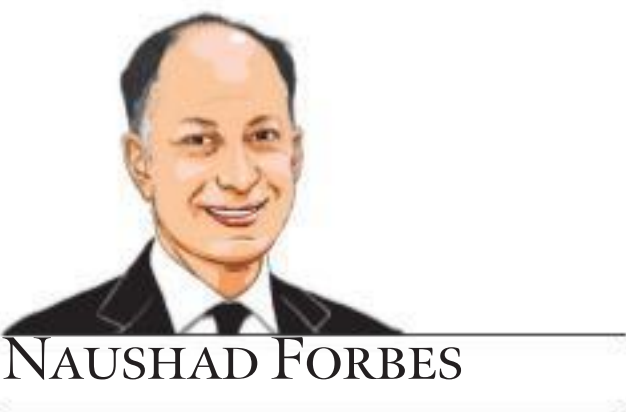


Who’s afraid of RCEP?

Dropping out protects Indian industry in the short run. But trade pact serves our long-term interests



THE REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE Economic Partnership (RCEP) brings together the 10 countries of ASEAN in South East Asia, along with Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand, China and until last week — India. These 16 countries account for over a third of world GDP and trade, and are collectively growing at a rate that is double the rest of the world. The Indian economy is large, but the rest of the RCEP is eight times its size. It is by far the most attractive market in the world today, and will be for the next 20 years. But, after protracted negotiations that began in 2012, India announced last week that it is not pursuing membership in the RCEP. The 15 remaining RCEP members are going ahead and have committed to signing an agreement early next year. They have kept the door open for India, and India has responded with a mixed message about “staying out” while being open to “offers” to join in.

The world is full of various regional trade agreements (the World Trade Organisation recognises well over 400 RTAs). India is no exception: We already have RTAs with Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, ASEAN, Japan and South Korea, and were negotiating a trade agreement with Australia and New Zealand. Such trade agreements cover similar ground. All address the trade in goods, and often include some combination of trade in services, trade facilitation and classification, non-tariff barriers, intellectual property, competition policy, investment policy, and dispute resolution. The RCEP is ambitious in both scale (the 16 countries combined make up an economic area exceeding the European Union) and scope (going well beyond trade in goods).

Trade agreements involve balancing defensive interests and offensive interests between the access one provides to one's own market and the access one gets to the trading partner's market. But it goes further. Foreign competition can play a decisive role in forcing one's own firms to do a better job. As the Indian economy opened up post 1991, that is exactly what happened. Firms selling old designs and poor quality products were forced to improve or were pushed out of business. The Indian consumer benefited massively. But, so did the Indian producer. Imports soared after 1991. But, as firms rapidly became more competitive, exports soared too. India's share of world exports, which had fallen to 0.5 per cent in 1991, rose to 2 per cent by 2010. Foreign firms invested in India, and Indian firms invested abroad. Exports were a substantial driver of our growth performance, contributing roughly a quarter of our record 8 per cent growth between 2000 and 2010. The Indian economy integrated with the world.

The only countries among the 16 RCEP negotiators who do not have an RTA in play or one being negotiated between them are India and China. China is the big exception and the big fear. The contours of an agreement which provides less access for China and a longer adjustment period were already in place. For example, the RCEP covered 90 per cent of all traded items (tariff lines in trade negotiator jargon) for ASEAN, Japan and South Korea, but only 74 per cent of all traded items for China. For ASEAN, Japan and South Korea, most items had zero duty from now, but for China, a long adjustment period of 5, 10, 15, and 20 years was provided before we moved to zero duty. Finally, India had asked for a safeguard against a sudden surge in imports of any item from



CR Sasikumar

China. Although the details have not been made public, it would seem that China's refusal to accept this last demand contributed to India dropping out of the RCEP.

Some have said that India dropped out because of a need to protect the Indian farmer. This is surprising as almost all agricultural items, including milk, were in the excluded list. Dairy products were included. So was it the Indian food processing company, and not the Indian farmer that we sought to protect?

A perception exists across Indian industry that it has suffered as a result of our trade agreements. Instead, the facts show that they have had little impact. In 2000, before we signed any trade agreements, 17 per cent of our imports came from and 15 per cent of our exports went to countries we later signed trade agreements with. In 2018-19, 18 per cent of our imports and 18 per cent of our exports went to countries with trade agreements. Overall, a negligible impact. Instead, China, with whom we have no trade agreement, has seen the biggest jump — from 2.6 per cent of our imports in 2000 to 13.7 per cent last year. The fear of being flooded with imports from China led many sections of the Indian industry instead of the long-run interest of enabling it to compete with the world.

Trade patterns reflect underlying industrial competitiveness. It is no accident that we have seen the greatest growth over the last 20 years in our imports from China (up 54 times), South Korea (up 15 times) and Vietnam (up 65 times). These are among the world's most competitive countries and almost any country's trade balance has moved substantially in

India has two alternatives. The first is to avoid trade agreements, raise tariffs (as we have done in nine rounds in the last three years), believe that our firms cannot compete with the best, and protect the economy from imports. That is the approach which kept us, as firms, cosseted till 1991, and India poor. The second is to see in the world a huge opportunity to grow our market many times over, using trade agreements as a way of forcing our firms to compete with the best.

favour of these three. We might complain about non-tariff barriers and higher costs of doing business, but improving our competitiveness is the surest way of improving our trade balance.

India has two alternatives. The first is to avoid trade agreements, raise tariffs (as we have done in nine rounds in the last three years), believe that our firms cannot compete with the best, and protect the economy from imports. That is the approach which kept us, as firms, cosseted till 1991, and India poor. The second is to see in the world a huge opportunity to grow our market many times over, using trade agreements as a way of forcing our firms to compete with the best. And to equally force changes in all those things — the cost of logistics and shipping, power tariffs, the ease of doing business, and (especially) a competitive exchange rate — that can enable us to be more competitive. The RCEP gave us ample time: We should surely have the confidence that in the 5, 10, 15 or 20 year adjustment period that was provided we could improve our competitiveness enough to beat even the Chinese firms. This is the road we started down in 1991, and it has only benefited us. It is a road we must continue to take.

The message, then, is clear. A trade agreement, even a major one like RCEP is both an opportunity and a threat. It all depends on what one makes of them. Missing out on a market eight times the size of India's is closing off to the world we will regret for decades. We need to get back in before February.

The writer is co-chairman Forbes Marshall, former president CII, Chairman of Centre for Technology Innovation and Economic Research and Ananta Aspen Centre



Food for the future

We need a new Green Revolution — one that focuses on the environment

WHILE GROWING UP in a vegetarian family, I saw my mother face the big question for most non-meat eating families: How do we get adequate protein? Pulses, yes, but how do we get more? I know of several mothers who moved their children to meat-based diets only because they believed these were more protein-rich. Back then, there was little awareness on how plants can also be an adequate source of protein.

Do you know that one plate of butter chicken—rice costs us almost 3,000 litres of water? Rearing livestock and poultry for food and over-cultivation of water guzzling cash crops is impacting the environment. What India needs is a holistic approach to the issue — affordable nutrition and commercially profitable agriculture that are environmentally clean and leave minimum impact on natural resources.

The Collins Dictionary named “Climate Strike” the word of the year in 2019. Never before have we had so many strong voices across the world on climate change. The pressure on governments and policy makers is high. Policy discussions regularly feature the term “climate change” or “environmental impact”. Even as governments are introducing policies that curtail pollution, companies are taking steps to re-

duce their carbon footprints. But industry isn't the biggest contributor to environmental pollution. The truth is that livestock — cows, sheep, chicken — and animal farming activity for food produce more pollution than all the planes and cars in the world combined. “Farming activity”, which includes raising livestock, was dubbed the single largest contributor to pollution in Europe.

While nearly 70 per cent of the world is covered by water, only 2.5 per cent is fresh water. The rest is saline and ocean-based. Even then, just 1 per cent of our freshwater is easily accessible, with much of it trapped in glaciers and snowfields. In essence, only 0.007 per cent of the planet's water is available to fuel and feed its 6.8 billion people.

Water is a limited precious resource. Who knows this better than our farmers who struggle with low ground water and inclement weather. This year, more than 54 lakh hectares of agricultural produce has been wiped out in Maharashtra because of unseasonal rains. This is aggravated by the fact that ground water has been depleting with most of India still using older forms of irrigation methods. At the onset of winter, Delhi gets engulfed in dense smoke with the burning of paddy stubs, an-

other conventional farming practice that is impacting the environment.

Farmers need to be encouraged to choose crops wisely — India produces more than 120 million tons of rice a year with the government ensuring purchase with good MSP and incentives to grow the crop. On the flip side, paddy consumes between 3,000 to 5,000 litres of water to produce just 1 kg of rice. Other water-guzzling but cash-rich crops like rice, cotton, soybean, wheat and sugarcane need between 500 litres to 5,000 litres for 1 kg. On the other hand, crops like millets, lentils and pulses take half or less than half the amount of water for the same output. These are also rich sources of protein which makes them a sustainable alternative to water-intensive farming.

I recently spoke at a conference organised by the Good Food Institute called the ‘future of protein’. The conference had two panels dedicated to plant-based proteins which can be produced through climate and farmer friendly crops such as ragi, amaranth and millets. These panels highlighted the importance of creating value chains and market linkages for these products. While the Green Revolution focused on rice and wheat, the need of the hour now is a new revolution — one that focuses on the en-

vironment, development and farmer welfare. With a focus on producing environmentally friendly crops, the next revolution can ensure that farmers are motivated to move to crops that consume less water, while ensuring their protection and a steady source of income.

There is an added bonus to the greater availability of crops that are kinder to the environment — cleaner eating habits. Being vegetarian is the best thing you can do to you body. Development, climate change and farmer welfare have to go hand in hand — they cannot and must not be looked at in silos. The Government of India, under the leadership of Narendra Modi, is putting emphasis on the National Nutrition Mission or the Poshan Abhiyan, which seeks to bring these three crucial issues together. It is imperative that we create policy solutions that balance these.

The best way forward is to work backwards from what's on your plate. As we stand at the brink of a new green revolution, cultivating plant-based protein sources like millets and legumes is our toolkit for an environmentally clean and sustainable agricultural movement.

The writer is national president, Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha and an MP

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

“Western reports on Hong Kong affairs have made the Chinese people see clearly how these media outlets put their standpoint ahead of objectivity without regard for professional ethics.” —GLOBAL TIMES, CHINA

The speed of justice

Performance of fast-track courts has been mixed. The new special courts should take that record into account



THE ELEVENTH FINANCE Commission's report was submitted in 2000 and its recommendations were for the period between 2000 and 2005. The report said, “We have observed that there is a pendency of about two crore cases in the district and subordinate courts of the states. We are providing a grant of Rs 502.90 crore for creation of additional courts specifically for the purpose of disposing of the long-pending cases... This will enable the states to create 1,734 new additional courts.” This provision was based on an estimated cost of Rs 29 lakh for each additional court.

Though the Eleventh Finance Commission didn't use the expression, these 1,734 courts were fast track courts (FTCs). The state governments were supposed to establish FTCs after consulting the high courts. The term for the schemes recommended by the Finance Commission for FTCs ended on March 31, 2005. By that date, state governments had notified 1,711 FTCs, of which 1,562 were functional. The performance of these courts varied widely across states. The all-India average of cases disposed per month by a FTC was 15. Originally, the cases disposed per month was meant to be a per judge norm — and not a per FTC norm.

In *Brij Mohan Lal versus Union of India*, the Supreme Court instructed that one shouldn't disband FTCs overnight. Hence, the Union government approved Rs 509 crore for the 1,562 functional FTCs to continue till March 31, 2010; this deadline was extended by the year. In 2012, in the *Brij Mohan Lal* case again, the Supreme Court observed, “The Union of India has stated that it would not, in any case, finance expenditure of the FTC Scheme beyond 30th March, 2011 but some of the states have resolved to continue the FTC Scheme up to 2012, 2013 and even 2016. A few states are even considering the continuation of the FTC Scheme as a permanent feature... This, to a large extent, has created an anomaly in the administration of justice in the states and the entire country. Some of the states would continue with the FTC scheme while others have been forced to discontinue or close it because of non-availability of funds. Being a policy decision which has already taken effect, we decline to strike down the policy decision of the Union of India vide letter dated 14th September, 2010 not to finance the FTC Scheme beyond 31st March, 2011. The states which are in the process of taking a policy decision on whether or not to continue the FTC Scheme as a permanent feature of administration of justice in the respective States are free to take

such a decision.”

On balance, were the FTCs a good idea? That is tough to say. Their performance varied across states. Up to a maximum of Rs 80 crore per year, till 31st March 2015, the Centre provided a matching grant to states for the FTCs. Then along came the Fourteenth Finance Commission, for 2015-2020. There was a Rs 4,144 crore proposal for grants-in-aid from the Department of Justice to FTCs, in addition to grants for additional courts and family courts. On December 31, 2018, there were 699 FTCs (some of the courts that were established earlier had closed down). These were for cases against women, children, senior citizens, differently-abled, those with terminal ailments and civil property disputes that were more than five years old. The crime data for 2017 has been published recently. “Crime in India” has information on the IPC crimes tried by the FTCs. The SLL (special and local law) crimes are unlikely to be transferred to FTCs. But yes, those data does not include civil cases handled by FTCs. When will one think that a court is fast track? Probably, when a court disposes the case transferred to it within a year.

In 2017, FTCs in Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu disposed off at least half their cases within one year. Chhattisgarh and Punjab missed the cut marginally. If the cut-off is changed from one year to three years, a few other states — Gujarat, Haryana, Telangana, West Bengal and Delhi — will not have poor records. However, the picture in some states is dismal. For example, FTCs in Bihar settled 6,704 cases in 2017. Two thousand five hundred and seven of these cases lasted more than 10 years and 1,655 cases took between five and 10 years. There is nothing “fast” about these courts. Between 2016 and 2017, some definitions and headings in “Crime in India” have changed. Therefore, a comparable table doesn't exist in last year's version. But trends aren't likely to be different.

There is now (2019) a scheme for fast track special courts (FTSCs) to adjudicate on rape and POCSO (Protection of Children against Sexual Offences) cases. “The 1,023 FTSCs will dispose of 166,882 cases of Rape and POCSO Act, that are pending trial in various courts. There are 389 districts in the country where the number of pending cases under POCSO Act exceeds 100. Therefore, as per the order of Hon'ble Apex Court, in each of these districts one exclusive POCSO court will be set up which will try no other cases. Depending upon the pendency of POCSO Cases the State/UT Governments in consultation with the High Court could however decide if more number of exclusive POCSO Courts need to be established within overall number of FTSCs provided under this scheme.” The Centre will meet part of the expense of FTSCs with a matching grant by the State/UT — this scheme is till 2020-21. However, the incentive structure of judges presiding over FTCs has a lesson also for FTSCs.

The writer is chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the PM. Views are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ARBITRARY ACTS

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘Winning and losing’ (IE, November 13). The Maharashtra governor has made a mockery of the constitutional process in recommending President's rule in the state. In the absence of any single party having majority, the governor should have called the single-largest pre-poll alliance, the BJP-Shiv Sena together, he should have then invited the second-largest alliance, the Congress and NCP. The governor invited individual parties to form the government. So why did he not call the Congress? Why the arbitrary allotment of time?

Sanjay Chopra, Mohali

CLEAN URBAN INDIA

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘Swachh Bharat for cities’ (IE, November 13). The Swachh Bharat Mission's urban component needs to go beyond the construction of individual household toilets. A majority of the urban households are not connected to a central sewerage treatment system. Vacuum trucks and decentralised sewage treatment plants come at a dear cost. Local bodies must have the flexibility to improvise on their sewage management system.

Sudip Kumar Dey, Kolkata

REASSURE FIRST

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘A deeper dark’ (IE, November 12). A number of reports have highlighted the poor state of the economy. Despite the country having unprecedented political stability, relatively better law and order, im-

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.

proved infrastructure and gains in the ease of doing of business ranking, the economy is in a slump. The government needs to rejuvenate the animal spirits and admit that it erred in demonetisation and implementing GST.

Deepak Singhal, Chennai

AFTER THE VERDICT

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘A breather, not a closure’ (IE, November 11). The Supreme Court, while acknowledging that events of 1949 and 1992 were illegal, the court has ruled in favour of those who destroyed the Babri Masjid. This could give rise to two false perceptions. One, the Babri Masjid was built after demolishing a temple and two, the people involved in the destruction of the mosque were on the right path. Not everyone is going to read the fine print.

SZA Hussain, Delhi



SIMPLY PUT

What bringing CJI’s office under RTI means

The matter reached the Supreme Court in 2010 when it petitioned itself against a Delhi High Court order. A look at how it unfolded.



Illustration: Suvajit Dey

lance and that judicial independence has to be kept in mind while dealing with transparency. While CJI Gogoi, Justice Gupta and Justice Khanna wrote one judgment, Justices Ramana and Chandrachud wrote separate verdicts.

Justice Ramana noted that Right to Privacy is an important aspect and has to be balanced with transparency while deciding to give out information from the office of the Chief Justice of India. Justice Chandrachud wrote in his separate judgment that the judiciary cannot function in total insulation as

judges enjoy a constitutional post and discharge public duty.

Two other matters

Of the other two RTIs filed by Agarwal, one was to request the Supreme Court for “copies of complete correspondence exchanged between concerned constitutional authorities with file notings relating to appointment of Justice H L Dattu, A K Ganguly and R M Lodha superseding seniority of Justice P Shah”. The other request was for documents relating to a “revelation by Justice

R Raghupati of Madras HC about some Union minister having approached him in some matter pending before the honorable judge in his court”. These issues were stuck down; the matter the Supreme Court wanted to address was the question whether or not the office of the CJI is under the RTI Act.

What the order means

The outcome is that the office of the CJI will now entertain RTI applications. Under Section 2(f) of the RTI Act, information means “any material in any form, including records, documents, memos, e-mails, opinions, advices, press releases, circulars, orders, log-books, contracts, reports, papers, samples, models, data material held in any electronic form and information relating to any private body which can be accessed by a public authority under any other law for the time being in force”.

Whether a public authority discloses the information sought or not, however, is a different matter. Offices such as those of the Prime Minister and the President too are public authorities under the RTI Act. But public authorities have often denied information quoting separate observations by the Supreme Court itself in 2011: “Officials need to furnish only such information which already exists and is held by the public authority and not collate or create information”; and, “the nation does not want a scenario where 75% of the staff of public authorities spends 75% of their time in collecting and furnishing information to applicants instead

of discharging their regular duties”.

On December 16, 2015 (*RBI versus Jayantilal N Mistry and Others*), the Supreme Court noted: “It had long since come to our attention that the Public Information Officers under the guise of one of the exceptions given under Section 8 of RTI Act, have evaded the general public from getting their hands on the rightful information that they are entitled to.”

CBI is still out of RTI

While the office of the CJI is now under the RTI’s ambit, the CBI is exempt. When the UPA government brought the RTI law on October 12, 2005, the CBI was under it. The agency later moved for exemption, and this file was endorsed by Law Minister M Veerappa Moily of the UPA government itself. Incidentally, the Administrative Reforms Commission chaired by Moily had earlier recommended exemption of the armed forces from the RTI Act, but had not made such a recommendation for the CBI.

While the CBI demanded exemption only for units in intelligence gathering, exemption was granted in 2011 to the agency as a whole. The CBI, which is an agency that is often engaged in investigation of corruption cases, is today included in a list of exempted organisations in which most of the others are engaged in intelligence gathering. Litigation challenging the decision to exempt the CBI is pending with the Supreme Court; the next date of hearing, however, has not been fixed.

TELLING NUMBERS

Most women don’t see politics as career, feel men get preference

A REPORT by Lokniti-CSDS and Konrad Adenauer Stiftung released Wednesday has looked at women and politics from multiple perspectives. The analysis was based mostly on the findings of a survey among women across the country, which assessed the perception of women on different dimensions of political participation and representation.

It found that socio-economic class also determines women’s participation in electoral activities. Women belonging to the upper social (castes) and upper economic classes were found to be more active in electoral politics as compared to women placed at the bottom of the social and economic hierarchy (*Table 1*).

The study found that women’s participation as voters has seen a sharp increase over the years. Although the number of women candidates has increased, there still exists a wide gap. Only a little over one-fourth of the women respondents were keen to make a career in politics if given an opportunity (*Figure 1*).

To a question that presented a situation where a man and a woman were equally good candidates, close to half the women respondents agreed that parties always prefer a male candidate while giving tickets. Only one-seventh of respondents disagreed and one in 10 had no opinion (*Figure 2*).

The respondents were asked whether they agreed that “there is a lower possibility for a woman to win against a man, therefore women should not contest against men”. Two in every five women disagreed with the statement (*Table 2*).

Asked about barriers which they thought prevented them from taking part in politics, a little more than one-third of the women did not respond. Among those who responded, patriarchal norms/structure of the society were the biggest obstacles (more than a fifth of the women). The second reported reason (13%) was household responsibilities; the third “individual barriers”. (*Table 3*)

TABLE-2
‘Lower chance of a woman winning against a man, so women should not contest against men’

Agree	17
Somewhat agree/somewhat disagree	31
Disagree	41

(Rest did not answer)

TABLE-1

LEVEL OF ELECTORAL PARTICIPATION

	Not at all active	Somewhat active	Highly active
CASTE/COMMUNITIES			
Upper Caste	78	15	7
OBC	75	18	7
SC	81	14	5
ST	81	15	5
Muslims	70	22	8
Others	81	12	6
ECONOMIC CLASS			
Poor	83	13	4
Lower	78	16	6
Middle	74	19	7
Upper class	78	14	9

FIGURE-1

‘Given an opportunity, will you make politics your career?’

