGE AFFECTING HIS OUTLOOK

or not." For Zverev, this latest win means he has beaten each of tennis' Big Three in his last three matches at the O2.

The German defeated six-time champion Roger Federer in last year's semifinals and then five-time winner Novak Djokovic in the final. "It's definitely a place and a court that I love,

and that brings maybe the best out of me," the seventh-seeded German said.

Nadal has a history of being far from his best at the ATP Finals, which comes at the end of a gruelling season that often takes its toll on the Spaniard because of his ultra-physical playing style. He has qualified for the event for 15 years in a row but has pulled out of it on six occasions because of injuries. He has never won the title, reaching the final twice. But he showed up to London hoping to stave off Djokovic for the year-end No. 1 ranking.

Federer bounces back

Roger Federer got back on track at the ATP Finals with a 7-6(2) 6-3 defeat of Italian Matteo Berrettini on Tuesday.

Defeat by Dominic Thiem in his opening round-robin match on Sunday has left the six-time champion facing an early exit, but he responded in emphatic fashion.

Berrettini was also coming off a heavy defeat by Novak Djokovic in his first appearance at the event, and the 23-year-old showed why he has made such an impact this year as he pushed Federer hard in the opening set.

He saved a set point at 5-6 but Federer squeezed the accelerator to win 10 of 11 points as he cruised through the tiebreak and broke to love at the start of the second.

Berrettini, the first Italian to qualify for the tournament since 1978, had three break points in the eighth game but Federer served his way out of trouble and the 38-year-old Swiss then broke to claim victory.

Incredibly Federer is now 17-0 in second round-robin matches at the tournament but he is likely to need a victory over Djokovic on Thursday to reach the semi-finals.

Only once in his previous 16 appearances at the year-enders has Federer failed to survive the group stage, in 2008.

Racing with the times

It has a reputation of a gas-guzzling and environment-unfriendly enterprise, but Formula One has realised the need to act on the pressing concerns of the day and aims to achieve a zero carbon footprint by 2030.

STATUS QUO

■ The number of F1 races every year doesn't seem to be reducing. There will be 10 teams, 20 cars in total, competing in 22 races in five continents next year. Flying all the equipment and paraphernalia of the nine-month annual circus all around the world results in a large carbon footprint. By its own calculations, F1's total carbon emissions in 2018 was 256,551 tonnes, not including fans' transport to races.

INTENTION

■ To eliminate F1's carbon footprint from race tracks, road and air transport of staff and equipment to the events.
■ Petrol used in F1 must have a biofuel content of at least 10 percent from 2021.
■ Make all events "sustainable" by 2025, including eliminating single-use plastics and ensuring all waste is reused, recycled or composted.

PROGRESS MADE SO FAR

■ Current V6 turbo hybrid power engines, in use since 2014, are considered to be the most efficient in the world and delivered more power from less fuel than any other car. F1 engines have a thermal efficiency rating of 50 per cent, whereas a road-car petrol engine is generally in the region of 30 per cent.
■ McLaren were certified as Formula One's first carbon-neutral team in 2011.

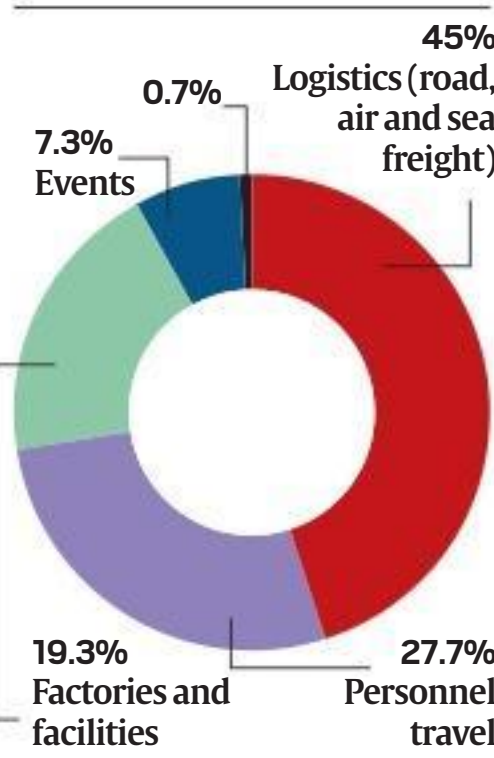
HOW TO DO IT

■ Having ultra-efficient logistics and 100 per cent renewably-powered offices, facilities and factories
By compensating for emissions through a combination of replanting trees and using the technological expertise to capture carbon from the atmosphere.
■ Providing incentives for fans to get to the race venues in a greener way. Work with the energy and automotive sector to deliver the world's first net zero-carbon hybrid internal combustion engine

INSTIGATION

■ Recent comments by six-time world champion Lewis Hamilton, that were

EMISSION BREAKDOWN



■ Total F1 car emissions including all race and test mileage

derided as hypocritical at the time, may have played a role in the F1 initiative.