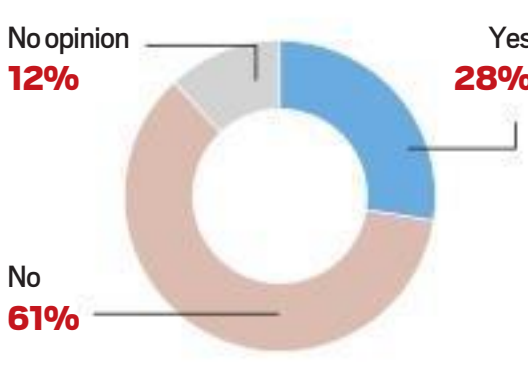


FIGURE-2

‘When a man and woman are equally good candidates, parties prefer a man while giving tickets’

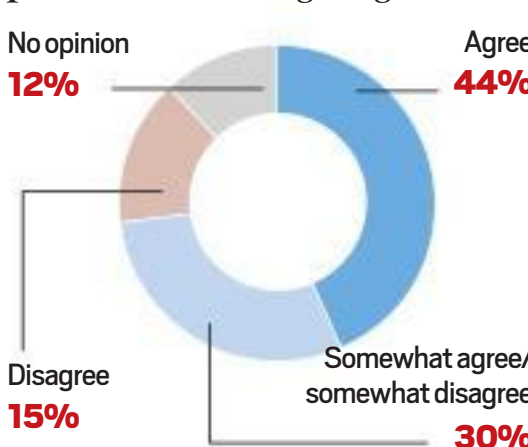


TABLE-3

Biggest obstacle that prevents women from participating in politics

Patriarchal structure	22%
Household responsibility	13%
Individual barriers	12%
Cultural norms	7%
Constraints related to finance or political structure	6%
Negative image of politics	3%
Other barriers	1%
No response	36%

Source: Lokniti-CSDS, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 13

Who filed the review petitions and why?

There were two review petitions — one by former Union Ministers Yashwant Sinha and Arun Shourie and advocate Prashant Bhushan, the other by Aam Aadmi Party Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Singh. They urged the Supreme Court to reconsider its December 14, 2018 verdict dismissing the prayer for a court-monitored investigation into the India-France deal for the purchase of 36 Rafale fighter aircraft. A three-judge Bench of the Supreme Court headed by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi and comprising Justices SK Kaul and KM Joseph, reserved its judgment on the review pleas on May 10.

What is the Rafale controversy about?

The opposition had alleged that the aircraft, built by Dassault Aviation of France, was purchased under a direct government-to-government agreement at a much higher price than the one negotiated for 126 aircraft by the UPA government under an open tender.

India’s intention to buy the 36 aircraft in “fly-away” condition was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to France in April 2015. A few days later, then Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar announced that the earlier deal for 126 jets — stalled over price since 2012 — was dead. The deal for the 36 aircraft — a new acquisition — was signed by Parrikar and his French counterpart Jean-Yves Le Drian on September 23, 2016.

The IAF had issued a tender for 126 Medium Multi-Role Combat Aircraft (MMRCA) in 2007, and at the end of a stringent selection process in 2012, Rafale was chosen.

What did the SC say in its December 14, 2018 judgment?

There were four petitions before the court — one each by lawyers M L Sharma and Vineet Dhandu, one by Sanjay Singh, and one by Sinha, Shourie, and Bhushan. The petitions questioned the decisionmaking process, pricing, and selection of offset partner.

Dismissing all the petitions, the Bench said it saw “no reason for any intervention... on the sensitive issue of purchase of 36 defence aircraft by the Indian Government”, and that “perception of individuals cannot be the basis of a fishing and roving enquiry... especially in such matters”.

It rejected pleas for a court-monitored investigation into the deal, saying there was “no occasion to doubt the (decisionmaking) process” leading to the award of the contract, and there was nothing to show that the government had favoured anyone commercially.

The court refused to get into the question of pricing: “It is certainly not the job of this Court to carry out a comparison of the pricing details in matters like the present”.

On the choice of Anil Ambani-owned Reliance Aerostructure Ltd as an offset partner by Dassault too, the court said: “Once again, it is neither appropriate nor within the experience of this Court to step into this arena of what is technically feasible or not.”

The judgment pointed out that the Defence Procurement Policy (DPP) 2013 “envisages that the vendor/OEM (Original

Equipment Manufacturer) will choose its own IOPs (Indian Offset Partners)”, and that “in this process, the role of the Government is not envisaged...”. It added that “we do not find any substantial material on record to show that this is a case of commercial favouritism to any party by the Indian Government, as the option to choose the IOP does not rest with the Indian Government.”

On the decisionmaking process, the Bench ruled: “Broadly, the processes have been followed. The need for the aircraft is not in doubt. The quality of the aircraft is not in question. It is also a fact that the long negotiations for procurement of 126 MMRCAs have not produced any result, and merely conjecturing that the initial RFP could have resulted in a contract is of no use. The hard fact is that not only was the contract not coming forth but the negotiations had come practically to an end, resulting in a recall of the RFP.”

It said: “We cannot sit in judgment over the wisdom of deciding to go in for purchase of 36 aircraft in place of 126. We cannot possibly compel the Government to go in for purchase of 126 aircraft.”

What additional material did the review petitions present?

The petition by Sinha, Shourie, and Bhushan said the court had relied on “patently incorrect” claims made by the government in its note submitted in a sealed cover to the Bench that had heard the original petition. Also, additional information had emerged subsequently, and not considering it would result in a grave miscarriage of justice. The petition relied on certain documents related to the deal which were published by *The Hindu* newspaper and later by the news agency ANI.

What did the Supreme Court say in its order of April 10, 2019?

The court rejected the government’s objections to the admissibility of the documents sought to be relied on by the review petitioners. The government had taken the stand that these documents were unauthorised photocopies and leaked, and that they enjoyed protection under The Official Secrets Act, 1923.

The government sought their removal from the record of the case, saying they were of sensitive nature and, if they were made public, they could jeopardise national security.

APURVA VISHWANATH

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 13

What was the original verdict?

The Supreme Court had, in a 4-1 majority judgment delivered on September 28, 2018, thrown open the doors of the Sabarimala temple in Kerala to women of all ages, ruling

that the practice of banning women of menstrual age from the temple was unconstitutional. Former Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra, and Justices A M Khanwilkar, Rohinton Nariman, and D Y Chandrachud wrote the majority opinion; Justice Indu Malhotra wrote the lone dissent.

The court ruled there was no “custom” that allowed the ban on menstruating women — and declared a Rule under The Kerala Hindu Places of Public Worship (Authorisation of Entry) Act, 1965, that allowed banning women when custom dictates it, as unconstitutional and in violation of the parent legislation.

The court said that the right to religion was guaranteed equally to all genders. Justice Chandrachud in his opinion radically held that barring women from the temple can be equated with untouchability, which is specifically outlawed by the Constitution.

Justice Malhotra, in her dissent, said that the temple enjoys a denominational status, and is entitled to form its own customs and practices. She also said that the ban on women of menstruating age did not amount to discrimination on the basis of sex.

ON WHAT GROUNDS HAS THE REVIEW BEEN SOUGHT?
Following protests against the verdict, over 50 review petitions and fresh writ petitions were filed before the Supreme Court. The National Ayyappa

Devotees (Women’s) Association, the chief Tantri (priest) of the Sabarimala temple, the Nair Service Society, the All Kerala Brahmins’ Association, and several women devotees were among those who sought a review. The Kerala Devaswom Board and Kerala government had opposed the review.

The grounds for review hinged essentially on two aspects — that the court did not capture correctly the arguments made by the parties and made an incorrect recording of facts, and that the devotees of Lord Ayyappa were not heard.

The review petitioners argued that the



2 REVIEW PETITIONS IN SC TODAY

REVIEW of an SC judgment can be sought only in case of a ‘patent error of law’, and when court may have reached a ‘palpably wrong’ conclusion — say, if a binding judgment of a larger Bench was ignored, or if a party was not heard, or if judgment was based on incorrect fact.

HEARD generally by the same Bench that had delivered the original verdict; in chambers of the judges. Order based on written submissions.

IN SABARIMALA, since former CJI Dipak Misra had retired, CJI Ranjan Gogoi heard review plea along with the four other judges who had delivered the Sept 2018 judgment. Request for open court hearings was allowed.

IF DISMISSED, only available option is to file a curative writ petition — a practice evolved by SC as the last legal resort to remedy a judgment.

NGO Indian Young Lawyers’ Association — the original petitioner who filed the public interest petition challenging the ban on the entry of women — had no standing before the court since it did not profess belief in the deity.

ESSENTIAL RELIGIOUS PRACTICE TEST: The Supreme Court held that the celibate nature of the deity Ayyappa and exclusion of women of menstruating age was not an essential religious practice. Previous Supreme Court rulings have held that a practice that is “essentially religious” is protected under law.

The review petitioners have argued that the court erred in holding that the custom is a “mere practice with some aberrations” and not an “essential religious practice”, a position advanced by the Travancore Devaswom Board. The Tantri argued that the Board has no say in religious practices of the temple, and has been set up only to ensure its secular administration. According to the plea, the chief Tantri is the sole authority in the temple.

DEVASWOM BOARD AS STATE: The court held that the Board is considered state under Article 12 of the Constitution, and therefore the fundamental right to practice religion under Article 25(1) can be asserted against it.

The petitioners argue that this is an erroneous interpretation since the Board, if it is State, cannot interfere with the religious practices of the temple. “The court has not balanced the rights of the chief Tantri and devotees under Article 25 to preserve the traditions of the temple vis-à-vis the rights of the petitioners who have not professed faith in the deity,” the plea argued.

BASIS OF THE BAN: The petitioners have argued that the court erroneously concluded that the ban is based on the age of women; in fact, it is based on the celibate nature of Ayyappa, which is distinct to Sabarimala.

“The reliance... that the restriction is based on menstruation is from an affidavit filed by the Tantri before the Kerala High Court that “spilling of blood” is prohibited inside the temple under tantric tradition,” the petitioner said, arguing that the “spilling of blood” actually refers to any spilling of blood.

LOCUS OF THE NGO: The petitioners also argued that the devotees of Ayyappa were not heard by the court; rather, the verdict was delivered in a plea filed by an NGO that has not “professed belief in the deity”.

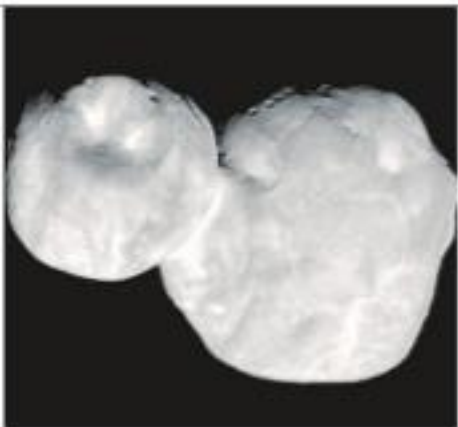
The majority opinion of the court did not go into the standing of the original petitioner (the NGO) since the litigation had progressed significantly. However, Justice Malhotra, in her dissent, questioned the court’s reluctance in dismissing the plea on the ground that the NGO had no standing before the court.

RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION: The court had held that the devotees of Ayyappa did not constitute a distinct religious denomination that is entitled to practise its unique customs.

The petitioners argued that the uniqueness of the Sabarimala temple and its history is enough to grant denominational status to Ayyappa devotees. “Spiritual organisation, a common bond and the existence of unique practices which flow from its beliefs, are the three conditions to grant denominational status to a group and devotees of Ayyappa fulfil all three,” the petitioners argued.

In her dissent, Justice Malhotra had said that the Ayyapans constituted a separate religious denomination, and were entitled to follow their unique practices.





MEANWHILE NASA RENAMES OBJECT AFTER UPROAR

NASA announced that a space rock formerly known as Ultima Thule, would now be named Arrokoth, a Native American word meaning "sly". Ultima Thule is a Latin term that means "a place beyond the known world", but it was also the name given by Nazis to what they believed was a prehistoric Aryan utopia. NASA renamed the object after uproar over the Nazi connection.

TOP OF THE WORLD



A kookaburra perches on a burnt tree after a bushfire in Wallabi Point, New South Wales. *Reuters*

AUSTRALIA Australians told to flee as fires rage in east, west

Sydney: Australian officials on Wednesday ordered residents and tourists to get out of the way of fast-approaching flames as firefighters struggled to contain more than 150 bushfires raging on both the east and west coasts. While cooler weather overnight brought some relief for firefighters in New South Wales state, of which Sydney is capital, attention shifted to its northern neighbour, Queensland, where more than 80 fires threatened lives and homes. Authorities issued a "leave immediately" warning, the highest level, for several areas including Noosa, a beachside holiday destination 150 km north of Brisbane.

PAKISTAN

Sharif rejects govt conditions to travel abroad

Lahore: Pakistan's ailing former prime minister Nawaz Sharif on Wednesday refused to meet Imran Khan government's demand to submit indemnity bonds worth Rs 700 crores for travel to the UK for medical treatment, saying it was "illegal", and denounced attempts to politicise his health. On Tuesday, Pakistan Cabinet decided to allow 69-year-old Sharif to go to the UK for treatment if he agrees to sign surety bonds making a commitment that he would return after the treatment and face corruption cases against him.

NEW ZEALAND

Euthanasia Bill passed by MPs, referendum next

Wellington: New Zealand lawmakers on Wednesday voted in favour of a Bill to legalize euthanasia, a watershed moment that ended a contentious two-year debate. But the final decision will rest with voters, who will need to approve the Bill in a referendum next year for it to go into effect. Polls have indicated a majority support the measure. The Bill passed 69-51. People in the public gallery cheered and clapped when the results were read out.

U.S. HOUSE BEGINS TELEVISED PROCEEDINGS

Trump impeachment hearings go public

President's preoccupation with investigating Biden influenced his Ukraine policy, testifies top US diplomat in Kiev

MICHAEL D SHEAR
NOVEMBER 13

WILLIAM TAYLOR, the top US diplomat in Ukraine, offered dramatic new testimony Wednesday about how President Donald Trump's preoccupation with investigating former Vice President Joe Biden was affecting his actions toward Ukraine as hearings began on Capitol Hill as the House Intelligence Committee considers whether to impeach Trump for what Democrats say was an effort to use the power of his office for political gain.

Taylor said a member of his staff overheard a telephone conversation in which the President mentioned "the investigations" to Gordon Sondland, the US ambassador to the European Union, who told him "that the Ukrainians were ready to move forward." After the call, the aide asked Sondland what the President thought of Ukraine, in Taylor's telling. The ambassador "responded that President Trump cares more about the investigations of Biden, which Giuliani was pressing for".

He was referring to Rudy Giuliani, the President's personal lawyer, who Taylor described as the leader of an "highly irregular" policymaking channel on Ukraine that ran counter to goals of long-standing US policy.



Diplomats George Kent and William Taylor at the House Intelligence Committee hearing. *Reuters*

TRUMP 'TOO BUSY' TO WATCH

President Donald Trump said Wednesday he skipped the first televised hearings in his impeachment investigation because he was "too busy". "I'm too busy to watch it. It's a witch hunt, it's a hoax, I'm too busy to watch it. So, I'm sure I'll get a report," Trump told reporters. He later greeted Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan at the White House. *PTI*

Much of the rest of Taylor's testimony was consistent with what he told the panel previously, an account that included vivid details of how he discovered Trump was conditioning "everything" about the US relationship with Ukraine — including military aid and a White House meeting for Ukraine's President — on the

country's willingness to commit publicly to investigations of his political rivals.

The revelation came as Democrats opened the first public impeachment hearing in more than two decades, moving into the public's direct glare the clash between Trump and Democrats that has so far unfolded in private.

Taylor and George Kent, a senior State Department official who also testified, received subpoenas Wednesday morning to appear. Kent testified that Giuliani conducted a smear campaign against the US ambassador to Ukraine and led an effort to "gin up politically motivated investigations," according to a copy of his statement. *NYT*

EXPLAINED

The major issues set to dominate public hearings

THE PHONE CALL

The impeachment inquiry was triggered by a whistleblower complaint about the July 25 phone call between Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Transcripts of the call released by the White House show that Trump asked Zelenskyy to investigate his political rivals. However, the Republicans say that since there was no mention of withholding aid in the conversation, it does not prove there was quid pro quo.

MILITARY AID

\$400 million in military aid to Ukraine, which was approved by Congress, was frozen ahead of the Trump-Zelenskyy phone call. Witnesses have testified during closed-door hearings that it was made clear to the Ukrainians that the aid would only be released if Ukraine publicly announced the investigations that Trump wanted.

AMBASSADOR'S OUSTER

Marie Yovanovitch, a respected career diplomat, was



Trump with Zelenskyy on the sidelines of the UNGA in September. *Reuters*

US ambassador to Ukraine between Aug 2016 and May 2019. She was abruptly recalled to Washington after an alleged smear campaign by Trump officials who considered her an impediment to the President's Ukraine policy.

RUDY GIULIANI

Multiple officials have testified that Trump's personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, led the US policy towards Ukraine, bypassing official state department channels in order to promote Trump's political agenda.

VENICE DEVASTATED BY 2ND HIGHEST TIDE EVER



A greengrocer pulls his cart through high water in Venice on Wednesday. *AP*

■ Venice's mayor called the city a disaster zone Wednesday after the second highest tide ever recorded swept through it overnight, flooding its historic basilica and leaving many areas deep under water.

■ Officials said the tide peaked at 187 cm (6ft 2ins) at 10.50 pm Tuesday, just short of the record 194 cm set in 1966. Night footage showed a torrent of water whipped up by high winds raging through the city centre.

■ Saint Mark's Square was submerged by more than one metre of water, while the adjacent Saint Mark's Basilica was flooded for only the sixth time in 1,200 years, but the fourth in the last 20.

Israel airstrikes: Gaza death toll goes up to 23

Gaza City: Israeli airstrikes killed 13 Palestinians in Gaza on Wednesday, medical officials said, raising the Palestinian death toll to 23 over a two-day escalation in violence since Israel launched strikes to kill an Islamic Jihad commander.

From early morning Gaza militants fired rockets into Israel and the Israeli military struck from the air, resuming after an overnight lull. There were reports of injuries but no deaths inside Israel, where the military said it shot many of the rockets down with air defences.

The bodies of six people were brought to Gaza's Shifa hospital early Wednesday, as relatives wept and screamed. Medics and witnesses said they were civilians who lived in densely populated neighbourhoods. *REUTERS*



After a suicide bomb blast in Kabul Wednesday. *Reuters*

AFGHAN PRISONER SWAP

Uncertainty over fate of Western hostages, Taliban prisoners

'Hostages will only be released when prisoners reach their destination'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KABUL, NOVEMBER 13

TWO WESTERN hostages of the Taliban, who are expected to be freed in a prisoner swap for three militants, will be released only when the insurgents "reach their destination", a spokesman for the Islamist group said Wednesday.

The fate of the American and Australian hostages — both professors at the American University in Kabul when they were kidnapped in 2016 — remained unclear a day after Afghan President Ashraf Ghani announced the exchange.

"When our captives reach their destination, the American University professors will be released," Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said.

He did not specify what that destination would be.

Afghan authorities declined to comment further on Wednesday, while the US embassy in Kabul said it had no further information after its ambassador had welcomed the news a day earlier.

Australia's foreign ministry said it did not want to give a "running commentary" on the process.

"We sincerely appreciate President Ghani's concern for Tim Weeks and Kevin King, and hope the Taliban immediately releases the hostages," a spokesperson said.

Ghani said Tuesday that three prisoners — including Anas Haqqani, brother to the leader of one of the Taliban's most feared factions — would be freed.

The move was in apparent exchange for the release of the two Western hostages, American Kevin King and Australian Timothy Weeks.

But Ghani did not say when or where any swap would take place.



Jeanine Anez on the balcony of the Presidential Palace in La Paz, Bolivia. *Reuters*

Bolivian Senator assumes interim presidency

REUTERS
LA PAZ, NOVEMBER 13

THE HEAD of Bolivia's Senate, Jeanine Anez, took office as interim president on Tuesday as former leader Evo Morales pledged to keep up his political fight from exile in Mexico after resigning in what he has alleged was a coup.

Anez, 52, assumed leadership before other lawmakers in Congress, invoking a constitutional clause that dictates that she would be next in line to rule after Morales and his vice president, Alvaro Garcia, resigned on Sunday. A parliamentary session scheduled to formally appoint her was boycotted by lawmakers from Morales' leftist MAS party.

"Before the definitive absence of the president and vice president... as the president of the Chamber of Senators, I immediately assume the presidency as foreseen in the constitutional order," said Anez, a right-wing leader.

Sikhs most targeted religious group in US after Jews, Muslims: FBI report

LALIT K JHA
WASHINGTON, NOVEMBER 13

AROUND 60 incidents of hate crimes against Sikhs were reported to the FBI in 2018, making the community the third most commonly targeted religious group after Jews and Muslims in the US, according to an annual report released by the bureau.

A total of 7,120 hate crimes were reported by law enforcement agencies around the country last year, slightly down from 7,175 in 2017, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) said on Tuesday, adding that this involved 8,496 offences.

HATE CRIMES IN 2018	
Total reported:	7,120, down slightly from 7,175 in 2017
Targeting Jews:	835 cases
Targeting Muslims:	188 cases
Targeting Sikhs:	60 cases
Other religions:	91 cases in total, including 12 targeting Hindus and 10 Buddhists

According to a press release issued by the FBI, the 2018 data, submitted by 16,039 law en-

forcement agencies, provide information about the offences, victims, offenders, and locations of hate crimes.

The crimes were being motivated by bias toward race, ethnicity, ancestry, religion, sexual orientation, disability, gender, and gender identity, it said.

The largest number of hate crimes based on religion were reported against Jews (835), followed by Muslims (188) and Sikhs (60).

Of the 4,047 hate crimes based on ethnicity, the most 1,943 hate crime incidents were against African-Americans, followed by anti-White (762) and anti-Hispanic crimes (485). *PTI*

Students from mainland China flee Hong Kong

ASSOCIATED PRESS
HONG KONG, NOVEMBER 13

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS from mainland China and Taiwan are fleeing Hong Kong, while those from three Scandinavian countries have been moved or urged to leave as college campuses become the latest battleground in the city's five-month-long anti-government unrest.

Marine police used a boat Wednesday to help a group of mainland students leave the Chinese University of Hong Kong, which remained barricaded by demonstrators after violent clashes with police on Tuesday.

Authorities announced that primary and secondary school

classes would be suspended Thursday as clashes turn increasingly violent.

The protests have taken on a strong anti-China bent, with radical demonstrators trashing branches of mainland banks, China's official Xinhua News Agency and restaurant chains whose owners support the Beijing government.

For the third day in a row, protesters widely disrupted train service, blocked streets and rallied in the central business district. They hunkered down for possible clashes with police at university campuses.

Mainland students have said in online posts that they were being targeted by protesters who broke into their dormitories.

Muslim kingdom.

The video sparked criticism from campaigners, with Amnesty International saying it was "extremely dangerous" and had "serious implications for the rights to freedom of expression and life, liberty and security in the country".

Saudi Arabia has long faced international criticism over its treatment of women. Prince Mohammed has sought to ease restrictions on women with multiple reforms including a historic decree that ended a decades-old ban on female motorists.

In August, Saudi Arabia also allowed women to obtain passports



Saudi Arabia has long faced international criticism over its treatment of women. *Reuters*

The two statements made no mention of homosexuality or

atheism, which are both illegal and punishable by death in the

without seeking the approval of their "guardians" — fathers, husbands or other male relatives.

The move, part of Prince Mohammed's plan to revamp the national image, ended a long-standing rule that prompted some extreme attempts by women to flee the kingdom.

But observers say loopholes still allow male relatives to curtail their movements and, in the worst cases, leave them marooned in prison-like shelters.

Alongside a string of pro-women reforms, Saudi authorities have also cracked down on female activists.

OFFICIAL VIDEO HAD BRANDED FEMINISM, HOMOSEXUALITY AND ATHEISM AS EXTREMIST IDEAS

Saudi backpedals on video labelling feminism as extremism

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
RIYADH, NOVEMBER 13

SAUDI AUTHORITIES have distanced themselves from an official video that sparked controversy after it branded feminism, homosexuality and atheism as extremist ideas.

Saudi Arabia's state security agency posted the animated video on Twitter last weekend at a time when de facto ruler Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman is seeking to open up the austere kingdom to foreign tourists and overhaul its ultra-conservative image.

The tweet has since been taken down. The security agency said the video contained "many mistakes" and suggested that those behind it would face a formal investigation, according to a statement posted late Tuesday by the official Saudi Press Agency.

It also rejected a report in *Al-Watan*, a local daily, that said feminists would be jailed and subject to flogging.

In a separate statement, the kingdom's Human Rights Commission stressed that "feminism is not criminalised" and that it accords "the utmost importance to women's rights".



(Above) A grape vineyard damaged by heavy rains in Dindori taluka of Nashik; Ganesh Kadam spraying fungicides in his farm at Mohadi in Nashik. Partha Sarathi Biswas

CLIMATE CHANGE

A story gone sour

Maharashtra's grape growers are confronting a new problem of unseasonal heavy rain that has caused heavy crop losses

PARTHA SARATHI BISWAS
NASHIK, NOVEMBER 13

THIS IS the third time in five years that the grapes in Sanjay Pathade's 16-acre land have turned black and rotted away at a nascent growth stage. The 48-year-old from Jambutke village in Nashik district's Dindori taluka had undertaken a second round pruning of his vineyards in mid-September in preparation for a good harvest by late-January. But it started raining heavily from the third week of October. While the rains did stop after the first week of November, their sheer impact, however, created cracks in the 8-10 mm long tender berries and soon reduced the bunches to black desiccated skeletons sans any moisture or developing fruit mass.

"I won't get a single kg from 15 out of my 16 acres," sighs this farmer, who will still have to keep spraying Mancozeb 75% wettable powder, copper hydroxide and other fungicides. It has to be done simply to keep the vines free from any downy mildew, powdery mildew, leaf blight and other fungal attacks. Pathade reckons that since April — when the grape cycle starts with the first pruning of the trees after harvest of fruits from the previous crop — he has spent over Rs 1.5 lakh per acre on fungicides, pesticides, fertilisers and micronutrients. "I would need to spend Rs 10,000-15,000 more till April, before the next crop cycle. It's like maintaining a cow yielding no milk," he remarks.

In the first pruning, to make the vineyards ready for bunch bearing, everything is axed, barring the main stem and roots. The second round of pruning around September — to prevent excessive foliage growth that leads to poor air circulation and fungal diseases — sets the stage for flowering, fruit development and final harvesting towards end-January. All through, the vines have to be administered crop protection chemicals based on a rigorous application schedule.

As Pathade moves around the deceptively lush green canopy devoid of any real

fruit bunches — similar to a well-fed but barren cow — he recalls how his crop suffered full-scale damage from heavy rains-induced berry cracking even in October 2017. In September 2015, too, there was similar fruit loss in 12 acres from a powdery mildew infestation and late rains. "In the last five years, I have made money only in 2016 and 2018. In the preceding five years, there were intermittent attacks from insect pests such as thrips and mealybugs, but complete crop loss from unseasonal rains is an altogether new phenomenon," he says.

An estimated 50,000 hectares, out of Maharashtra's total 1.40 lakh hectares area under grape cultivation, have reported over 50% crop loss from the latest unseasonal rains. Nashik district — which, along with Sangli and Latur, accounts for the bulk of the state's grape acreage — had received just 78% of its normal rainfall quota from June till mid-September. But that deficit has since transformed into a cumulative 11.6% surplus till November 13. 50% crop loss on 50,000 hectares, yielding an average 25 tonnes per hectare yield and Rs 40,000-50,000 per tonne realisation, translates into Rs 2,500-3,125 crore.

For growers like Pathade, the continuous cycle of losses from climate change has made them think twice about a crop that, for the last many years, has been their source of prosperity. Nashik's sandy loam soil and warm dry tropical weather has been considered ideal for grape cultivation, while earning it the moniker "California of India". Water availability from 27 big and small dams, helping to ease moisture stress for the crop during the long dry summer, and good road connectivity, making it easy to transport the harvested produce to domestic markets as well as ports in Mumbai and Gujarat, have given a further boost to the fruit crop in the district.

Nashik's farmers spend Rs 1.5-2 lakh per acre for growing grapes destined for exports, with the production cost at Rs 80,000-100,000 in the case of locally sold fruit. "Out of my 10 tonnes yield per acre, roughly 8 tonnes make it to the export market. Last



season, my average realisation from exportable grapes was Rs 60,000 per tonne and Rs 30,000 for that sold domestically," confides Pathade, whose net earning per acre worked out to nearly Rs 4 lakh.

Growers plan their field activity with an eye to market their produce either in end-November or end-January. For November harvesting, the second pruning, after which the berries start forming in bunches, is done by end-July. A good harvest requires uninterrupted sunshine and relatively cold nights with little or no rains, especially post the second pruning.

"People think we make lot of money, but they don't understand this is happening now only once in three years or so. Who will compensate us for this year's losses or that in 2017 and 2015?", asks Ganesh Kadam, a farmer from Dindori taluka's Mohadi village, whose six out of 12 acres under grapes have been entirely destroyed by the recent heavy rains. Last year, out of his 100 tonnes produce, 80 tonnes were for exports.

During 2018-19 (April-March), India exported 2.46 lakh tonnes of fresh grapes valued at \$ 334.79 million (Rs 2,335.25 crore). Most of this was to the Netherlands, Russia,

United Kingdom, Germany, United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, while being sourced largely from the Nashik belt.

Kadam, like Pathade, is willing to invest both money and time in cultivating exportable grapes. Last year, they got a good return on their investment, thanks to the dry spell post September that enabled a bumper harvest, both in quantity and quality terms. But unseasonal rains are something for which they have no answer.

Vilas Shinde, chairman of the Nashik-headquartered Sahyadri Farmers Producer Company, believes that the root of the problem lies with the Thompson Seedless grapes. This variety from California, introduced four decades ago in Nashik and grown by over 90% of Indian farmers, isn't designed to withstand heavy rainfall. Shinde points to other Californian varieties like Arra 15, which can tolerate even 120 mm of rain in a single day. He also draws a parallel here with the crisis faced by Italian and South African grape growers in the 1990s.

"Back then, the farmers, exporters, research institutions and governments came together to find a solution. Newer heavy rain-resistant varieties were introduced, giving their industry a new lease of life," explains Shinde, whose organisation is the country's biggest grape exporter. Bringing in new grape varieties would mean paying royalty to their breeders, "but our farmers will not mind that," he adds.

Samir Pandit, director of Rta Technologies Pvt Ltd, a Nashik-based developer of a mobile application Grape Mundo that allows farmers to manage their input applications for growing export-worthy grapes, advocates changing the timing of pruning. "Some of our farmer pruned their crop this time in late-October, instead of September. It prevented any damage to the berries, which were yet to form. Farmers need to adapt, keeping in mind changing rainfall patterns," he feels.

"By the time the research organisations and agricultural universities have come out with solutions, we would have uprooted our vineyards," notes Kadam.

THE NEXT AMUL

How a farmers' producer company is India's largest grape exporter



The export pack house of Sahyadri Farms. Partha Sarathi Biswas

PARTHA SARATHI BISWAS

BACK IN 2011, when Vilas Shinde decided to convert his "farmer-entrepreneurs" company into a full-fledged co-operative or Farmers Producer Company (FPC), there were economic and market-driven compulsions behind it.

Shinde's journey as an agro entrepreneur had begun in 2004, when he, along with nine other farmers in Nashik's grape bowl, incorporated a privately-held company to undertake direct exports and help realise a better value for their produce. That very year, the fledgling firm shipped 4 containers of fresh grapes to the European Union (EU).

2009, however, proved a watershed moment, when the EU rejected grape consignments from India after they were detected to have pesticide residues beyond acceptable limits. That, according to Shinde, was the trigger for forming the Sahyadri FPC, which, by 2013, had 550 farmer-shareholders.

"My idea was always to build a value chain specifically for small and marginal farmers. But now, we also realised the need for investing both in infrastructure and backend integration to enable farmers grow quality produce," he says.

In 2018-19, Sahyadri FPC exported 21,141 tonnes of grapes to the EU, Russia and UAE, while recording a profit of Rs 17.89 crore on total sales of Rs 360 crore. The latter also included domestic sales through 13 retail shops in Nashik and Mumbai. This company, which now has over 6,600 farmers, is also India's largest grapes exporter.

Sahyadri has a three-tier structure comprising the apex organisation itself, crop-wise FPCs and farmers under them. The mandate of the crop-wise FPCs (for grapes as well as tomatoes, pomegranates, bananas, guavas and other fruits & vegetables) is to provide technical support to farmers, apart from undertaking

aggregation, grading, sorting and packing of produce. The apex Sahyadri FPC handles post-harvest management, processing, distribution and marketing, both for exports and the domestic market.

Sahyadri's 65-acre campus at Mohadi village in Nashik's Dindori taluka today has infrastructure for packing, pre-cooling, ripening, cold storage and aseptic processing of the produce of its farmer-members. Equally significant is the backend integration system, wherein the plots of individual farmers are geo-tagged to allow the company keep real-time update of the crop's growth and accordingly plan its harvest calendar. Besides remotely monitoring crop condition on the ground through an in-house IT platform, Sahyadri also claims to guarantee complete traceability of its farmers' produce by embedding the related information in bar-coded packets.

Shinde admits that price volatility in the commodities handled by his organisation presents its own unique set of challenges. Sahyadri has recently signed a contract with Hindustan Unilever to manufacture jam, squash and tomato puree for the latter. This, it hopes, would help cushion growers from production glut-induced price crashes and also improve capacity utilisation in the already-created processing infrastructure at the Mohadi complex.

Shinde's next target is to design an insurance product targeting grape farmers. "The present so-called weather-based products are not subscribed, as their coverage does not reflect ground reality. For example, in Nashik, unseasonal rains happen in September and October, whereas the insurance cover offered is applicable only after November 15," he points out. The recent post-September heavy rains, the second time after 2017, has made the design of an effective insurance product all the more necessary.

CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE

A living gene bank

Meet this tribal farmer who grows and preserves 52 native rice varieties

ANAND MOHAN J
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 13

WHEN K R Jayan would go around Irinjakulada, his hometown in Kerala's Thrissur district, planting jackfruit seeds on empty plots along the roadside, the locals thought he was just a little bit loony.

"But when they saw me also watering the seeds and young plants emerging out of them, I became a confirmed madman. I was only a young man experimenting with different jackfruit varieties and watching them grow from seeds into trees," says the 54-year-old pre-university pass from Avittathur in Thrissur's Mukundapuram taluk.

'Plavu Jayan' (Jackfruit Jayan), as he is now called, claims to have planted over 20,000 seedlings of the tree that is found in almost every home of Kerala. But the remarkable thing is not just the number of trees, but the up to 23 native varieties of 'plavu' he has planted and possibly helped revive. These include 'Thamara Chakka', 'Rudrakshi', 'Baloan Varikka', 'Football Varikka', 'Kashumanga Chakka', 'Madalilla Chakka', 'Padavalam Varikka', 'Then Varikka', 'Athimadhuram Koozha', 'Thenga Chakka' and 'Vakathanam Varikka'.

After coming back, Jayan started travel-

"I used to go to different villages and see the jackfruit trees in people's compounds or orchards. If there was some rare variety somebody was growing, I would collect their seeds and develop them into seedlings in my 12-cents (0.12 acre) land," states Jayan.

Not for nothing he has been a recipient of the 'Plant Genome Saviour-Farmer Recognition' award instituted by the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare. The award was conferred at a function organised by the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority here on October 22. Jayan's love affair with the tropical fruit started when he was in class 7. Once, on Gandhi Jayanti day, when schoolchildren in Kerala would participate in some civic service activity, he brought a jackfruit plant from his home. That was when his friends first called him 'Plavu Jayan', a name that has stuck.

Like many Malayalees, Jayan went to West Asia in 1995. He finally returned in 2006, after working at Dubai's Al Maya supermarket. "In Dubai, one could find everything, except the jackfruit tree. But for me, that was my life and I was really missing seeing it all these years," he recalls.

ing in towns in Thrissur on a three-wheeler, selling candles, soaps and other products of the 'Kudumbashree' women's self-help groups. Alongside, he also began developing jackfruit forests by planting trees on the road-sides and various public places - among others, the Shoranur Railway Junction, Thrissur Government Medical College and the Government College at Chittur near Palakkad. He went on to plant jackfruit even at Mahatma Gandhi's Sevagram Ashram at Wardha in Maharashtra!

Jayan is a critic of vegetative propagation techniques such as budding and grafting, which he terms as "unnatural deviations from the ways of our ancestors". Jackfruit, he believes, should be planted the natural way, wherein the seed is the sperm and the soil the womb. By extracting seeds from the fruit and planting them in the soil, the trees will germinate, grow, bear fruits in 5-8 years and live for 150 years. While fruit-bearing may take place within three years through budding and grafting, the trees themselves live for only 8 years or so and "they are unnatural like test-tube babies".

"For me, jackfruit is a mission, not a nursery business. I supply original saplings of jackfruit free of cost to anyone who comes



to my home," points out Jayan, who is proud that his work is recognised even by the father of the Green Revolution MS Swaminathan. Moreover, Class VIII students in Kerala schools today read extracts from 'Plavu', the book authored by him containing all the knowledge he has accumulated on the tree and its products.

"Jackfruit is a *kalpavriksha*, a tree of God. Every part of it is useful. Those who throw away the seeds, thinking it causes gas, don't know its anti-cancer properties. Dried jackfruit leaves, too, have medicinal value, while the powdered bark of the tree can be used to treat swelling in the legs. The timber is very good furniture as well as building construction material. The powdered wood is being used in Gulf countries as a natural food colour-

ing substance. You can even make jackfruit bubble gum. Unlike normal chewing gum, you can blow bubbles and even swallow it at the end without any problem," he remarks.

There, there is the fruit itself, which is the world's biggest; Jayan has harvested a 'Muttom Varikka' weighing 55.5 kg. Jackfruit contains only a moderate amount of calories, while packed with iron, potassium, phosphorus, calcium, vitamin A and other micronutrients. "At one time, everyone in Kerala knew about its nutritional value. Till the 1970s, there were no remittances from the Gulf and we had very little money. My own family, including eight siblings, was saved from near starvation due to the jackfruit tree in our compound. But once money started coming, people started forgetting



(Left) Cheruvayal Raman with young visitors at his paddy field in Kamman, Kerala; Cheruvayal Raman's 150-year-old house. Yamini Nair

about this native fruit and it gradually disappeared from their diets," he adds.

Jayan avers that the increasing incidence of landslides and devastation from floods in Kerala has to do with reduced jackfruit tree cover. Holding a packet of jackfruit buttress roots, he notes how they hold up the soil: "Hardly three months back, an entire hill came down and destroyed all homes of a village in Wayanad. Why? Because, there are no proper trees to save us from nature's fury. Wayanad used to have so many jackfruit trees, which have given way to rubber plantations. I want to plant jackfruit trees across the state, so that another mountain does not break and floods do not devastate my land again".

That's, perhaps, his ultimate mission.

19 ECONOMY

SENSEX: 40,116.06 ▼ 229.02 NIFTY: 11,840.45 ▼ 73.00 NIKKEI: 23,319.87 ▼ 200.14 HANG SENG: 26,571.46 ▼ 493.82 FTSE: 7,325.70 ▼ 39.74 DAX: 13,183.59 ▼ 99.92

*International market data till 1900 IST

SECTOR WATCH
PHARMACEUTICALS

Amid fund crunch, HBL struggles to start production of vaccines, pay staff

PRABHA RAGHAVAN
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 13

A CASH crunch at HLL Biotech Ltd (HBL) has left the government enterprise falling short on fulfilling its mandate of making affordable vaccines for the country's Universal Immunisation Programme. The liquidity crisis, which has resulted in HBL waiting for over Rs 300 crore in additional funds, has also made it difficult for the company to pay its employees since June, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

This fund crunch also raises questions over HBL's ability to act as a backup in the event that the country needs extra supply of oxytocin — a lifesaving pregnancy medicine that the Centre has been trying to ban private firms from making in India since 2018.

HBL has been struggling financially as it awaits the execution of a proposed disinvestment of its parent firm HLL Lifecare Ltd (HLL), pending which decisions on its requirement of additional funds have been stalled, as per sources.

In the meantime, the firm's Integrated Vaccine Complex (IVC), termed a "project of national importance", has not been able to start production of any drug, including oxytocin, said a source directly aware of the development.

Meanwhile, employees of the firm have alleged that the company was told that the government has found the project to be "non-viable" and that it will no longer be able to pay their salaries after June.

"CEO of HBL had called for a communication meeting with all employees of the company on 23rd June 2019 ... During the meeting, CEO detailed to the employees about the lack of funds for HBL Project beyond June 2019. He further stated that the Ministry has lost its confidence on this Project of National Importance declaring the project non-viable referring to the recent cost committee meeting chaired by the Advisor Costs from the Ministry of Finance," stated the employees in a letter to various government departments dated June 26.

Sources directly aware of the development have confirmed that payments to employees have been impacted as a result of lack of funds, but that the project will not be discarded. An analysis of HBL's financial requirements is expected once it is demerged from HLL. The firm has communicated to employees that it would not be in a position to pay full salaries starting July, but that

QUESTIONS
OVER OXYTOCIN

■ This fund crunch also raises questions over HBL's ability to act as a backup in the event that the country needs extra supply of oxytocin — a lifesaving pregnancy medicine that the Centre has been trying to ban private firms from making in India since 2018

■ HBL has been struggling as it awaits the execution of a proposed disinvestment of its parent HLL Lifecare Ltd

"partial" salaries are being paid to those who are still working with it.

The Centre had, earlier this year, nominated HBL as a backup supplier of oxytocin in the event that the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP)-owned Karnataka Antibiotics and Pharmaceuticals Ltd (KAPL) is unable to cater to the India's total requirement.

In an affidavit submitted to the Supreme Court in March, the government said that while KAPL "alone" would be able to produce twice the required amount of oxytocin from April onwards, an empowered committee had decided that HBL shall set up a facility for "simultaneous" manufacturing of the drug using the same distribution network as KAPL to "ensure" its supply chain management.

The court has currently referred the issue to a larger bench and, until its decision, private firms are currently able to manufacture oxytocin here.

Emailed queries sent on Friday and Monday to HBL CEO V Vijayan and the official email address for HBL and HLL on the Ministry of Corporate Affairs about the issue remained unanswered by press time Wednesday. Queries sent to the Health Ministry and finance ministry also did not elicit any response.

The government in April 2012 approved the IVC project under HBL at an estimated cost of Rs 594 crore in order to "strengthen" the public sector institution in vaccine manufacturing. Yet, HBL's financial statements for FY19 show that it has revised the project's cost to Rs 904.33 crore so that the facility can be commercially operational by March 2020.

MARKETS TAKE A HIT: SENSEX DOWN BY 229, NIFTY BY 73 PTS

Re falls 62p against USD on weak economic data, US-China deal

Currency ends at 72.09 against dollar; lowest since its Sept 4 closing of 72.12

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 13

POOR FACTORY output numbers for September, rising worries over the economic activity, and fresh concerns over the United States-China trade war, put the Indian currency under pressure as it lost 62 paise, or nearly 0.9 per cent, on Wednesday to close at a two-month low of 72.09 against the US dollar.

The benchmark SENSEX at the BSE also fell 229 points, or 0.6 per cent, to close at 40,116. The broader Nifty at the National Stock Exchange too fell 73 points, or 0.6 per cent, to close at 11,840.

The rupee has been under pressure over the last couple of weeks. So far in November, the domestic unit has lost 115 paise or 1.65 per cent against the dollar. The closing on Wednesday is the lowest since its closing at 72.12 on September 4, 2019.

Currency and stock markets came under pressure, even as Brent futures fell 1.15 per cent to \$61.35 per barrel during the day.

Experts say that markets reacted to the weak industrial output numbers released by the Ministry of Statistics and

CPI INFLATION DATA PRESENTS BLEAK PICTURE

■ Another news flow, which came after the market closing hours and may hurt market sentiments, is a spike in the October consumer price inflation numbers. The October CPI inflation rose to 4.62 per cent from 3.99 per cent in the previous month. The numbers jumped primarily on account of spike in food price inflation

■ Experts say that markets reacted to the weak industrial output numbers released by the MoSPI on Monday and since the markets were closed on Tuesday, they reacted to the same. Data from MoSPI showed that factory output for September plunged to (-) 4.3 per cent, the lowest level in eight years

Programme Implementation (MoSPI) on Monday and since the markets were closed on Tuesday, they reacted to the same.

Data from MoSPI showed that the factory output for September plunged to (-) 4.3 per cent, the lowest level in eight years, with all three sectoral constituents — manufacturing, mining and electricity — recording negative growth. This was the second consecutive month that the factory output witnessed contraction.

"The Indian rupee surpassed the level of 72 against the US dollar. It was mainly due to weak

economic outlook, which would spur expectations of larger cuts by the RBI. Industrial output data, for the second consecutive month, points to a deep slump in economic activity" said Shrikant Chouhan, senior VP—equity at Kotak Securities. He further said that while domestic news flow is turning negative and that would not allow the market to sustain at higher levels, "global cues are also mixed and not supportive in the short term".