"It is not the easiest because, yes, we are travelling around the world and we are racing Formula One cars. Our carbon footprint for sure is higher than the average homeowner that lives in the same city. But it doesn't mean you should be afraid to speak out about things that can be for a positive change,"



LEWIS HAMILTON

SUPPORT

■ Hamilton's longtime rival and four-time world champion Sebastian Vettel had expressed support, saying F1 needs to "send a positive" message.

England drop Sterling after tiff with teammate Gomez

ASSOCIATED PRESS
NOVEMBER 12

RAHEEM STERLING said he has settled his differences with England teammate Joe Gomez after their club rivalry spilled over into an exchange on international duty.

England took the decision to drop Sterling for the European Championship qualifier against Montenegro on Thursday after the Manchester City forward clashed with Gomez in what the English Football Association described as a "disturbance in a private team area" on Monday.

A day earlier, the two players squared up to each other toward the end of a high-profile Premier League game between City and Liverpool, with Gomez shoving Sterling before they were separated.

"We are in a sport where emotions run high and I am man enough to admit when emotions got the better of me," Sterling said of the incident in the England camp that he described as a "5-10 second thing."

In a post on Instagram, Sterling said he and Gomez "have had words and figured things out."

"We move forward," Sterling wrote, "and not make this bigger than it is."

England said Sterling will remain with the squad at the national training center, with the team also playing away to Kosovo on Sunday.

The decision to withdraw Sterling from contention for the match against Montenegro deprives England of possibly its best player, with the City star having scored eight goals and set up five more during Euro 2020 qualification.

England can secure its place in next year's

finals with a win at Wembley, on what will be the team's 1,000th fixture.

One of England manager Gareth Southgate's biggest successes has been his ability to create a strong bond between players, no matter what their club backgrounds are. That hasn't always been the case with England.

Only last year, former England defender Rio Ferdinand said club rivalries "killed" the chances of the national team winning anything during its so-called "golden generation" at the start of this century, when high-profile players from Manchester United, Liverpool, and Chelsea were in the team.

"One year we would have been fighting Liverpool to win the league, another year it would be Chelsea," said Ferdinand, who was a Premier League and Champions League winner with United. "So I was never going to walk into the England dressing room and open up to Frank Lampard, Ashley Cole, John Terry or Joe Cole at Chelsea, or Steven Gerrard or Jamie Carragher at Liverpool.

"I wouldn't open up because of the fear they would take something back to their club and use it against us, to make them better than us. I didn't really want to engage with them."

Ferdinand said "it overshadowed things. It killed that England team, that generation."

The rivalry between City and Liverpool is a rather new one in English soccer, with the two teams vying for the Premier League title last season and seen as the two biggest contenders this season, too.

Liverpool, the league leader, moved nine points clear of City with a 3-1 win at Anfield on Sunday, and Sterling, a former Liverpool player, was again a target of vitriol for home fans. Gomez went on as a late substitute in that game.



(From left) England's Trippier, Sterling and Chilwell during a training session. *Reuters*

Police in the hunt for fans who racially abused Taison

ASSOCIATED PRESS
KHARKIV, NOVEMBER 12

Ukrainian police want to identify and find about 20 Dynamo Kyiv fans as part of an investigation into racist abuse directed at Shakhtar Donetsk player Taison.

The Brazilian midfielder left the field in tears after reacting to the abuse in Sunday's game by showing an obscene gesture and kicking the ball in the direction of Dynamo's fans. The referee took the players off briefly and then gave Taison a red card for his reaction once the game resumed.

World players' union FIFPro and anti-discrimination campaigners have called for that card to be rescinded. Police in the city of Kharkiv, where Shakhtar plays, said on Tuesday they have opened criminal proceedings on allegations of "violation of citizens' equality" due to race, nationality, religion or disability.

Taison, who has played eight times for Brazil, said on Instagram on Sunday he "will never stay quiet after seeing such an inhuman and despicable act."

The Fare Network, which campaigns against discrimination in soccer, welcomed the police announcement and advised the Ukrainian soccer association to overturn Taison's red card.

"We welcome the police investigation and await the outcomes of action by the criminal justice system in Ukraine. But this should not exempt football authorities from doing their part," Fare spokesman Pavel Klymenko said. "The UAF should immediately rescind the red card given to Taison. And it goes without saying the UAF should apply strong measures against the perpetrators."

FIFPro spokesman Alex Duff said the organization had joined the Ukrainian players' union in writing to the UAF "asking for Taison's red card to be overturned." FIFPro is also asking for an investigation into the fans' behavior and how match officials handled the situation. FIFPro launched a similar campaign in Italy in 2017 when Ghanaian player Sulley Muntari was red-carded in Italy for walking off the field in protest at racist abuse. The Italian soccer federation overturned a one-game ban for Muntari in that case.

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by

DR S. JAISHANKAR
Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs
Government of India

speaks on

**'BEYOND THE DELHI DOGMA:
INDIAN FOREIGN POLICY IN
A CHANGING WORLD'**

Followed by a conversation with

DR C RAJA MOHAN
Contributing Editor, The Indian Express;
and Director, Institute of South Asian Studies,
National University of Singapore

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