Another news flow, which came after the market closing hours and may hurt market sentiments, is a spike in the October consumer price inflation (CPI)

numbers. The October CPI inflation increased to 4.62 per cent from 3.99 per cent in the previous month. The numbers jumped primarily on account of spike in food price inflation.

If that news at the domestic front hurt the investor sentiments, fresh concerns emerged on the US-China trade war front with US President Donald Trump dubbing China as a "cheater", adding to the uncertainty over the deal between the two countries. On Tuesday, Trump said that since China's entry into the World Trade Organization in 2001, no one has manipulated better or taken advantage of the US more. He said while he will not say the word "cheated", but "nobody's cheated better than China".

Back in India, the stock markets witnessed a broad weakness on Wednesday. While the SENSEX at BSE lost 0.6 per cent, the mid-cap and small-cap indices fell 0.8 per cent and 1.13 per cent, respectively.

Among the sectoral indices, the banking index at the BSE fell 1.9 per cent and the capital goods and metal indices lost 1.5 per cent and 2.3 per cent, respectively.

‘Bengaluru to take 15 months to clear unsold housing stock, Delhi-NCR needs 44 months’

Real estate developers having projects in Bengaluru will take the lowest time of 15 months to clear their unsold housing units, while builders in the Delhi-National Capital Region (Delhi-NCR) may take 44 months to sell surplus inventories, according to property consultant Anarock

7.44 lakh units

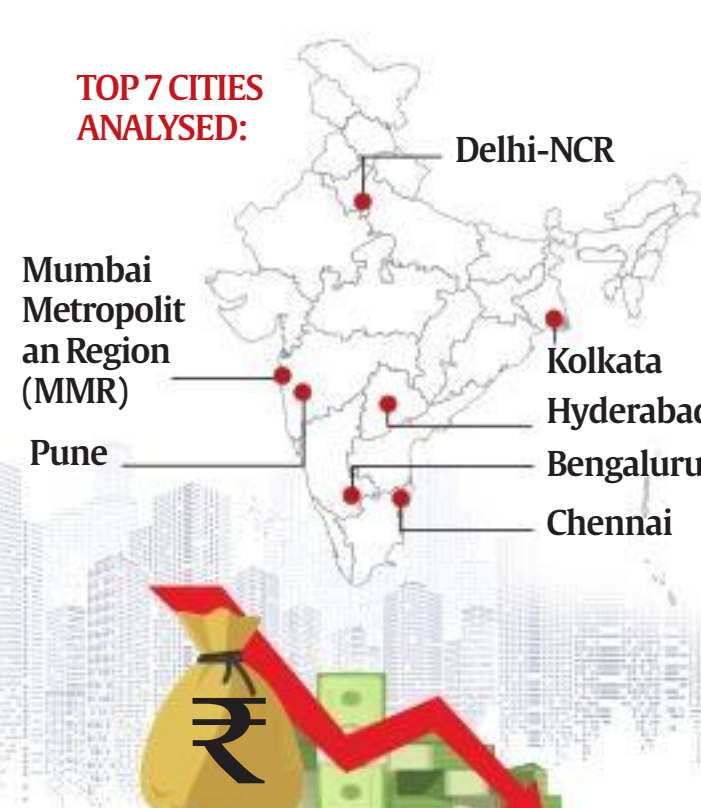
Overall unsold stock in top cities at the end of the third quarter of 2017, which reduced to 6.87 lakh units during the corresponding quarter of the next year

16 months

The time unsold inventory in Hyderabad will take to clear in the current market scenario, while Pune builders will take 27 months

6.56 lakh units

Overall unsold inventory across the top 7 cities at the end of the September quarter



UNSOLD RESIDENTIAL INVENTORY in top-7 cities is reduced to 30 months as on Q3 calendar year 2019 against 37 months in the corresponding period of 2018

BENGALURU has the lowest unsold inventory overhang at about 15 months, while NCR has the highest at 44 months as on Q3 2019

UNSOLD INVENTORY OVERHANG in Chennai is 31 months, MMR 34 months and Kolkata 38 months

UNSOLD HOUSING STOCK is maximum in MMR at 2.21 lakh units, followed by NCR at 1.78 lakh units and Pune at 92,560 units

Budget 2020: Govt seeks inputs from industry for ‘changes in tax rates’

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 13

HAVING COMMENCED the Budget-making process, the Finance Ministry has sought suggestions from the industry and trade associations "for changes in the duty structure, rates and broadening of tax base on both direct and indirect taxes, giving economic justification for the same."

In a circular, which has few precedents, the Ministry also asked India Inc to take into consideration the recent corporate tax

cuts while making suggestions.

"The government policy with reference to direct taxes in the medium term is to phase out tax incentives, deductions, and exemptions while simultaneously rationalising the rates of tax. It would be also desirable that while forwarding the suggestions/recommendations, positive externalities arising out of the said recommendations and their quantification are also indicated," the Ministry said in the circular dated November 11.

After her maiden Budget on July 5, Finance Minister Nirmala

Sitharaman on September 20 announced a cut in corporate income taxes for domestic companies to 22 per cent from 30 per cent previously.

The Ministry also sought suggestions related to customs and central excise among indirect taxes as goods and services tax is under the ambit of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council. "The request for correction of inverted duty structure, if any for a commodity, should necessarily be supported by value addition at each stage of manufacturing of the commodity," it said. **FE WITH PTI**

Will definitely bring OSH Code in Budget Session: Labour Minister

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 13

THE CENTRE will seek the passage of the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions (OSH) Code in the next Budget session of Parliament for approval, Union Labour Minister Santosh Kumar Gangwar said on Wednesday.

On August 2, the Parliament approved the first of the four proposed codes — Code on Wages, 2019 — that sought to extend the benefit of obligatory minimum wages to all workers and not just

The government intends to subsume 44 labour laws into four codes to improve the ease of doing business and attract investment for spurring growth

those in 'scheduled employments'. The government intends to subsume 44 labour laws into four codes to improve the ease of doing business and attract invest-

ment for spurring growth.

Besides the codes on wages and occupational safety, the government is in the process of bringing in codes on social security and industrial relations.

"We will definitely bring the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code in the Budget Session," Gangwar said on the sidelines of an event of Employees' State Insurance Corporation.

The Minister said that the government was pushing all four codes to become a reality as soon as possible. **FE**

‘Made in Germany’: Tesla to set up first European factory in Berlin

EDWARD TAYLOR & PAUL CARREL
BERLIN, NOVEMBER 13

TESLA WILL build its first European factory and design centre near Berlin, giving the US electric car pioneer the coveted "Made in Germany" label just as local rivals Audi, BMW and Mercedes prepare to launch competing cars.

Tesla Chief Executive Elon Musk announced the move at a prestigious German car awards ceremony late on Tuesday and said the new plant would make batteries, powertrains and cars — starting with the Model Y sports utility vehicle. "Everyone knows German engineering is outstanding for sure. You know that is part of the reason why we are locating Gigafactory Europe in Germany," Musk said at the ceremony in Berlin.

"Tesla's decision to build an ultra-modern factory for electric cars in Germany is further proof of the appeal of Germany as an automotive hub"

PETER ALTMAIER
GERMANY ECONOMY MINISTER

The plan is a big boost for Germany as a centre for manufacturing after BMW and Mercedes in recent years chose to build new factories in Hungary, and after its auto industry was hit hard by Volkswagen's admission in 2015 that it cheated US diesel emissions tests. Germany's manufacturing industry has been slowing, with data on Thursday set to show whether Europe's biggest economy has slipped into recession for the first time since 2013.

Tesla is struggling to ramp up

production and has yet to prove it can be consistently profitable as rivals including Audi-owner Volkswagen retool plants to mass produce electric cars.

Musk said the factory would be near Berlin's new Brandenburg international airport, diversifying the Silicon Valley firm's production beyond the United States at a time when global trade tariffs make exports more difficult. Besides Europe, Tesla is opening a factory in Shanghai.

Tesla's proposed factory will be within commuting distance of Poland, where labour costs are cheaper, a rival manufacturer — who also looked at the site — told *Reuters*. "Tesla's decision to build an ultra-modern factory for electric cars in Germany is further proof of the appeal of Germany as an automotive hub," Economy Minister Peter Altmaier said on Wednesday. **REUTERS**

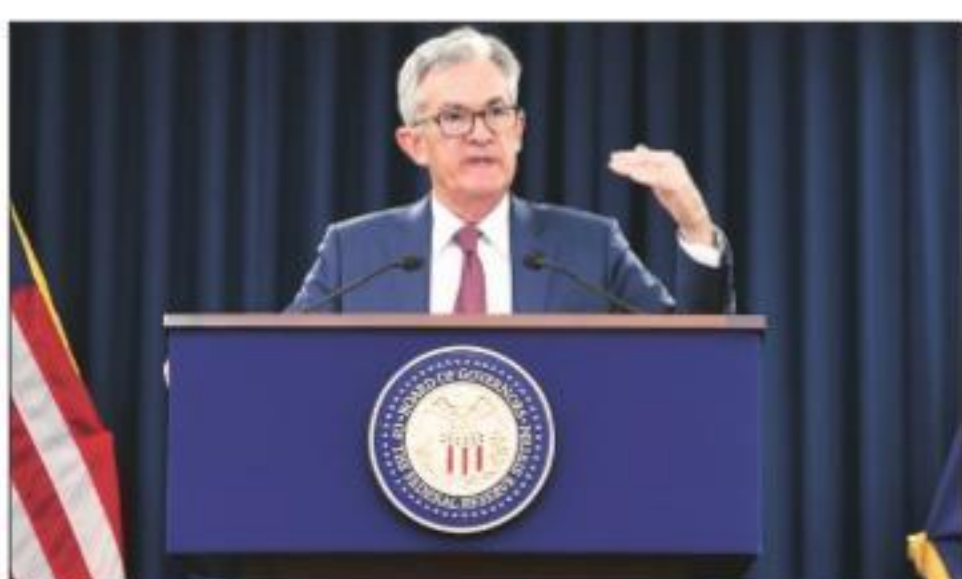
IN REMARKS TO JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE, FED CHIEF BRUSHES ASIDE SLOWDOWN FEARS

Powell on US economy: ‘Sustained expansion’ likely

HOWARD SCHNEIDER & LINDSAY DUNSMUIR
WASHINGTON, NOVEMBER 13

US CENTRAL bankers see a "sustained expansion" ahead for the country's economy, with the full impact of recent interest rate cuts still to be felt and low unemployment boosting household spending, Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell said on Wednesday in remarks that brushed aside any worries of a looming slowdown.

"The baseline outlook remains favorable," and the current level of interest rates "appropriate," Powell said in remarks prepared for delivery to the Joint Economic Committee of Congress, a panel that includes some members from the House of Representatives and Senate.



In remarks prepared for delivery to the Joint Economic Committee of Congress, Jerome Powell on Wednesday said "the baseline outlook remains favorable," and the current level of interest rates "appropriate". *AP file photo*

His comments tracked closely to those in his news conference last month after the US central

bank cut rates for the third time this year and signaled it was likely done reducing borrowing costs

absent a significant change in the economic outlook.

Despite "noteworthy risks" including slowing global growth and fallout from the US-China trade war, "my colleagues and I see a sustained expansion of economic activity ... as most likely," Powell said in his prepared remarks for a hearing that is scheduled to begin at 1600 GMT.

There was little market reaction to the prepared remarks.

Investors have largely accepted the Federal Reserve's intent to keep interest rates on hold well into next year.

New data on Wednesday showed US consumer prices rising by the most in seven months in October, consistent with the Fed's expectation that the pace of price increases will rise to its 2 per cent target. **REUTERS**

US inflation firms on rising healthcare costs

Washington: US consumer prices jumped by the most in seven months in October, which together with abating fears of a recession, support the Federal Reserve's signal for no further interest rate cuts in the near term.

The consumer price index rose 0.4 per cent last month as households also paid more for energy products, food and other goods. That was the largest gain in CPI since March and followed an unchanged reading in September. **REUTERS**

India, Switzerland call for greater cooperation on tax matters

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 13

INDIA AND Switzerland on Wednesday called on tax authorities to further enhance their collaboration in curbing the black money menace.

India's Revenue Secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey and Switzerland's State Secretary for International Finance Daniela Stoffel expressed satisfaction over the progress made over the past few years in the area of administrative assistance in tax matters, particularly the efforts made by Switzerland in providing assistance in HSBC cases, the Finance Ministry said in a statement.

The first transmission of financial account information on automatic basis between the two countries took place in September 2019 for enhanced cooperation in the fight against tax evasion.

Vedanta highest bidder for Jamkhani coal block

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 13

VEDANTA ON Wednesday said it has emerged as the highest bidder for Jamkhani coal block in Sundargarh district, Odisha, in the 10th tranche of captive coal block auction conducted by the government.

The coal block is in proximity to the company's Jharsuguda aluminium smelter.

The Jamkhani coal block is one of the most attractive coal blocks for the company's Jharsuguda

DHFL to make payments to lenders with securitisation arrangements: HC

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 13

THE BOMBAY High Court has allowed troubled mortgage lender Dewan Housing Finance Corporation (DHFL) to make payments to banks and NBFCs, which have securitisation arrangements with it.

Seven lenders, led by State bank of India (SBI), had filed an intervention plea seeking vacation from an earlier order. Other petitioners included Union Bank of India, HDFC Bank, and Indian Overseas Bank.

The Bombay HC had earlier restrained DHFL from making payments to any of its secured/unsecured creditors, including the payments to any fixed deposit holders, on October 10, following a petition filed by mutual funds. Justice AK Menon said in his order: "The payment to banks and non-bank lenders who purchased loan pool from DHFL will be allowed. DHFL can make

The Bombay HC had earlier restrained DHFL from making payments to any of its secured/unsecured creditors, including the payments to any fixed deposit holders, on October 10, following a petition filed by MFs

all future payments and previous dues which were payable since October 10."

SBI's counsel argued that DHFL was making regular payments before, however, it failed to honour obligations after the HC's interim order was passed. If the above order wasn't modified, these securitised loans may slip into the non-performing assets (NPAs) category, counsel said.

DHFL's counsel in its reply said, "The company has adequate security cover of 1:1.11 as

of September 30 for payments."

The court has allowed banks and NBFCs to be part of the main petition filed by mutual funds. Edelweiss AMC, Kotak Mahindra AMC, Axis Asset Management and Reliance AMC had moved the Bombay High Court seeking a direction to DHFL to disclose all its assets and liabilities and also to temporarily prevent it from making payments/disbursements to secured and unsecured creditors.

The beleaguered home financier owes Rs 83,873 crore as of July 6, 2019 to banks, the National Housing Board, MFs and bondholders, including retail bondholders.

As of July 6, the DHFL's secured debt was Rs 74,054 crore while the unsecured debt stood at Rs 9,818 crore. The Wadhawan family, which owns over 39 per cent in the firm, has been looking at various ways to come out of the stress which first came to light late last year following the IL&FS bankruptcy. **FE WITH PTI**

SpiceJet posts ₹463-cr Q2 loss on the back of 737 MAX grounding

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 13

LOSSES AT SpiceJet widened to Rs 463 crore for the quarter ended September 30, 2019, impacted by higher costs and a seasonally weak quarter, the company said on Wednesday.

SpiceJet's losses were higher than Street expectations; analysts tracked by Bloomberg had estimated a Rs 328-crore loss for the budget carrier in Q2FY20.

The company reported a loss of Rs 389 crore in Q2FY19 over high fuel costs, rupee depreciation and intense competition leading to low fares.

For the second consecutive quarter, SpiceJet has factored in reimbursements of around Rs 176 crore from Boeing for its 13 B737 Max aircraft in Q2FY20, resulting in curtailed losses.

The carrier's operating revenues were up 52 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y) to Rs 2,845 crore on higher passenger count and

THE DRUG WILL BE PRICED AT ₹351 PER DOSE

Bharat Biotech aims to fill rabies vaccine shortage with relaunch

PRABHA RAGHAVAN
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 13

IN THE face of a long-standing shortage of a crucial vaccine against the deadly rabies virus, vaccinemaker Bharat Biotech on Wednesday 'relaunched' an anti-rabies vaccine (ARV) marketed earlier as 'Rabipur' by multinational drugmaker Glaxo-SmithKline (GSK).

The vaccine, to be sold under the brand name 'ChiroRab', will add to the Hyderabad-headquartered firm's existing ARV capacity and help it become a major player in the over Rs 200-crore Indian rabies vaccine market.

Bharat Biotech also markets ARV through another brand, 'IndiRab'. The launch of ChiroRab, which comes over seven months after Bharat Biotech acquired Chiron Behring Vaccines Pvt Ltd

The firm plans to increase the production capacity of ChiroRab from the Chiron Behring facility in Ankleshwar to 21 million doses by 2021, as per Chiron Behring Vaccines Pvt Ltd COO Pradip Patel

from GSK, ramps up the firm's ARV capacity to around 27 million doses per year, according to the firm.

"It is a very important vaccine," said Renu Swarup, secretary, Department of Biotechnology. "I don't think in India we should now be at that stage where we should say that because of the lack of access to vaccines, we are unable to provide the care that is important, especially because we have this level of capacity that exists. I'm very pleased that rabies vaccine shortage which has been there,

just not only for our country but also globally, would be addressed through this important venture that has been launched," she added.

ChiroRab will be priced at Rs 351 per dose. According to Bharat Biotech International Ltd CMD Krishna Ella, the launch will make the firm the largest rabies vaccine manufacturer in the world.

"We are expecting at least 50 per cent (share) of the Indian market," Ella told *The Indian Express*.

Rabies is a deadly virus that

Coffee Day Enterprises Q1 profit zooms to ₹1,567 cr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 13

COFFEE DAY Enterprises on Wednesday reported a multi-fold jump in consolidated net profit at Rs 1,567.20 crore for the June quarter, helped by an exceptional gain from stake sale in IT firm Mindtree.

The company, which runs Cafe Coffee Day chains, had reported a profit of Rs 21.06 crore for April-June period a year ago, Coffee Day Enterprises said.

Coffee Day Enterprises also said there would be delay in announcement of results for the second quarter ended September.

Revenue from operations was down at Rs 941.69 crore during the period under review as against Rs 966.04 crore in the year-ago period. "EBITDA for Q1FY20 includes exceptional gain amounting to Rs 1,777 crore and PAT for the period Q1FY20 includes exceptional gain amounting to Rs 1,659 crore on account of sale of equity stake held in Mindtree," it said.



NLC India Limited
"Navratna" - Government of India Enterprise
Regd. Office : First Floor, No.8, Mayor Sathiyamurthy Road,
FSD, Egmore Complex of Food Corporation of India, Chetpet, Chennai - 600 031.
Corp. Office : Block-1, Newell-607 801, Cuddalore District, Tamil Nadu.
CIN No.: L93090TN1956GOI003507, Website: www.nlcindia.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS FOR SUPPLIES (e-Tender Notice SI.No. 2 to 7)
SI.No. Tender Ref./Scope of Supplies & Qty. Reqd.
1. NTP/LTUTICORIN: ENQ/NTP/L19-20/000365/C&P01 (01) Dt: 05-11-2019:
Purchase of Caustic Soda Lye. **B.G.Amount: ₹ 50,000/-**
2. UNIT: M.M.COMPLEX: PTE No. ENQ/19-20/002347/MM01 (03) Dt: 01-11-2019:
420 KW Bell Gear Box **Due date of opening: 05-12-2019**
3. ENQ/19-20/002348/MM01 (06) Dt: 01-11-2019: Internal for slew gear box - 10 Items. **Due date of opening: 05-12-2019**
4. ENQ/19-20/002319/MM01 (05) Dt: 01-11-2019: 4 Items of Track Roller Axles. **Due date of opening: 09-12-2019**
5. ENQ/19-20/002373/MM22(01) Dt:04-11-2019: 15/5T Double Girder EOT Crane-1 Set **Due date of opening: 29-11-2019**
6. PTE-ENQ/19-20/002416/MM02(01) Dt:06-11-2019: Track plate for 2400mm Tripper car with Track link (615mm pitch), bushes & pin with lock plate in fully assembled and welded condition as a bunch consisting five track plates in each bunch and technical specification. **Qty: 160 Nos.** **Due date of opening: 09-12-2019**
7. ENQ/19-20/002483/MM22(01) Dt:11-11-2019: Automatic Capacitance, Power factor and Tan Delta measuring field test. **KIT – 1 No.** **Due date of opening: 09-12-2019**
Cost of tender Document: SI.No.1: ₹ 1,000/-
Date & time of tender opening: SI.No.1: 04-12-2019
FOR e-TENDER DOCUMENTS/DETAILS/CORRIGENDUM VISIT:www.nlcindia.com
PUBLIC SECTOR IS YOURS : HELP IT TO HELP YOU



Name and Address of the entity seeking EO:
Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL)
BIAL Project Office,
Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru
Bangalore 560 300
Web:www.bengaluruairport.com

NOTICE FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)
BIAL intends to undertake the construction of a stand-alone corporate office building comprising of lower ground floor + ground floor + 3 floors including associated works at Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru ("Project"). BIAL intends to obtain LEED rating from IGBC for this Project.

Consortium/ joint venture participation is not permitted.

Information on the EOI can be obtained from the **BIAL website** www.bengaluruairport.com (<http://www.bengaluruairport.com/our-Business/tender.jspx>) Bidding for this Project is through e-tendering. Applicants shall register on <https://www.bialtenders.com/> as per the e-Tendering instructions provided with the Information Document.

Applicants shall view/ download the EOI document from <https://www.bialtenders.com/> from 1400 hrs IST on November 14, 2019 to 1600 hrs IST on November 28, 2019. The EOI must be submitted online at <https://www.bialtenders.com/> on or before 1700 hrs IST on November 28, 2019.

Addendum, if any, to this EOI shall be made available on the BIAL website and <https://www.bialtenders.com/>



Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001
CIN: U40109PB2010SGC033813; Website: www.pspcl.in
Office of: Chief Engineer TA & I B-3, Shakti Vihar, Patiala-147001
Phone No. 0175-2214145, 0175-2301538
Mob. 096461-08770, 096461-18111, e-mail: se-dsm@pspcl.in
e-tendering page: https://pspcl.abcpocure.com

TENDER NOTICE
Short Description
Tender to Engage an independent Agency for taking meter readings of energy meters installed at premises of 11443 no AP consumers of 60 no AP feeders covered under 100% Metering of 1% feeders to compute T&D losses on quarterly basis all over Punjab under Tender Enquiry No. 004/DSM-2019-20
Last date for downloading of Specification/Tender documents from <https://pspcl.abcpocure.com>
Last date for Bid Submission
12.12.2019 (upto 11.00 AM)
Bid Opening date
12.12.2019 (upto 11.30 AM)
Tender Document cost.
NIL
EMD
4.00 Lacs
Payment mode
By Demand Draft
Payment in favour of
Account officer/Cash, PSPCL, Patiala
For detailed NIT & Tender specification please refer to <https://pspcl.abcpocure.com>
Note: It is informed that in case tender process is not completed due to any reason, no corrigendum will be published in newspaper. Details regarding corrigendum may be seen on official PSPCL website www.pspcl.in
C 455/19
C-7795/pb
Sd/- Addl. SE/DSM,
For CE/TA & I PSPCL, Patiala

Rajasthan State Road Development And Construction Corporation Ltd., JAIPUR
No. NIT/2019-20/24026-35
अवकाशनी हे निविदा सूचना संख्या 245/19-20
Date: 13.11.2019
निम्न विहित शर्तिकावली पर से जो पत्र की अर्पित के लिए पात्रता प्रमाण हेतु ई-टेंडरिंग प्रक्रिया से ऑनलाइन निविदाएं अर्पित की जाते हैं।

क्रमांक	कार्य का विवरण	अंदाजित मूल्य (₹.)
1.	Collection of Toll Tax on Dabak-Mandi-Kapasan-Chittoregarh Road for 02 Years. UBN No: RRC1920WLB090511	4481.04 Lac

ऑनलाइन निविदा प्रेषण अवकाशकाल का अंतिम दिनांक 09.11.2019 प्रातः 09.00 बजे से 18.11.2019 प्रातः 06.00 बजे तक
निविदा से संबंधित विवरण प्राप्त एवं संप्रेषण हेतुवेबसाइट <http://procrc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://pppp.rajasthan.nic.in> या <http://roads.rajasthan.gov.in> पर देखा जा सकता है। प्रत्येक संवेदी को अपने विनिर्दिष्ट दस्तावेज के माध्यम से वेबसाइट <http://procrc.rajasthan.gov.in> पर रजिस्टर्ड करवाना आवश्यक है।




TIRUNELVELI SMART CITY LIMITED
SMART CITIES MISSION
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (NIT)

Tender Notice No.17/Smart City/2018-19/SCM
The Managing Director , Tirunelveli Smart City Limited, Tirunelveli hereby invites Bids through both on-line and off-line from eligible bidders for the following works:

Sl. No	Name of Work	Estimate Amount Rs. in crore	Bid Security Rs. in Lakhs	Period of Completion
1	Development of Smart streets-1 in Tirunelveli Corporation (In Tirunelveli Town) (1).Mela Mada veethi road (2)Therku mada veethi (3). Anna street (4)Sathya moorthy street (5)Sathaya moorthy cross street (6) Theppakulam east street (7)Amman sannathi street	9.40	9.40	6 months
2	Development of Smart streets -2 in Tirunelveli Corporation (In Tirunelveli Town) (1).Kattalai Karuvelan kundu street (2)Vaiyapuri nagar west, north and east street (3)Vaiyapuri nagar south street (4) Vaiyapuri nagar link street -1 (5) Vaiyapuri nagar link street-2 (6) Cheranmahadevi road Tirunelveli Town (7) Perumal kovil south street (8) Perumal Kovil south mada veethi (9) Perumal kovil sannathi street.	12.34	12.34	6 months
3	Development of Smart streets -3 in Tirunelveli Corporation 1. South Mount Road 2. Railway feeder road.	11.17	11.17	6 months

A two cover bidding procedure will be adopted. The bidders shall satisfy the qualification criteria and the financial criteria as mentioned in the Bid document. The bidding documents will be available from **15.11.2019 to 16.12.2019**. A pre-bid meeting held on **02.12.2019 at 11.00 hours**. Tender documents can be downloaded from the website <https://ntenders.gov.in>. The bidder shall upload their bids on or before **15.00 hours on 16.12.2019**. The tender will be opened on **15.30 hours on 17.12.2019**. Email ID: commr.tirunelveli@tn.gov.in
Managing Director,
Tirunelveli Smart City Limited,
Tirunelveli Corporation Office, S.N.High Road, Tirunelveli – 627001.
Office : 0462 - 2329328. Fax : (0462) - 2329327,
Managing Director, Tirunelveli Smart City Limited.



VEER SURENDRA SAI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, BURLA
Po., Burla Engineering College, Dist.- Sambalpur, Odisha, 768018, Website : www.vssut.ac.in

No. VSSUT/TEQIP/316 /2019
Dated- 13.11.2019
INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
Veer Surendra Sai University of Technology (VSSUT), Burla invites Expression of Interest (Eoi) in sealed envelope from OEMs/Authorized Dealers for supplying different Equipment/Goods/Works under TEQIP-III. The Eol document containing the details of Technical Specifications and submission format for each individual Equipment/Goods/Works can be downloaded from the website www.vssut.ac.in. Applicants meeting the criteria may be invited for submission of Quotation in the prescribed format of TEQIP-III for further processing of the proposal. The authority reserves the right to cancel this invitation for Eol and/or invite a fresh Eoi with or without amendments and without assigning any reason thereof. Information provided at this stage is indicative and VSSUT reserves the right to amend/add further details in the Eol.
Sd/- Nodal Officer, Procurement, TEQIP-III

Alibaba launches \$13.4-bn Hong Kong listing to fund expansion

REUTERS
HONG KONG, NOVEMBER 13

CHINESE E-COMMERCE giant Alibaba Group launched the share sale for its Hong Kong listing on Wednesday, braving unrest in the global financial hub to try to raise up to \$13.4 billion to fund its expansion plans.

The stock is due to start trading on November 26 in Hong Kong, according to a term-sheet seen by Reuters.

The books for institutional investors looking to buy the shares opened during the New York trading session on Wednesday.

A 661-page draft prospectus for what looks set to be the world's biggest cross-border secondary listing shows Alibaba plans to use the money to invest in online delivery and local services platform Ele.me, as well as online travel group Fliggy.

It will also spend more on developing



Alibaba's stock is due to start trading on November 26. Reuters file photo

Youku, which Alibaba says is one of the leading online video platforms in China.

The plans come against the backdrop of slowing e-commerce industry in China, with Alibaba's annual Singles' Day shopping blitz recording its weakest sales growth since its 2009 debut.

The share sale, set to be Hong Kong's largest in more than nine years, is a boost for the city.

Disney+ gets 10 mn subscribers at launch

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON, NOVEMBER 13

WALT DISNEY Co. said Wednesday it signed up 10 million subscribers for Disney+ within a day of launching its new streaming television service.

The company said in a statement it has seen "extraordinary

consumer demand" and "has already reached a major milestone, achieving a remarkable 10 million sign-ups since launching." The news comes despite a launch marred by glitches which prevented many customers access-

ing titles from Mickey Mouse cartoons to Star Wars.

Disney+ marks a huge bet by the media-entertainment giant,

mainly spreads through the bite of an infected animal. India is estimated to witness 20,800 rabies deaths and requires 35 million doses of ARV every year. Around 50 per cent of the ARV vaccines produced by Bharat Biotech will be earmarked for the domestic market, while the remaining will be exported, according to company executives.

The firm plans to increase production capacity of ChiroRab from the Chiron Behring facility in Ankleshwar to 21 million doses by 2021, according to Chiron Behring Vaccines Pvt Ltd COO Pradip Patel.

Over the last year, India has been facing an acute shortage of ARV. Approvals to manufacture and sell ChiroRab in India, including testing of the vaccines by the government's Central Research Institute in Kasauli, took around seven months, according to Ella.

BRIEFLY

NCDEX launches agri futures index

New Delhi: NCDEX on Wednesday announced the launch of a return-based agri-futures index 'AGRIDEX' in partnership with NSE Indices.

Tata Motors to raise up to \$300 mn

New Delhi: Tata Motors on Wednesday said its board has okayed the pricing and tenure of \$300 million (over Rs 2,163.37 crore) fund-raise through bonds to be issued later this month.

Javadekar takes charge of Heavy Industries

New Delhi: Prakash Javadekar on Wednesday took charge as the Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, two days after Shiv Sena leader Arvind Sawant resigned from the Union Cabinet. Javadekar also holds information & broadcasting, and environment, forest and climate change portfolios.

'Banks may get incentives to lend to poor'

New Delhi: RBI Deputy Governor MK Jain on Wednesday, while speaking at a NABARD event, made a case for incentivising banks to extend loans to poor in backward areas in a bid to promote financial inclusion.

Delisting under CIRP: Sebi told to file response

New Delhi: The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal on Wednesday granted Sebi a "last chance" to file its reply on the revised share delisting norms for companies under insolvency. **PTI**

Aramco overseas office gets first woman head

Singapore: Saudi Aramco, the world's top oil exporter, has appointed its first woman head of an overseas office, two sources with knowledge of the matter said on Wednesday. **REUTERS**

THE SPLINTERNET

Net loss

Countries are increasingly willing to censor speech online

IN 2016 THE World Health Organisation (WHO) declared Britain to be officially free from measles, a highly infectious illness that killed about 110,000 people around the world in 2017. The success was short-lived. After 991 infections were recorded in England and Wales in 2018, the WHO revoked Britain's disease-free label.

Cases of measles are rising in many countries, fuelled in part by conspiracy theories claiming that vaccines given to children cause autism (they do not). "Anti-vaxxers" have long used internet forums and social media to spread their nonsense. Matt Hancock, Britain's health minister, would like to see that stopped. In March he said that internet giants such as Facebook and Google should have a "duty of care" to their users, putting them in the same legal position as schools or doctors. If firms would not stop the spread of anti-vaccination messages voluntarily, said Mr Hancock, he would consider changing the law to force them to do so.

An election is due in December, so Mr Hancock may not get his way—though the opposition Labour Party is also keen. But Britain is far from alone. In recent months attention has focused on the threat to big internet companies from trustbusting politicians in America. Now they face a second regulatory assault elsewhere. Citing reasons ranging from combating terrorism to safeguarding elections to discouraging self-harm, politicians around the world are increasingly eager to censor the material that appears on the tech giants' platforms.

Many authoritarian governments already restrict what their citizens see online. China has heavily censored the internet since its early days; Twitter and Facebook are banned outright. Iran also outlaws Facebook. Saudi Arabia restricts access to information on everything from gay rights and evolution to Shia Islam. Attitudes are hardening in democracies, too. Rather than simply being blocked, big tech firms face a raft of new laws controlling what they can host on their platforms.

This marks a big change for a global industry that has, until now, been run on technolibertarian assumptions. "Most of the big internet companies come from an American speech tradition," says Owen Bennett of the Mozilla Foundation, which campaigns for an open internet. There was, he says, an assumption that the liberal attitude to speech embodied in the First Amendment to America's constitution would spread as the internet did. When the internet was young and unimportant, the frictions that it caused in countries with other ideas about free speech could mostly be ignored. Now that it is enormous and vital, they are pushing back.

In June, for instance, Singapore passed the Protection from Online Falsehoods and Manipulation Act. The city-state's bossy government presented it as an anti-"fake news" bill. It bars the dissemination of online lies deemed to be against the public interest, on pain of fines of up to \$1m or ten years in jail. Singapore's government defines the public interest expansively. The law penalises falsehoods that would interfere with "public tranquillity" or "diminish public confidence in the performance of any duty or function of...the Government". Firms can be required to block access to content found to be in breach of the law, and to tell users that such content is false, even to the point of getting in touch with them after they have already seen it.

Britain's proposed laws are notable for their focus on things that are merely undesirable, rather than downright illegal. Besides demanding more effort to combat child pornography and the promotion of terrorism, they take aim at hard-to-define things such as hate, abuse and misogyny, as well as the



Even in America, disquiet is growing about the wisdom of letting internet giants police themselves. Elizabeth Warren, a presidential candidate, has accused Facebook of “taking money to promote lies”, referring to the social network’s decision to exempt politicians from its internal guidelines governing what can be posted. *AP*

glamorisation of suicide. The government envisages a new regulator, paid for by the tech firms, with the power to block offending websites, force other companies—such as payment processors or search engines—to sever ties with offending firms, and perhaps even to hold senior managers legally responsible for their companies' failings.

Australia's Sharing of Abhorrent Violent Material bill was rushed through in April following a live-streamed terrorist attack on mosques in New Zealand. Western technology firms fiercely opposed the bill. It requires companies (no matter where they are based) to ensure that anything on their servers depicting such things as terrorism, murder or kidnapping is swiftly made unavailable in Australia (potentially within less than an hour). The penalties for failing to do so include fines of up to a staggering 10% of global turnover and, in theory at least, jail time for executives.

One of the most influential jurisdictions will be the European Union (EU), a market of 500m rich consumers which restricts speech more than America does. Until now, individual member states have done much of the work.

Germany passed its "Netzwerkdurchsetzungsgesetz" law in 2017, which gives social-media firms 24 hours to remove fake news and hate speech or face fines of up to €50m (\$56m). In July France passed similar legislation.

But Rasmus Nielsen, who runs the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism at the University of Oxford, says one priority of the

new European Commission, which takes office in December, will be to beef up such laws and put Brussels, rather than individual countries, in charge. Margrethe Vestager, a Danish politician who made her name levying multi-billion-dollar fines on big tech firms as the previous Commission's competition enforcer, will probably lead the effort. The Commission's planned Digital Services Act is likely to contain rules governing everything from political advertising to terrorist content, all of which would be enforced by a new regulator.

Still more consequential will be India's efforts. It has around half a billion internet users—second only to China—and is adding to that number rapidly. In February its government proposed new powers that would weaken the encryption that protects messages on apps such as WhatsApp, force internet-service providers to install automatic filtering software to prevent users from seeing unlawful information, and require firms to remove posts or videos deemed hateful or deceptive, or which invade someone's privacy. India's size means the new rules have caught the attention of Western giants. In September Nick Clegg, a former British deputy prime minister who is now Facebook's chief PR man, made a speech in Delhi urging the government to reconsider.

Even in America, disquiet is growing about the wisdom of letting internet giants police themselves. Elizabeth Warren, a presidential candidate, has accused Facebook of

"taking money to promote lies", referring to the social network's decision to exempt politicians from its internal guidelines governing what can be posted. "We do not submit speech by politicians to our independent fact-checkers," said Mr Clegg recently. "And we generally allow it on the platform even when it would otherwise breach our normal content rules." Facebook points out, with some justification, that it would look odd for a democracy to rely on a private company to referee what politicians say—although the firm does decide who counts as a politician. The policy is not limited to America: Facebook has said it would also apply in Britain's coming election. By contrast, Twitter last month banned political ads entirely.

This pun is unavailable in your country

To grasp the impact of these changes, one useful analogy, suggests an industry insider, is with big banks. Both industries operate in many countries, and both control the flow of vital things—money in one case, information in the other. Banks' systemic importance means they are hedged about with tough, detailed laws that differ between jurisdictions. That requires vast compliance departments, stuffed with lawyers, accountants and box-tickers. Tech firms, used to having limited staff and to being able easily to operate across borders, are being ushered down the same path.

Monitoring the torrent of content that passes through their servers is a huge task.

More than 500 hours of video are uploaded to YouTube every minute; thousands of tweets are posted every second. For all the hopeful chatter about artificial intelligence (AI), Alex Stamos, a former chief security officer at Facebook, argues that, in the end, human labour—and lots of it—is the only solution. Algorithms already struggle to make relatively straightforward decisions. YouTube, for instance, spent \$100m developing ContentID, an algorithm designed to block pirated content. But pirated videos are still available, and legitimate users sometimes see their posts wrongly flagged.

And policing copyright infringements is a cinch compared with other forms of content. An algorithm to regulate political speech would have to master sarcasm and irony. It would need tailoring to local sensitivities in individual countries, and to be made invulnerable to deliberate attempts to exploit its weaknesses. "Regulating political speech basically requires AI that's as smart as humans," says Mr Stamos. If that ever comes, it will not be for decades.

Social-media firms do use AI to flag posts for humans' attention. Exact figures are scarce, but in 2017 Accenture, a consultancy, reckoned tech firms already employ around 100,000 human content-moderators worldwide. Each new law will require more people to enforce it. Facebook doubled the number of moderators from 7,500 to 15,000 between August and December 2018. Its internal guidelines even now run to tens of thousands of words.

Such burdens risk entrenching big existing players, says Mr Bennett, since they can afford to absorb the costs of compliance. And harsh penalties will create incentives for firms to err on the side of heavy-handedness. "You might even see companies thinking carefully about where they want to operate because it's just not worth the risk of getting it wrong."

In the long run, though, perhaps the biggest effect of the new laws will be the further splintering of the internet. The idea of the internet as a single global network that looks the same no matter where you are when you log on, is central to its founding mythology. Yet it looks increasingly outdated. Whether that is good or bad is the subject of debate. "It is entirely legitimate for countries to formulate policies that govern their own media environments," argues Mr Nielsen. However, "at the moment, people in India who can afford phones can see broadly the same things as people in the West," says Mr Stamos. "The end of that would be sad."

It is happening regardless. China's pervasive censorship has long split its internet users off from those elsewhere in the world. Cracks are spreading in the West, too. Some American firms already find it easier to block European users rather than comply with eu privacy laws. "Right to be forgotten" laws compel search engines to remove certain results for European users. Censorship laws will mean another set of walls dividing the global village.

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DATA PRIVACY

The first face-off

A lawsuit against face-scans in China could have big consequences

GUO BING, a legal academic in the eastern city of Hangzhou, likes to spend his leisure time at a local safari park. But when the park informed season-pass holders like him that admission would require a face-scan, Mr Guo objected. Late last month he filed a lawsuit, claiming the new rules violated his privacy. Facial-recognition technology is widely used in China. Doubtless to the relief of the government which makes extensive use of it, there has been little public debate about it. State media, however, seized on Mr Guo's case, trumpeting it as the first of its kind to be lodged in a Chinese court. Netizens have been hailing Mr Guo as a champion of consumer rights. A thread about his suit has garnered 100m views on Weibo, a social-media platform.

It is surprising that it has taken so long for the judiciary to get involved. Some 300 tourist sites in China use facial recognition to admit visitors. The safari park says doing so can shorten queues. Many office workers in Beijing's main financial district clock in and out of work by scanning their faces. Some campuses and residential buildings use facial-recognition cameras to screen people entering. WeChat, a messaging and digital-wallet app, allows users to pay with their

By encouraging such discussion, the government may be betting that any ire will not be redirected at the state's use of the technology. But a few commentators have hinted at their disquiet about more than just the lax attitudes of businesses towards privacy. "There's a feeling that everything you say and do is being monitored," said one.

faces at camera-equipped vendors. Facial-recognition systems are ubiquitous at traffic intersections, in railway stations and airports (visitors to a public-security expo are pictured being scanned).

But even the government recognises that the proliferation of this technology may lead to abuses. It does not want discussion of its own intrusions into privacy, such as the use

of facial recognition to spy on millions of Uighurs, a mostly Muslim group, in the western region of Xinjiang. But poor protection of facial and other personal data by Chinese firms could impede the country's rise as a global tech giant. On November 4th the websites of Xinhua, a state news agency, and *People's Daily*, a Communist Party mouthpiece, republished an article in a Hangzhou newspaper describing the lawsuit as a "very good opportunity" to spur "public debate". *People's Daily* has started an online opinion poll about the "ever-increasing" number of venues using facial recognition.

In China's social media, many of the thousands of commentators on Mr Guo's case have expressed fears about the sale of personal information to third-party marketers. "In China there is no protection of privacy!" said one comment on Weibo that was "liked" more than 1,500 times. China's consumer-rights law requires consent from consumers before personal information can be collected and stored. If the court in Hangzhou sides with Mr Guo, other Chinese firms will need to pay heed.

By encouraging such discussion, the government may be betting that any ire will not be redirected at the state's use of the tech-



Facial-recognition systems are ubiquitous at traffic intersections, in railway stations and airports (visitors to a public-security expo are pictured being scanned). *AP*

nology. But a few commentators have hinted at their disquiet about more than just the lax attitudes of businesses towards privacy. "There's a feeling that everything you say and

do is being monitored. It's terrifying," said one. Another simply wrote: "1984". Mr Guo, however, has said he is happy to submit to facial scans by the government that are in the

public interest. All he wants is his money back on his season ticket.

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‘Difficulty is not in taking a call on reforms, it’s in moving forward’



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in conversation with *The Indian Express* National Opinion Editor Vandita Mishra and Executive Editor (National Affairs) P Vaidyanathan Iyer



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman was the guest at the recent Express Adda held in Mumbai. She spoke to *The Indian Express* Executive Editor (National Affairs) P Vaidyanathan Iyer and National Opinion Editor Vandita Mishra on India’s decision to not join the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), boosting investment and ushering in reforms

On whether the govt didn't join RCEP under pressure

No... it is not suggestive of India looking inwards, that we are shutting the doors. After all, the ASEAN treaty is still active, the FTA with Korea, with Japan, with Singapore, are all on. We are actively engaging with global trading communities and, in fact, one of the things that I had announced was that we will form a group to make sure that we will talk to investors, companies which want to get out of China (or) be there but also look for an opportunity in any other country. So engaging with other countries, trading, linking with global value chain are all intact. We are not shutting any of that but we also cannot conclude an agreement (just) because we will be seen as an outlier. We need to take a call as a country to be part of a group. You can't just walk into a treaty and leave the industry to face the music afterwards.

On what corporates need to do to stand up to competition

I don't think I want to say it as a message to the corporate sector but the fact remains that Indian industries' competitiveness is still subject to a lot of factors, which are extraneous to them. For instance, if input costs are high, whether it's electricity, whether you want to buy a piece of land to set up your whole thing, mutation, everything has got a long way to go in terms of becoming easy to do business. And if all that has still got to be corrected, it's also not right, therefore, for me to think industry has got a long way to go. I certainly will apply my mind to say, how can I do things which are going to make their input costs come down.

On why the govt is not taking tough calls on reforms

The difficulty in taking a call is not at the negotiating table. The difficulty is in moving forward with reform-based actions in our country. If I am able to make it possible for industry to be able to apply and get their business going, those are the things in which I am sure we will show that the commitment for reform happens fast and that's where this mandate given to Modi 2.0 will help. And if we are accused of having not done enough

in the last term, you are equally aware as to how many attempts were made, how many times we couldn't get past a certain number in the House and so on. But now, we have every reason to say we will push forward with those reforms. Let's say we missed the bus last time but we won't miss the bus now.

On companies using corporate tax cut to deleverage

When we have taken a call on the corporate tax cut, it is not just to bring it down which was a promise given earlier, we fulfilled it. That's one, but second is post that if the companies are deciding to use it for deleveraging and not really move forward, I'm not sure it is the right time for us to even take that call yet. Companies will look at it in optimally utilising what they got out of it and the company boards decide that. For me, to also presume that everything that they have gained because of the cut in this tax will have to be necessarily reinvested immediately may also not be right. It's for the boards to prioritise, and I wouldn't say deleveraging is a wrong thing because if you have to come out of a certain stress situation, why not? But post the stress is when they can take even more, let us say, productive decisions which will have repercussions on all of us in the sense of the market, the sentiments, the dividends, and so on. So I wouldn't grudge if companies take a call to deleverage. But post that, of course with some time lag, there will be decisions favouring newer investment, expansion, and also passing as dividend.

On whether delinking economics from politics is no longer working

It's not possible for any political party, particularly which is ruling in a particular state, or let us say in the national government, to delink any subject. It's not their choice. Now it's not possible for whichever — be the government, centre or state, to say, 'Look boys, I don't want to talk about the economy at all but give me a vote on nationalism'. Is it possible? Is the voter going to be as much indulgent



(Left to right) Hemendra Kothari, Chairman, DSP Investment Managers; Deepak Parekh, Chairman, HDFC Ltd with wife Smita Parekh; Arundhati Bhattacharya, Former Chairperson, State Bank of India



(From left) Vivek Jain, Managing Director, DCW Ltd; Suketu Shah, Joint Managing Director, Mukand Ltd; Aditi Kothari, Assistant VP, DSP Investment Managers Pvt Ltd



(Left to right) Former Rajya Sabha member Bhalchandra Mungekar; Lawyer Somasekhar Sundaresan; Sunil Jain, Managing Editor, *Financial Express* in a conversation with Nirmala Sitharaman



Navneet Munot (left), Executive Director and Chief Investment Officer, SBI Mutual Fund; Sujoy Bose, CEO, National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF)



Anshuman S Ruia, Former Chairman, Essar Securities Ltd



Pallav Mohapatra, MD and CEO, Central Bank of India



Anand Piramal, Executive Director, Piramal Group





(Front row, from left to right)
Smiti Ruia Kanodia;
Anshuman S Ruia; Rashesh
Shah; Vishal Kampani;
Nimesh Kampani; Leena
Tiwari; Swati Piramal; Gulu
Mirchandani; Navneet
Munot; Sujoy
Bose; Hemendra Kothari;
Deepak Parekh; Smita
Parekh; Arundhati
Bhattacharya; Girish Luthra;
Anand Piramal; Anant
Goenka; Yatin Shah



Neelkanth Mishra, Managing Director,
India Strategist and Co-Head of Equity
Strategy, Asia Pacific, Credit Suisse



Sunil Gaitonde, Vice Chairman,
NKGSB Bank



Nirmala Sitharaman with guests at Express Adda



George Varghese, Group CEO, *The Indian Express*, presents a portrait illustrated by
CR Sasikumar, Illustrator, *Financial Express*, to
Nirmala Sitharaman



Ajay Bagga, Chairman, Board
of Directors, OPC Asset Solutions Pvt
Ltd (left) with journalist Sanjay
Pugalia

with you to say, 'Alright, Modiji doesn't want economy, so we won't talk about the economy'. I mean who are we trying to convince?

On whether India
has to reconfigure its economic
design

India's economy has its own signature. You really cannot undermine the role that the small and medium sector plays in every aspect of the economy. Second, we have a large domestic market. Whether in 2008 or even before that, if India faced fluctuations of the global economy and took the shocks, it was because you had a fallback on the domestic market. Third, whether we want to subscribe to this view that computerisation takes away jobs, it creates newer jobs too. Therefore, I am not worried about computerisation or technology coming in our lives, many from our Indian industry are happily adopting that. The change is happening, there is a lot of churn and that has an effect on the economy.

On whether trust in
the financial sector
is an issue today

This is a very critical question in the light of what is happening in the Punjab & Maharashtra Co-operative Bank and, in fact, in the ministry, together with the RBI representative, the deputy governor level, has had more than three meetings. I am not coming up with a complete solution now itself, but I am telling you that we are moving towards better supervision, better regulation, and understanding of, let us say, take the example of co-operatives which run banks. I'm not indicating that everything is going to be touched, shaken up, or everything is going to be disrupted. I am only saying if co-operatives have had this, we are still looking at ways in which we can ensure the confidence that the public has in banks

should be governed with that kind of a confidence too.

On the collapse of
IL&FS and Jet Airways

...I don't want one more institution falling off the cliff...I am saying that the entire government machinery is concerned as to why we won't be able to sense this earlier so that when you try to redress the solution, it is not already on the cliff. It should be well before it...We should be able to, with honour, restore a company and allow it to function like always. We are working in various different capacities with various different ministries, regulatory bodies to see how best we can be more efficient, well in time, about assessing these so that we are not always firefighting.

On the dismantling of
institutions and MNREGA

A centralised Planning Commission, which was dispensing to the states as to what they have to do, giving one-size-fits all kind of solutions, was disbanded. To think that the NITI Aayog has come in its place is not right. NITI Aayog is a think tank. Second, yes, MNREGA was criticised, yes, it was said that it is like a dole because it never created assets. It was very Keynesian—dig a hole, put the mud back into the hole, take the money because we don't want rural unemployment. But what we have done is to make sure that every MNREGA activity has an asset creation component to it. So if you are implementing it better, if you are making sure that each time such an engagement happens there is an asset creation or value addition to an existing asset, it's not the same MNREGA.

On states wanting to hire local
in an era of migration

I don't know how it's going to play out but I'm not sure if it's sustainable. For example, in many South Indian states, in the agricultural fields, there are no locals available. So when governments take positions like these, I'm not sure how is it going to play out. So then you'll have to seek exemption. You can't stop economic activity.

On closing the Finance Ministry
to journalists

I'm thinking about it and I'm asking, what have I done? Accredited journalists, please come. You're meeting me, meeting her, meeting him, just send them an SMS or a WhatsApp, a mail, a call to say I am coming. I was at the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, all of them have the same thing, the media is requested to seek an appointment.



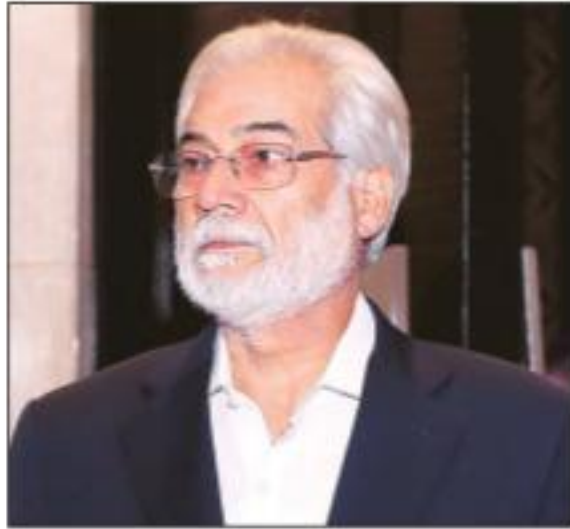
(From left to right) Vishal Kampani, Group MD, JM Financial; Nimesh Kampani, Group Chairman, JM Financial; Leena Tiwari, Chairperson, USV Private Limited and Swati Piramal, Vice Chairperson, Piramal Group



The Indian Express Group Executive
Director Anant Goenka with
Nirmala Sitharaman



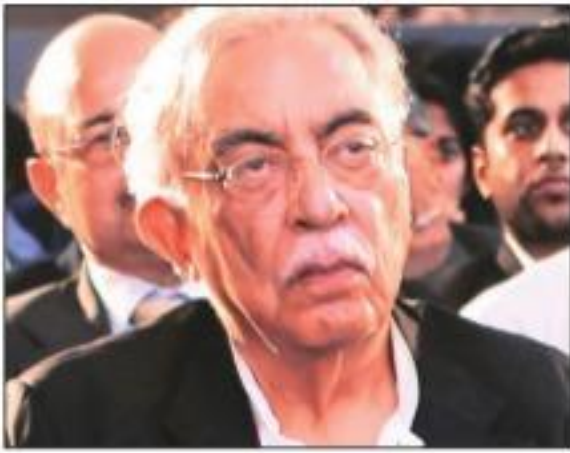
Neel Raheja, Group President of
K Raheja Corp (left) and Vice
Admiral (Retired) Girish Luthra



Rajesh Chaturvedi,
Chairman, Adfactors PR



Yatin Shah, Co-founder and
Executive Director, IIFL
Investment Managers



Gulu Mirchandani, Founder
Chairman, Onida Group



Amit Kumar, Group President-
Corporate Banking, Yes Bank (left)
with Shubhada Rao, Chief
Economist, Yes Bank

VOICE BANK



TAVLEEN SINGH, CONTRIBUTING EDITOR, *THE INDIAN EXPRESS*

You've said you're not a socialist but when you put your supercharge on the super rich, you said there were only 5,000 Indians who were going to be affected by it. Are you proud of that, or do you think that in a country of a billion people, we should have 50 million people in that group? What are you going to do to get them there?

I agree. First step down, corporate tax. That's an income tax on the corporates, right? I have reduced that. So yes, not 5,000, I wouldn't mind five millions reaching that level, and I would want it.



DR SWATI A PIRAMAL, VICE CHAIRPERSON, PIRAMAL GROUP

Real estate, for example, is a growth multiplier. It creates jobs. What can you do to a sector which is in stress?

We had taken sector by sector consultations to come up with some solutions. In real estate also, we had started working, but the window that we had created, about which I had announced, a final shape hadn't been given. I've had quite a lot of work (done) in the last 10 days on it. Soon, we'll be able to come up with some answers for the real estate, and for the home buyers in particular, because that's one group I have not given any response to from my side. But we've almost been there now for some time. We are coming to some stage where I can offer something for them.



RASHESH SHAH, CHAIRMAN AND CEO, EDELWEISS GROUP

You started your innings in this role sometime in June and around the end of August, we saw the first quarter GDP number at five per cent, which was shockingly low. At that point, when you saw the number, what were your personal feelings—'oh my god, what is happening', or it can't get worse than this so it is a great opportunity to start getting everybody aligned in trying to get the economy back on track?

Well, in hindsight, 'alright now what have I got to do', was the thought. Very un-glamorous but that's all that came to my mind. 'Oh, right now it's five so what do I do? One quarter but nevertheless, what do I need to do?'



KARAN BHAGAT, FOUNDER, MD AND CEO, IIFL INVESTMENT MANAGERS

As entrepreneurs, we typically like to discount all the projects we like to invest in. Cost of capital in India continues to be extremely high, we end up discounting it 15-18 per cent thanks to the high interest rates that we have. Any thoughts on how, as a country, we can get our interest rates 200, 300 basis points lower over the next decade?

Well, it's easy for me to say that the reduction, each time, of rate of interest should be passed on to the consumer. But the emphasis is now to deepen the debt market, bring in more opportunities for retail, removing government from doing the squeezing out, which is one of the reasons why capital becomes expensive. Also making sure that—this is a bit sensitive—I'm not conveying any thought, I'm pointing at a reason that why sometimes well-intended government measures such as supporting senior citizens, where you are pepping up the interest support by artificially adding to it, can't be market determined... We are working to make sure that we give that support for a certain class of savings. But is that going to be done like the way it is done as a result of which capital becomes more expensive or free play of forces for capital to be less expensive.



ANAND PIRAMAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PIRAMAL GROUP

Do you feel there are enough good banks in India and are you doing anything to expand the number to make banking licences easier and to give corporates and individuals an opportunity to have a greater stake and say in the management of banks if they wish to take them over?

We would love for the corporates to have a greater say. We also want to completely professionalise those which are now going on the way they've been going on. We also want more banks to come in from the private sector so that there is a lot more reaching out to people who want that facility. One thing we've made sure is that we don't get into their decision making but we need to have tenure security, we need to have professionals coming from outside the market, from the market from outside the government, getting into running the banks, public sector or otherwise. So, yes.

Classifieds

PERSONAL

It is for general information that I SUNIL KUMAR S/O Late Shri Basant Singh R/O H.No.B-43, Block-B, Uncheapur, Mandawali Fazalpur, Delhi-110092, inform that my minor son's name wrongly written as KANISHK in school record T.C.No.538. The actual name of my son is KANISHK KUMAR, which my be amended accordingly.

0040519908-1

I,Nitu Chhabra D/o Kewal Krishan Tuli W/o Ajay Kumar Chhabra R/O-4/787 Gali No.13, Bholanath Nagar, Shahdara. Delhi-110032, have changed my name to Anita Chhabra for all purposes.,Nitu Chhabra & Anita Chhabra is one & the same person. 0040519929-3

I,Indu Shekhar S/O Balmukund Mishra R/O-3/3, Palika Nikunj,Harish Chander Mathurlane, Janpath, Newdelhi-110001.Changed my Nameto Indu Shekhar Mishra. 0040519932-6

I,Yogender Kumar Verma S/O Ajit Kumar R/o H-295, Raj Nagar 2, Gali No. 6, Palam Colony, ND-45, have changed my name to Yogender Verma. 0040519905-1

I,Trilochan Singh Banga, S/o Makhan Mal, R/O 636/4, Old No-251, Jheel Kuranja, Krishna Nagar, Delhi-110051, have changed my name to Trilochan Singh. 0070683221-1

I,Tanuj S/O Anup Singh R/O-WZ-61 Main-Bazar Near-Badi Chopal Shadipur-Village Patel Nagar Delhi-110008. Have Changed My Name To Tanuj Phor. 0040519932-5

I,Sumit Bhati, S/O Rajendra, R/O Tilpata Karanwas, Gautam Buddha Nagar, UP-201306, have changed my name to Sumit. 0070683226-1

I,Sorabh Gupta S/o Mr Mahesh Gupta R/O 55, Goodwill Apartment, Sector-13, Rohini, Delhi, have changed my name to Sourabh Gupta for all purposes. 0040519770-1

I,Silky Dhuper W/o Rajeev Kumar R/o House No.256-257, Second-Floor Pocket-8 Sector-23 Rohini Delhi-85 have changed my name to Silky Wadhawan. 0040519955-3

I,Service No-14633288Y, Rank-Hav, Name-Manoj Kumar Singh S/o Naipal Singh R/o Village Jaingshpur, Post Varigawan, Thana-Pilua, Tehsil & Distt. Etah (UP) Pin Code-207120 state that actual name of my minor son is Lucky (DOB 09-03-2002) whereas in service record the same has been mentioned as Lucky which may be corrected as Lucky. 0040519900-1

I,Satishkumar Singh Pruthwiraj Singh S/o Pruthwiraj Singh R/O-Flat no-101, Tower-F, Godrej-frontier, Sector-80, Gurgaon, have changed my name to Satish Pruthwiraj Singh. 0040519932-9

I,Sarvesh Kumari, W/o Rakendra Singh, R/o Flat No-12, Vandana Apartment, Plot-42, I P Extension, Patparganj, Delhi-110092, have changed my name to Sarvesh Singh. 0070683223-1

I,Nisha Singh W/o Shikhar Deep R/O E-74, Sector-50, Noida(U.P.) have changed my daughter's name from Myra to Myra Singh for all future purposes. 0040519924-1

I,Sanjay Kumar Mendiratta S/O-Ishwer Das Mendiratta R/O-29A, First/Floor, GaliNo-3, Laxman-Park, Chander-Nagar, Krishna-Nagar Delhi-110051. Have Changed My Name To Sanjay Mendiratta. 0040519932-4

I,Sana Mushtaq W/O Mohd Danish R/O-E-142, Street No-9, Bhaira Gali, Jagjeet Nagar, New Usman Pur, Delhi-110053. Changed My Name To Sana. 0040519955-9

I,Sachin, S/O Subhash Rana, R/O Gali No-7, Village Mamura, Sector-66, Noida-201301, have changed my name to Sachin Rana. 0070683225-1

I,Saatvik S/o Naresh Kumar Basal R/O 108-109, G/F, Pocket-14, Sector-24, Rohini, Delhi-110085 have changed my name to Saatvik Bansal 0040519930-3

I,Ronald Tigga, S/O John Gerald Tigga R/O-B-70/A, First-Floor, Dayalbagh-Colony, Surajkund, Faridabad, Haryana-121009. Changed My Name To Ronald Francis Tigga. 0040519974-1

I,Rohini Chadha D/o Jangi Lal Chadha W/o Gaurav Kumar Kaura R/O H.No.72, Street-01, Gobind-Nagar, 33-Fee Road, Mundian Kalan, Ludhiana, Punjab-141015 have changed my name to Mansi Kaura. 0040519934-3

I,Reena W/O Deepak Kumar, H.No-A-2/245, Paschim Vihar, Delhi-110063. Have Changed My Minor Daughter Name From Aarchi To Aarchi Bansal. 0040519930-10

I,Kiran Kumari W/o Pramod Rai R/O Flat no. 151, Sfs Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi-110009. Have Changed My Name To Kiran Rai. 0040519932-7

I,Kishan Chauhan S/o Raj Kishor Chauhan R/O H.No.222, Band Gali, near Mohan Baba Mandali Mandawali, Fazalpur, Delhi-92, Confirm that my name has been wrongly written as Kishan Chauhan instead of Krishna Nandan Chauhan. Correct name of mine is Krishna Nandan Chauhan. 0040519153-4

I,Reena W/O Deepak Kumar, H.No-A-2/245, Paschim-Vihar, Delhi-110063. Have Changed My Minor son's Name From Aakash To Aakash Bansal. 0040519932-10

I,Ramesh Verma S/O Daulat Ram. R/O G-5/9, U.G.F, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi-110017, changed My Name To Ramesh Kumar Verma. 0040519955-7

I,Rakender Singh, S/o Jagjit Singh, R/o Flat No-12, Vandana Apartment, Plot-42, I P Extension, Patparganj, Delhi-110092, have changed my name to Rakendra Singh. 0070683224-1

I,Raj Pal S/o Gorkha R/O 106/11 Adarsh Nagar Sonipat have changed my name to Rajpal chauhan for all purposes. 0040519930-2

I,Raj Kumari Mathur W/o Late Shri Ramesh Kumar Mathur R/o B-11/8010, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070, have changed my name from Raj Mathur to Raj Kumari Mathur for all future purposes. 0040519924-2

I,Pooja Bansal W/o Amit Agarwal R/O D-16/239, Sector-3, Rohini, Delhi-110085 have changed my name to Pooja Aggarwal permanently. 0040519934-1

I,Pinki Kour W/O-Balvinder Singh R/O-50, Block-E, Ranjeet Vihar, Nilothi Extn, Nangloi Delhi 110041, Have Changed My Name To Pinky Kaur. 0040519974-2

I,Parul W/o Aman, R/O H.No.1093-50, St-Johns Church Compound Ward No.1, Mehrauli, Delhi-110030 have changed my name to Praveen for all future purposes. 0040519901-1

I,Nirmal W/o Surender Singh R/O C-47, East Sagar Pur, Delhi-110046 have changed my name to Narbada permanently. 0040519934-2

I,Neeraj Goswami S/o Harpal Goswami R/o Flat No.703A, Tower-1, Panchsheel Wellington, Crossing Republik, Ghaziabad, UP-201016 have changed my minor daughter's name from Sia Goswami to Yuvina Goswami whose age is 8 years. 0040519954-1

I,Narinder Pal S/o Surender Pal R/O-F-2/100, 3rd-Floor, Sector-11, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Narendar Bhatia. 0040519932-1

I,Naresh Kumar, S/o Prem Singh, R/O DC-994, Dabua Colony, Faridabad-121001, have changed my name to Naresh Chauhan. 0070683220-1

I,Narendar Mohan S/o Girdhari Lal Kapoor, R/O 64-B, Street No.12, Sarojini Park, Shastri Nagar, Delhi-110031, have changed my name to Narendar Mohan Kapoor for all purposes. 0040519902-1

I,Mona D/O Avtar Singh R/O 2039/26, Tughlakabad Extn, New Delhi-110019 Changed My Name To Mona Singh. 0040519955-6

I,Manoj Kumar S/o. Sh. Lal Mohan R/O-132 Block-O, Delta-3, Greater-Noida, U.P.-201306,have changed my name to Manoj Kumar Prasad for all purposes. 0040519930-8

I,Kailash Kumar Somani R/o C-140, 3rd Floor, Surajmal Vihar Delhi-110092 have changed my minor son's name from Aditya Somani to Aditya Somani 0040519947-1

I,JC+379395K, Rank-SUB(JENE) Dharm Nath Singh R/o-House No.-DT 2224 Post-Dhurwa Tehsil-Namkum Distt.- Ranchi (Jharkhand) Pin-834004. Have Changed My minor son's Name From Subham to Shubham for all future purposes 0040519929-2

I,Harsimrat Gujral S/o Charanjit Singh Gujral H.no. 2/2, Singh Sabha-Road, Shakti Nagar, Delhi-110007. Changed my name to Harsimrat Singh Gujral. 0040519932-8

I,Harpreet Singh S/o Shamsher Singh R/O-23/12-B3rd-Floor Tilak-Nagar Delhi-110018. Changed my name to Harpreet Singh Dullat. 0040519932-2

I,Hargun Singh S/o Harmeet Singh Luthra R/O-B-38A, B-Block, Sushant Lok-1, Chakarpur (74), Gurgaon-122002 have changed my name to Hargun Singh Luthra, for all purposes. 0040519989-1

I,Firoz Khan S/o Zakir Hussain R/O-2779A, E2-68, Molarband-Extension, Badarpur, New Delhi-110044, have changed my name to Firoz for all future purposes. 0040519930-5

I,Devanti Devi D/o Late Ramchandra Chaudhary R/O-A-162, Sector-20, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Noida-201301 have changed my name to Devanti Chaudhary. 0040519934-6

I,Ahmed Afzal S/o Mohd Imran R/O 148, Basti Hazrat Nizamuddin West New Delhi-13 have changed my name from Ahmed Afzal to Mohd Afzal for All future purposes. 0040519911-1

I,Paavleen Kaur Chandhok, W/o Tarandeep Singh Chandhok R/O-Plot No.34-35, Partap-Nagar Hari-Nagar Delhi, have changed my name to Paavleen Kaur. 0040519955-2

I,Kapil S/O Vijay Pal, H.No-14, Main Mathura Road, Badarpur, New Delhi-110044 Changed My Name To Kapil Dev. 0040519955-8

I,Bharat Ratan S/o Late. Shri.Puni Ram R/o-F-53, Aruna-Nagar Majnu-Ka-Tila, Delhi-110054,have my Name in some of my records-Wrongly Mentioned as Bharat instead of Bharat Ratan. I.inform that Bharat Ratan and Bharat both are name of the same person. 0040519955-5

I,Azad Singh S/O Sahi Ram H.No-213, Shahpur Jat Village, New Delhi-110049,.Have Changed My Name To Azad Singh Panwar. 0040519955-10

I,Anu Juneja W/o Shashikant Nagar R/O-Flat.No. 665, GH-13, Paschim-Vihar, N.Delhi-110087, have changed my name to Anuradha Juneja permanently. 0040519932-3

I,Anita D/o Shivaji Chaudhary R/O A-162, Sector-20, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Noida-201301 have changed my name to Anita Chaudhary. 0040519934-4

I,Amit S/o Shivaji Chaudhary R/O A-162, Sector-20, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Noida-201301 have changed my name to Amit Chaudhary. 0040519934-5

I,Abhimanu S/o Rampat R/o VPO Kamashpur Sonipat have changed my name to Abhimanu Kaushik for all purposes. 0040519930-1

I,Aaditya Sharma, S/o Kailash Sharma, R/o Flat No. 36, Pocket-1, Phase-2, Sector-13, Dwarka, New Delhi 110075, DOB: 09 Dec. 1993, have changed my name from Aaditya Sharma to Adhitya Sharma for all purposes. 0070683178-1

IShekhar Kashyap S/O Virendra Narayan R/O-H-2/25B, H-2-Block, Mahavir Enclave, New Delhi-110045 Have Changed my Name to Shekhar. 0040519930-7

ISatpal Singh Ghotra S/O Surjeet Singh Ad- Village New Niharsi, PO-Udaipur, Ambala-City, Haryana-134003. changed my name to Satpal Singh. 0040519955-1

ISatishkumar Singh Pruthwiraj Singh s/o Pruthwiraj Singh R/O-Flat No-101, Tower-F, Godrej-frontier, Sector-80, Gurgaon have changed my name to Satish pruthwiraj Singh. 0040519955-4

IRahul S/O Pawankumar, A-629, A-Block Jahangirpuri Delhi-33 Have Changed My Name To Rahul Kumar Dubey Permanently. 0040519930-6

IKM Neelam W/o Vinod Mangain R/o 65, Pocket-3C, Sector-16B Dwarka Delhi have changed my name to Ritu Mangain 0040519930-4

IAshish Kumar S/o Ramesh Chandra Sharma R/O-Flat-No-A1/606-Tower-2, Silver-City-2, Wipro Campus- Sec-Pi2, Greater Noida-201310,UP have changed my name to Ashish Kumar Sharma. 0040519930-9

LOST & FOUND

I,Kanika Malik, D/o Mahesh Malik, have lost my original Marksheet & certificate of Class X Senior Secondary Exam (2005, Roll no. 6171314) andClass XII Senior Secondary Exam (2007, Roll no. 6263480) issued by CBSE inDelhi. Finder contact: 144 Lajpat Nagar III, New Delhi-24. 0130013481-1

I,Pintu S/o Mukesh kumar R/o-C-187/4 chandan-vihar, Nangloi, Delhi-41, have lost the original-certificate class-10th(2016) Rollno-8710082 class-12th (2018) Roll no-9683893, CBSE-Delhi. 0040519947-3

0040519927-1

I,Shilpa Gupta (formerly known as Shilpa Sareen) D/o Shri Sudhir Sareen R/O 44/A Amrita Shergill Marg, New Delhi-110003 have lost my class X marksheet/ Grade sheet and other documents Roll No. 6124974 CBSE Board of 1991, LR No. 1873349/2019. 0040519927-1

I,Hitherto Known As Devika D/o Sohan Lal And W/o Barkat R/O H-409, Shakupur JI Colony, Delhi-110034, Do Hereby Solemnly Affirm And Declare The I Have Embraced Islam And Renounced Hinduims With Effect From 27/04/2015. 0040519974-9

I,hitherto Known as Pravendra Kumar Jatav S/O Govind Singh Nihal R/O H.No.268 near Aya Nagar bus stand Aya Nagar New Delhi-110047 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Pravendra Nihal. 0040519974-8

PUBLIC NOTICE

KNOW ALL MEN, THAT MY CLIENT MRs. ANURADHA, W/O. SH. ASHOK KUMAR TANWAR, R/O WZ-184, GALI No. 4, LAJWANTI GARDEN, NEW DELHI-110046, HAVE SEVERED ALL RELATIONS WITH HER YOUNGER SON NAMELY MR. SUSHANT KUMAR TANK AND HIS WIFE MRs. DIPIKA AND DISOWNED BOTH OF THEM FROM ALL OF THEIR MOVABLE/IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT. DUE TO THEIR MISCONDUCT AND MALFEASANT MY CLIENT SHALL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY KIND OF CLAIMS, ACTS AND DEEDS IN FUTURE DONE WITH/IN SUSHANT AND DIPIKA AS THEY ARE NOT IN CONTROL OF MY CLIENT.

MUKUL GIRDHARI & ASSOCIATES ADVOCATES AND LEGAL ADVISORS 110 SUNEJA TOWER-2, DISTRICT CENTRE, JANAK PURI, NEW DELHI-110058 Ph: 9811572430

सार्वजनिक सूचना

एकदमच सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि मेरे मुवक्तिकर कामेंदर केन पुरा की अतीत प्रस्ताव केन पुरा सोने केन पुरी सोने केन सोने निम्नकी म.न. 17/1/16, अतीत नगर की, केनग दिल्ली-110035, ने अपने पुरा सोने केन पुरा 20 वर्ष की उनके दुपुनगर, दुपुनगर केन असमाधिक गतिविधियों में करने के कारण अपनी सारसल नगर-अपने सोने केन केनदर का संयंत्र निम्नके कर लिए है। निम्नके में उनको निम्नके को एक निम्नके कर केन-केन के निम्न के मुवक्तिकर पुरा उनके निम्नके के अन्य सदस्यों की कोई निम्नके नहीं होगी।

दस्तावेज-संकेतिक केन अधिकार 02/26/1991

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby informed that my client has entered into a contract to purchase the below mentioned schedule of property from its owner Vt. M/s South Ex Finvest Pvt. Ltd. having its registered office at C-35 SOUTH EXTENSION PART 1, NEW DELHI 110049 through its authorized representative Mrs. Kusum Batra (Director) W/o Mr. Satish Batra. If anybody is having any objection, claim, interest, dispute for the above intended sale transaction, he/she/they may contact the undersigned with the documentary proof substantiating his/her/their objections/claims/details of disputes within seven (7) days from the date of this publication, failing which my client will proceed to complete the sale transaction with the above owner as if there are no third party claims/ objectives/ disputes will be entertained.

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY
Fully Constructed House on Residential Plot measuring 395.68 sq. Yards bearing No. 12, on Road No. H 5, situated in the residential colony known as "DLF City (earlier known as Qutub Enclave Complex) Phase I, Gurugram, situated at Village Sikanderpur Ghosi, Tehsil & District: Gurugram, Haryana.

Sd/- Rajbir Singh (Advocate) 809/5, Gali No.4, Patel Nagar, Gurgaon-122001, Ph:9816214284 Date: 13/11/2019

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients-Pradeep Kumar, S/o Late Girdhari Lal, and his wife Amita Sharma R/o F-21/668, Ganesh Nagar-II, Shakarpur, Delhi-110092 have severed their relations with their son Abhishek Sharma & his wife Chetna Sharma and debarred them from all movable-immovable properties due to their misconduct towards my clients. Anybody deals with them shall do at his own risk, cost & consequences.

AMIT SHARMA (ADVOCATE)
OFFICE: 301, CIVIL SIDE, TIS HAZARI COURT, DLEHI-110054

IShekhar Kashyap S/O Virendra Narayan R/O-H-2/25B, H-2-Block, Mahavir Enclave, New Delhi-110045 Have Changed my Name to Shekhar.

ISatpal Singh Ghotra S/O Surjeet Singh Ad- Village New Niharsi, PO-Udaipur, Ambala-City, Haryana-134003. changed my name to Satpal Singh.

IRahul S/O Pawankumar, A-629, A-Block Jahangirpuri Delhi-33 Have Changed My Name To Rahul Kumar Dubey Permanently.

IKM Neelam W/o Vinod Mangain R/o 65, Pocket-3C, Sector-16B Dwarka Delhi have changed my name to Ritu Mangain

IAshish Kumar S/o Ramesh Chandra Sharma R/O-Flat-No-A1/606-Tower-2, Silver-City-2, Wipro Campus- Sec-Pi2, Greater Noida-201310,UP have changed my name to Ashish Kumar Sharma.

LOST & FOUND

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I,Hitherto Known As Devika D/o Sohan Lal And W/o Barkat R/O H-409, Shakupur JI Colony, Delhi-110034, Do Hereby Solemnly Affirm And Declare The I Have Embraced Islam And Renounced Hinduims With Effect From 27/04/2015.

I,hitherto Known as Pravendra Kumar Jatav S/O Govind Singh Nihal R/O H.No.268 near Aya Nagar bus stand Aya Nagar New Delhi-110047 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Pravendra Nihal.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client JAGMOHAN SINGH S/O SH. SADHU SINGH R/O FLAT NO 245, GALI NO. 68, BHAGAT VIHAR, DELHI, have allottee of Flat No. 85, First Floor, Pkt-D, Under LIG Category, Situated at Lok Nayak Puram, Delhi. My client has lost his original allotment letter and challans in respect of above said flat and my client lodge the NCR/FIR in Crime Branch, Police station Delhi regarding the said documents.

Sd/- SIDHANTH ANTIL (ADVOCATE) CH. NO. 623, ROHINI COURT, DELHI

"IMPORTANT"

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छत्तीसगढ स्टेट सिविल सर्वाइज कार्पोरेशन लिमिटेड

ब्लॉक-7 "ए", द्वितीय तल, सेक्टर-24, ऑफिस काम्प्लेक्स, अटल नगर, रायपुर 0771-2973480 Email Id: nanheadoffice@gmail.com

क्रमांक/विज्ञापन/रिफाईड नमक/2019-20/57 रायपुर, दिनांक 13.11.2019

आइ.एस.आइ. माक रिफाईड आयोडनयुक्त अमृत नमक कथ हनु इनुनावाद सूचना

इस निगम के द्वारा वर्ष 2019-20 & 2020-21 के लिए आइ.एस.आइ. माक रिफाईड आयोडनयुक्त नमक कथ हेतु भारत सरकार/राज्य सरकार के उदम अथवा प्रतिष्ठित निमाताओं से दरे आमंत्रित की जाती है। दिनांक 15.12.2019 शाम 5.00 बजे तक ऑनलाईन निविदा प्रस्तुत किया जाना है।

जोन	संभाग	वर्ष भर मात्रा मै टन मै
जोन-ए	रायपुर, दुर्ग एवं बस्तर संभाग के जिले हेतु	54000.00
जोन-बी	बिलासपुर एवं सरगुजा संभाग के जिले हेतु	54000.00

निविदा की समस्त जानकारी निविदा प्रपत्र जिसमें की सभी शर्त एवं नियम उल्लेखित है <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> एवं राज्य सरकार के वेबसाईट <https://www.cgstate.gov.in> पर उपलब्ध है।

(प्रबंध संचालक महोदय द्वारा अनुमोदित) स्वा/- महाप्रबंधक

23509

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDANT : HQ 165 BN BSF, GREATER NOIDA (UP)

Prov/Auction Notice/165/19/13015-36

/// AUCTION NOTICE ///

A public auction of under mentioned unserviceable/condemned stores of this unit will be conducted at HQ 165 BN BSF Greater Noida on 29th Nov 2019 at 1200 Hrs in presence of board of officers :-


- i) U/S MT/Sig Stores
- ii) Ration PM/Packing Material of Mag Stores
- iii) Old Magazines and NEWS paper
- iv) U/S Misc/Defence/Welfare Store
- v) Tentage/Sports/Trg/SS Expts Stores.
- All interested Bidders may attend the auction on the date and time mentioned above.
- Before commencing the auction each Bidder will have to deposit an earnest money of Rs. 5,000/- (Rupees Five thousand) only in cash, which will be adjusted/ refunded immediately after the auction is over. They will also bring their residential proof for proper address.
- The highest bidder will have to deposit the cost of the stores plus GST (as per rule) on spot and will lift the stores on own arrangement after the auction.
- In case, the final bidder fails to deposit the cost of the stores on the spot, his earnest money will be forfeited i.e will not be refunded.
- In case any doubt or clarification required by any bidder, decision of the Presiding Officers of board of officers will be final.
- The auction will be held as per departmental rules and regulations. The board of officers who will conduct the auction will have full right to reject or accept the auction of any stores without assigning any reason.
- Auction will be conducted individually for each store and not as a lot.
- In case the successful bidder fails to lift the store, from the site of auction within the stipulated time the, purchaser is liable for being charged ground rent at the prevalent rates up to a maximum period of 10 days. Thereafter, the amount deposited by him shall be forfeit-ed and store will again be put up for auction.

Sd/- (S.P Singh) DC/QM For Commandant 165 Bn BSF

davp 19110/11/0075/1920

इलाहाबाद बैंक

विश्वास की परंपरा



ALLAHABAD BANK

A tradition of trust

Head Office: 2, Netaji Subhash Road, Kolkata-700001

Branch Office: Khagaul

POSSESSION NOTICE FOR (IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)

Whereas:

The undersigned being the authorised officer of the **Allahabad Bank** 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 Rules 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a Demand No. u/s 13(2) on the date noted against the Account as mentioned hereinafter, calling upon the borrower to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

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

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property or any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Allahabad Bank for an amount and interest thereon.

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

Sl. No.	Name of the Account & Branch	Name of the Borrower/ Guarantor (Owner of the property)	Description of the charged/mortgaged property (all the part & parcel of the property consisting of)	Date of Demand Notice	Amount outstanding as on the date of demand notice
				Date of Possession Notice	
1.	M/s Nand Kishore Kirana Store, Prop.: Sri Nand Kishor Ray Branch: Khagaul	Smt. Shanti Devi W/o Sri Sudama Rai	All that part and parcel of the land and building situated at Mauza-Mainpura Shankar, PS-Shahpur, Sadar Registry Office-Patna, Sub Registry Office-Danapur, Bihar, Khasra Survey No.-559, Khata No.03, Touzi No.5124, Thana No-24, Area-01 Katha purchased vide Sale Deed No.932 dated 28.01.1989, Book No.-01, Page No.-36 to 41, Pargana-Phulwarisharif, Name of the owner of the property-Smt. Shanti Devi W/o Sri Sudama Rai. Bounded as per deed: North-Shanti Devi, South-Plot No.-559, East-Ingla Sinha, West-Khatrango Devi, Boundary As present: North-8 ft Road, South-House of Dayanand, East-Anil Chaurasiya, West-Rasta Ke Bad Mahendra Roy.	28.02.2019 08.11.2019	₹ 16,66,668 (Rs. Sixteen lac sixty thousand six hundred eighty eight only)
2.	M/s Nishant Ranjan, Prop.: Sri Nishant Ranjan Branch: Khagaul	Smt. Gayatri Devi and Sri Lal Bahadur Singh Yadav	All that part and parcel of Flat No.-402 on the 4th floor of Taluka Residency having super built up area 1415 sqft on the cadastral survey part plot no.139 and 140(P), Khata No.16, Taazi No.-5170, Thana No.-22, Jone-02 situated at Mauza-Jalalpur Ranjan Path on the branch road and west of canal, Pargana-Phulwarisharif revenue present PS and Sub Registry Office-Danapur, District and Sadar Registry Office-Patna vide registered Sale Deed No.-2820 dated 25.03.2010 in the name of Smt. Gayatri Devi and Sri Lal Bahadur Singh Yadav, Boundary of the said Apartment:-North-Plot No.91 & Ahar, South-Plot No.-140, East-Road & Ahar, West-Plot No.-138. Boundary of Flat No.-402 4th Floor:-North Flat No.-401 & Passage to Lift, South-Open Set Back, East-Open Set Back, West-Flat No.-403 & Lift & Open Vent.	07.06.2019 08.11.2019	₹ 27,57,580 (Rs. Twenty seven lac fifty seven thousand five hundred eighty six only)

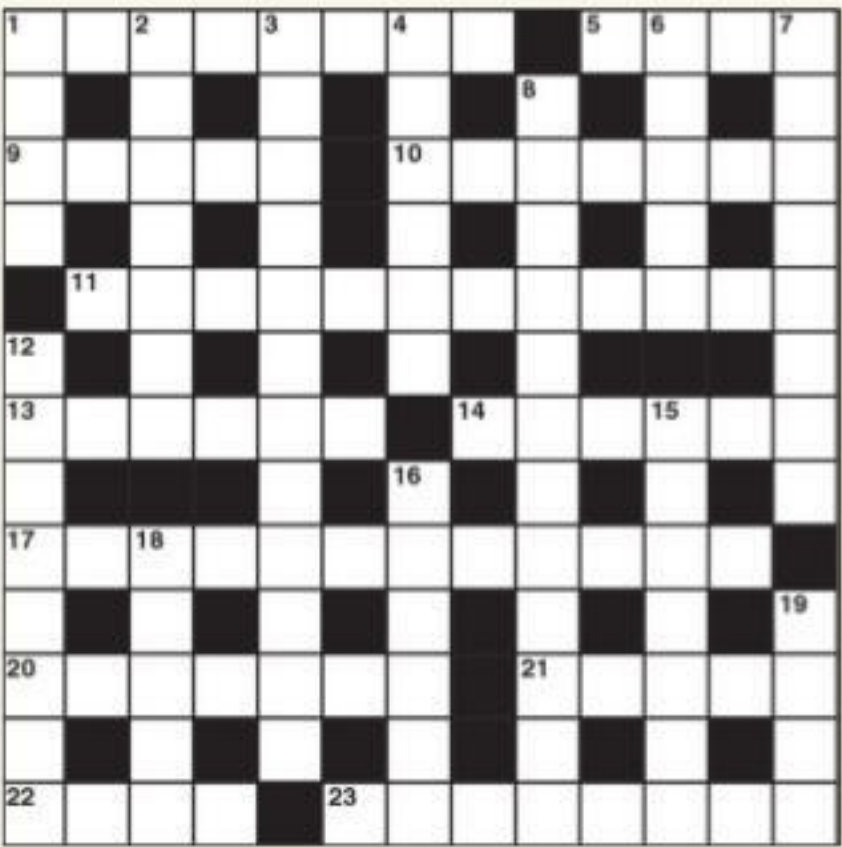
Date : 08.11.2019

Place : Patna

Authorised Officer

(Allahabad Bank)

CROSSWORD 3962



- ACROSS
- DOWN
- 1

Determined to show our steel (8)
- 5

Third man sounds competent enough (4)
- 9

Sound as a bell (5)
- 10

Used to have animals outside - dogs? (7)
- 11

Helpful to the orchestra, for example? (12)
- 13

Continue to stand (6)
- 14

Holy water in which an egg's cooked (6)
- 17

Pushing slowly forward, a kind of grunting slog (10,2)
- 20

Some point in a piece of harness for one type of horse (7)
- 21

I'm getting a numberless blue dye (5)
- 22

Simple? Yes, with a new form (4)
- 23

Vertigo comes as a great shock (8)
- 1

Competition for a group of people (4)
- 2

Marked dates in wrongly (7)
- 3

Its members showed bravery when put in charge (5,7)
- 4

An even chance the matador will try to avoid (4-2)
- 6

Increase in shouts of disapproval at the end of the act (5)
- 7

Uninterested, having no inclination either way (8)
- 8

An early form of home decorating? (4,8)
- 12

Reasonably practical? (8)
- 15

One is going to say it (7)
- 16

Victoria's husband on watch (6)
- 18

They fly or take a train (5)
- 19

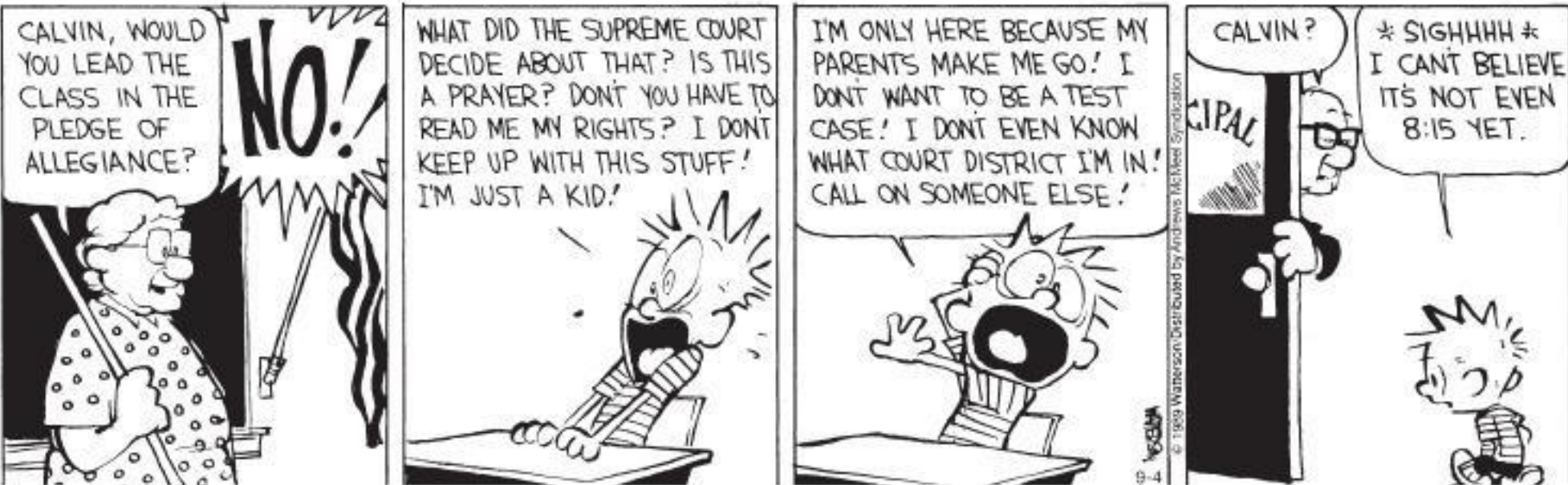
Their quarters are combed for food (4)

Solutions Crossword 3961: Across: 1 Tactician, 8 Again, 9 Macabre, 10 Eskimo, 11 Reveal, 12 Expanded, 15 Emphasis, 18 Saunas, 20 Senses, 21 Portion, 22 Onset, 23 Soft pedal. Down: 2 Adage, 3 Teaser, 4 Careless, 5 Nausea, 6 Matilda, 7 Union dues, 11 Recession, 13 Passport, 14 Spanish, 16 Agents, 17 Rustle, 19 Aroma.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLED WORDS

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

Whenever _____, pick something up. — Oswald Avery (3,4)

COMAE

CDDRUY

FIRLL

ILNUXF

SOLUTION: CAMERO, FRILL, CRUDPY, INFLUX
Answer: Whenever you no fall, pick something up. — Oswald Avery

SUDOKU 4029

Difficulty Level 4s
Instructions
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

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



SOLUTION SUDOKU 4028



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
Financial plans will begin to move after a period of delay, intentional or otherwise. I'd like to point out, though, that your judgment is still liable to be too excitable. This is fine for impulse buys and rash acts of generosity, but not for sound long-term investments.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)
If it's social gatherings you're interested in, there's one very particular planetary aspect which suggests fascinating meetings and intriguing encounters. Your financial stars are also very special so, if you are willing to make the right moves, you could land a healthy profit.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
The Moon is tending to make you a little self-righteous but, before you imagine that you are better than other people, please see to it that you have something to be genuinely proud of. Otherwise, try to be a little more humble: it will suit you.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
Ask yourself why it is that you should be attracted to people who have prestige and status? What is it they have that you lack, and how can you best supply these qualities for yourself? None of these questions has to be discussed with other people. And neither do your plans, for that matter.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)
What matters most now is that you are getting much closer to resolving partnership or matrimonial problems. You see, partners hold the key to domestic harmony and you will get precisely nowhere unless you acknowledge this simple, basic truth.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)
Unless a wrangle or conflict with a partner is resolved quickly, you may be forced to cancel long-standing arrangements. On the other hand, welcome news is about to arrive from afar. If you get fed up with waiting, then get out there and ask other people exactly what they're up to.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)
Just one ray of hope shines over your financial situation: within the next seven days an offer or invitation which you had given up for good should be revived, much to your sheer delight. Perhaps all those years of effort will be shown to have been worth it.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)
You need to be less concerned about what other people think of you. Don't be too alarmed if you feel rather more withdrawn and inward-looking than usual. It will do you good to consider other people's actions and behaviour from your own unique standpoint.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)
Somehow you have managed to both avoid defeat and to forge ahead with intensely personal ambitions, even if only in a small way. Now is the time to put proposals to partners, confident that they are ready to listen. You might have to force them to sit down and pay attention, though.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)
Scintillating social aspects should break through the storm clouds and enable you to enjoy a number of useful get-togethers. Emotional attachments and travel plans will be highlighted, perhaps because there's a gulf to be bridged — or a rift to be healed.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)
The best planetary aspects now relate to plans already in the pipeline. You're still in command at home and nothing you let family members say or do should impede your wishes. Remember, though, that with responsibility comes a need for maturity and fairness to all.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
You can't let everyone take all the important decisions for ever. Get out of your normal passive rut and make an effort to take the lead. However, bear in mind that it's possible that you could be expecting too much, or basing your conclusions on gossip or conjecture.

HARYANA IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
CORRIGENDUM NOTICE
The E-Tender invited vide this office NIT No. 1631-52/2A Dated-05.11.2019 to be opened on 14.11.2019 is hereby postponed on administrative ground and now to be uploaded upto 14.00 hrs on 18.11.2019 and opened on 19.11.2019 at 15.00 hrs. All other term & conditions are unchanged.
Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Water Services Division
Bahadurgarh.
79161/HRY

SEARCH FOR MISSING



ASIF
General Public is hereby informed that one boy **Namely:** Asif, **S/o:** Tabrej Alam, **R/o:** H.No. BB-453, Ashoka Basti, Nabi Karim, Delhi, **Age:** 13 Years, **Height:** 3'6", **Face:** Round, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Built:** Thin and mentally weak, **Hair:** Black, **Wearing:** White baniyan, blue half jeans pant and red colour sleeper in feet has been missing since 28.10.2019 from the area of PS Nabi Karim, Delhi. In this regard **FIR No. 377/2019 u/s 363 IPC dated 05.11.2019** has been Registered at **PS, Nabi Karim, Delhi**. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing boy but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing boy, please inform the undersigned.
Web-site: <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-Mail ID: cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639
DP/6721/CD/19

SHO
PS, Nabi Karim, Delhi
Ph.: 011-23521081, 23621045, 8750870428

SOUTH DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (DEMS) NAJAFGARH ZONE
2nd Floor, RR Depot, Near Metro Station Dwarka Sector-9, Delhi-110075
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
No. D/EE(DEMS)NGZ/2019-2020/327 Dated : 13.11.2019
Please find enclosed herewith a Notice Inviting Tenders (NIT No. EE/EMS/NGZ/2019-2020/10/326 dated 13.11.2019, due on 22.11.2019) for "Hiring of 60 nos. LMV small, Tata Magic or equivalent with auto-tipping facility with driver and one labour for lifting/collecting of MSW/Garbage/Malba/Drain Silt etc. with minimum travelling distance 40 km per day for 8 hour working in wards 30S to 54S for 90 days NGZ." Estimated Cost : Rs. 164.629 Lacs, Earnest Money : Rs. 3,29,300/-
R.O. No. 100/DPI/South/2019-20 Ex. Engineer (DEMS)/NGZ, SDMC

JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED
3rd FLOOR, RRDA BUILDING, PRAGATI SADAN, KUTCHERY RANCHI 834 001, JHARKHAND.
Ph: +91 651 2243203, Cell no.: +91-9431103781
e-mail: juidcolimited@gmail.com CIN: U45200JH2013SGC001752
CORRIGENDUM I
PROJECT NO.:- P52028-004-IND
LETTER NO. JUIDCO/ADB/PMU/Consulting Services/1932/2018-4681
Ref PR No. :- 219420
All the bidders are hereby informed that EOI "Regarding selection of consulting services for PMU -Consultants to support JURLIP funder by Asian Development Bank" has been published on the ADB CMS Portal.
Interested and eligible consulting firms are invited to submit their EOIs on-line at <http://cms.adb.org> by deadline of 19.11.2019 up to 5.00 P.M
It is requested to please refer the same before submission of bids. Submission of EOIs other than ADB CMS Portal, will be considered as non-responsive and will not be evaluated.
e-procurement website:- <https://adblogin.adb.org>
PR 221846 (Urban Development and Housing)/19-20# Project Director (Tech.) JUIDCO Ltd., Ranchi

Gujarat Police
From the office of DG & IG of Police
Head of Police Force, Police Bhavan,
Sector 18, Gandhinagar: 382 007
Tel: 079-23254339
ADVERTISEMENT FOR PURCHASE OF DOGS
Quotations are invited from interested parties for the purchase of total number of 32 dogs, out of which 04 nos. of Belgian Shepherd Malinois pups and remaining number of 28 of different breed of Labrador (Black), German Shepherd, Doberman & Begale, Persons/Parties interested in selling such puppies and holding valid INKC/KCI Certificates should submit their quotations in a **sealed cover on or before 18:00 hours of date, 22/11/2019 in the M-Branch of the Office of the DG & IG of Police, 1st Floor, Police Bhavan, Sector-18, Gandhinagar-382 018.**
2. The following are the conditions :
(i) The puppies should be aged between 2½ to 5 months. The received quotations would be opened on date 26/11/2019 at 12:00 hours at the above mentioned address. The selected Party shall have to be present with the puppies at his own cost, before the purchase committee on the date place specified by the Chairman of the purchase committee.
(ii) Selected party for buying puppies should submit and transfer the registration certificate of 3 generations of the purchased puppy in the name of the D.G. & I.G. of Police, Gujarat State, Gandhinagar within 15-days of sale.
(iii) More details are available with Office of The Police Inspector, Dog Training Centre, Saijpur Bogha, SRPF Group-II Campus, Ahmedabad-382346. (Phone: 079-22810019).
Ph: 079-23254339, Email: dgp-m-br@gujarat.gov.in
No: M/DOG SQUAD/ADVT/1094/2019
Date: 13/11/2019.
INF/1498/19-20
Sd/-
(NARASIMHA KOMAR)
I.G. of Police (P & M.)
Gujarat State, Gandhinagar.

"IMPORTANT"
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Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited (OSMCL)
In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit - III,
Bhubaneswar - 751 001
Tel. : (0674) 2380660/2380608 Website: www.osmcl.nic.in Email: logistics.osmcl.od@nic.in
Assuring Quality, Saving Lives
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER FOR SUPPLY OF SURGICAL, SUTURES, SYRINGES AND OTHER ITEMS FOR THE YEAR 2019-20
Bid Ref. No. : OSMCL/2019-20/ (SUT.-SURG. & OTHER)-DHS/06 Date: 13/11/2019
Online Bids through e-Tender portal (<https://tendersodisha.gov.in>) are invited from eligible bidders for supply of Surgical, Sutures, Syringes and Other items as per the particulars mentioned below:

Sl.No.	Particulars	Date and time
1.	Date & time of release of bid	15.11.2019, 3 PM
2.	Date & time of Pre-bid meeting	22.11.2019, 11 AM Venue: Conference Hall, Odisha State Medical Corporation Ltd., In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit - III, Bhubaneswar
3.	Date & time of Online bid submission	Start Date & Time 28.11.2019, 3 PM End Date & Time 12.12.2019, 6 PM
4.	Date & Time for submission of Tender Document cost and EMD Amount as per Section IV	13.12.2019 20.12.2019, till 11 AM
5.	Date & time of sample submission as per section-IV of tender documents.	20.12.2019, 5 PM
6.	Date & time of online Technical bid opening	20.12.2019, 11.30 AM
7.	Date of opening of Price Bid	To be informed to the qualified bidders

The bid document with all information relating to the bidding process including cost of bid document, EMDs, Prequalification criteria and terms & conditions are available in the websites: www.osmcl.nic.in and <https://tendersodisha.gov.in> The Authority reserves the right to accept / reject any part thereof or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof.
Sd/-
Managing Director
OSMCL
10112/11/0014/1920

Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited (OSMCL)
In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit - III,
Bhubaneswar - 751 001
Tel. : (0674) 2380660, 2380608 Website: www.osmcl.nic.in,
Email: logistics.osmcl.od@nic.in
Assuring Quality Saving Lives
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER FOR SUPPLY OF ANTI-CANCER DRUGS AND MEDICAL CONSUMABLES (GROUP-III) FOR THE YEAR 2019-20
Bid Ref. No. : OSMCL/2019-20/DRUGS-DHS-ACD-GR-III/05 Date: 13/11/2019
Online Bids through e-Tender portal (<https://tendersodisha.gov.in>) are invited from eligible bidders for **Supply of Anti-Cancer Drugs and Medical Consumables (Group-III)** as per the particulars mentioned below:

Sl. No.	Particulars	Date and time
1.	Date & time of release of bid	15.11.2019, 3 PM
2.	Date & time of Pre-bid meeting	22/11/2019, 11:00 AM Venue: Tender Evaluation Room, Odisha State Medical Corporation Ltd, In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit - III, Bhubaneswar
3.	Date & time of Online bid submission	Start Date & Time 28.11.2019, 3 PM End Date & Time 12.12.2019 6.00 PM
4.	Date & time for submission of Tender Documents, Tender Document Fee and EMD amount as per section-IV of tender document	Start Date & Time 13.12.2019, 10 AM End Date & Time 20.12.2019 11.00 AM
5.	Date & time of online Technical bid opening	20.12.2019 11.00 AM
6.	Date of opening of Price Bid	To be informed to the qualified bidders.

The bid document with all information relating to the bidding process including cost of bid document, EMDs, Prequalification criteria and terms & conditions are available in the websites: www.osmcl.nic.in and <https://tendersodisha.gov.in> The Authority reserves the right to accept / reject any part thereof or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof.
Sd/-
Managing Director
OSMCL
10112/11/0015/1920

Ace of pace

India’s fast bowling unit is so strong that it allows the team to use a horses for courses policy, like in the case of Ishant Sharma

SANDEEP DWIVEDI
INDORE, NOVEMBER 13

ISHANT SHARMA and Mohammed Shami skipped the Indian team’s pre-Test training session. They stayed back at the team hotel. Umesh Yadav did turn up but hardly bowled. He seemed to be missing his pace partners. With the Holkar Stadium pitch expected to have ‘carry’ and ‘pace’, Ishant, Shami and Yadav were likely to be in the playing XI. Zaheer Khan, a mentor to all of the above, in his pomp, also believed that the trip to the stadium a day before the Test was a waste of time.

This was cricket’s version of intermittent fasting, the latest dieting fad that advocates long gaps between meals. The 48-hour long bowling-abstinence was expected to keep the bowlers fresh and hungry for the Test. It also gave a peek into the collective mindset of this pace department.

These days Indian speedsters are way too prepared. They have put in the hard yards, they don’t leave anything for late, they no longer believe in last minute revisions.

They also walk with a swagger. The only other time the Indian pace department had anything vaguely resembling this aura was during the 2003 World Cup when Javagal Srinath, Ashish Nehra and Zaheer repeatedly clocked in the 140s kph range and bowled out oppositions.

That was the era when pacers, for the first time, started sporting sleeveless vests. The world needed to know the kind of time they spent with weights at the gymnasium.

These days they go shirt-less. Pace poster boy Jasprit Bumrah — who is recovering after an injury these days — frequently puts out updates of his six-packs on Instagram. Last year he was the highest wicket-taker across all formats. 2018 also saw the trio of Bumrah, Shami and Ishant become the most successful pace attack in a calendar year in Test cricket history. The world was talking about the India’s fast bowlers.

This no longer was a land of only wily spinners and crumbling tracks. Visiting teams no longer prepared for the India tour on under-prepared tracks, they revved up bowling machines to 150 kph. The Indian pace bowling pool was deadly and deep.



But despite the stiff competition to secure the few spots in the playing XI, there was harmony on India’s Planet Pace. They were a close-knit unit. This is a legacy that several Indian pace departments have meticulously preserved over the years. Unlike in Pakistan, India’s speedsters famously got along. While India’s star-studded batting line-up was nursing wounds of bitter ego battles; laughs and banter have continued to emerge from the pace huddle.

Some time back, Ishant had spoken about a connect shared with his new-ball partners. “*Bas ek doosre ka mazaak bahut udaate hain. Ab woh nahi poochna kaise udaate hain,*” he said. But he did go on to talk about how Bumrah pulls his leg when he seems to be tiring during a spell by saying, “*Bas bhai thak gaaye aap*”.

And in reply Ishant taunts the young pacer about how at Bumrah’s age he could bowl fast for longer spells than him. Mimicking Shami’s laidback way of talking, and his general relaxed approach to life too is a frequent topic of discussion after plans to counter the opposition batting line-up are put in place. The bowling group meeting is a mix of brainstorming sessions and intense ribbing.

At 31, the senior-most in the entire team,



FACING RED, THINKING PINK: India captain Virat Kohli checks the pink ball during a training session at the Holkar Stadium in Indore. *AP*

Ishant has been the connecting link between Kohli’s New India team and Galacticos of the last decade. When he was the baby of the team, he had Zaheer and Munaf Patel as his mentors. He was never bullied or ragged. Ishant has spoken about how he would constantly pester Zaheer with questions, to the point that the senior would ask him to lay off. “Zak used to get frustrated and say, ‘*bhai zara mera peechha chhod,*’ he had said. But it would be followed by a very patronising — “*Thoda relax kar, enjoy kar*”.

“The things I learnt while playing with Zak I would have never have learnt anywhere. Just watching him was enough,” says Sharma, his words dripping of genuine affection and gratitude.

Ishant still recalls the fun time he had with Munaf, who he calls as a life-long friend, full time comic and a great human being. “Me and Munnabhai really bonded. I am still in touch with Munnabhai. He is such a funny man. During an Irani Trophy at Rajkot, I was his room partner. It was a vegetarian hotel but Munnabhai loves his non-veg. They just had eggs. Me and Munnabhai had a 25-egg bhurji and ate 20 tandoori rotis between us,” he says.

Following the same tradition, the pace department still breaks bread together.



Except Umesh Yadav, rest of the Indian pacers chose to take the day off. *PTI*

Though, 25 eggs and 20 loafs of carbohydrate wouldn’t quite make it to the tables of this group of vegans and calorie watchers. Virat Kohli today had high praise for

Ishant. He says the team’s senior pacer, given the quality and diversity that the Indian pace attack boasts, understands that there will be games where he would have to sit out. Like it happened in the second Test at Ranchi against South Africa.

Kohli said the bowler he has known since the time they were teenagers on the Delhi junior circuit is at peace with his place in the side. “We’ve played cricket together since Under-17, so he knows when I go and say something to him it’s purely based on what the team requires. There’s a lot of trust between us,” he says.

So before the Ranchi Test, where Ishant made way for Umesh, it was an easy conversation between the men who once knew each another as ‘Lambu’ and ‘Cheeku’, two of Delhi’s brightest young stars.

“He took it really well. At Pune (the venue for the first Test) there was more help for him (Ishant) and the communication was simple — that Ranchi was going to be dry and Umesh and Shami probably become more lethal options when it reverses a bit, which he also understands. Ishant’s strengths are different — when the ball’s seaming and swinging, he’s right among the top two contenders. I think that trust, that camaraderie, that belief is pushing this team forward,” Kohli said at

the press conference today.

Now, with the conditions suiting Ishant’s kind of bowling, he seems all set to play again. On match eve, the mild breeze, a hint of winter, cloudy sky and a grassy pitch were signs that hinted that this was an Ishant kind of venue.

Besides, Bangladesh is expected to have three left-handed batsmen — captain Mominul Haque, Shadman Islam and Imrul Kayes — in the playing XI.

Ishant has a knack of troubling lefties. In the past, he had spoken about that one ‘round the wicket’ ball that has given him success against left-handers.

“I take the ball away from the left-hander. So when I am bowling close to the wicket and round the wicket, the batsman thinks that the ball is close to me. And if the ball is swinging a bit and moves off the wicket at the last moment the batsman feels ‘oh shit, I am in trouble’,” he had said.

At Holkar Stadium, the ball will swing and is expected to move off the wicket. Ishant and India’s bunch of merry pacers are eager and hungry.

More laughs and banter is expected to emerge from the huddle of men in sleeveless vests who walk around with a swagger and miss pre-Test net sessions.

BCCI poised to oppose Manohar’s ICC re-election

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY
KOLKATA, NOVEMBER 13

A STAND-OFF between two veteran cricket administrators is on the cards as the BCCI has decided to oppose Shashank Manohar’s re-election as ICC chairman for a third term. Former BCCI president N Srinivasan could be BCCI’s representative at the ICC if the proposed amendments in the board’s constitution are approved at the December 1 AGM. The BCCI has decided to oppose ICC’s new governance structure, business model and Future Tours Programme (FTP).

“He (Manohar) has done so much damage to Indian cricket that nobody from India will support him. He has climbed in the ICC by giving away BCCI’s position and money. He can claim what he wants, but the damage he has done to the BCCI can never be forgotten,” former ICC chairman and BCCI president N Srinivasan told *The Indian Express*.

The proposed amendments in the existing BCCI constitution include a provision to allow a person aged 70 years or above to represent the Indian board at the ICC. “In order to protect BCCI’s interests, which are being steadily eroded at ICC, people with experience of negotiation and personal interaction with other member nations should be made the representatives,” the explanation attached with the AGM notice has mentioned.

After three years of seemingly low-key representation, BCCI appears to be gearing up to take the fight to the ICC. As for Manohar, he is currently into his second term in office and subject to election at the Full Council in June next year, he is eligible for one more term of two years. Even though election happens at the Full Council, ICC Board meeting in April next year will all but decide Manohar’s future.

As per the ICC constitution, a chairperson can have three terms of two years each; up to six years maximum (either consecutively or otherwise). There’s a provision for election every two years at the conclusion of each term. Manohar became the ICC’s first independent chairman in 2016. Two years later, he was elected unopposed for a second term. During the course, the former BCCI president has fallen out with the Indian board.

Under Srinivasan, the ICC adopted the ‘Big Three’ model that had \$570 million as the BCCI’s projected revenue share for the 2015-2023 rights cycle. It was based on the fact that India contributes to over 70 per cent of ICC’s revenues. After Manohar took charge, the global body moved towards dismantling of the ‘Big Three’ model and eventually in 2017, a new governance structure and financial model had been adopted that cut down the BCCI’s revenue share to a little over \$400 million. BCCI is not getting its money — participation fee — from the ICC of late. According to a board insider, an amount in excess of \$27 million is overdue.

The ICC at its board meeting in Dubai last month had proposed eight flagship events in eight years — from 2023 onwards — as part of their next broadcast rights package. This was done ostensibly to highjack BCCI’s revenue share from potential broadcasters for the 2023-2028 cycle. The ICC has also kept BCCI out of its newly-formed working group that will look into the future governance structure of the world body. “To me, his interests seem to be aligned to continue in his position,” former BCCI treasurer Anirudh Chaudhry told this paper.

If Manohar decides to contest for a third term, he might have the numbers, given his popularity among smaller member boards. Manohar has always maintained that as an independent chairman of the ICC, his job is to look after the interests of all members not only the BCCI.

FLYING HIGH

Spiker, soldier and bowler: Ebadot hopes to rev it up against India



Ebadot Hossain’s prowess as a volleyball player helped him secure a job with the Bangladesh Air Force in 2012. *AP*

SRIRAM VEERA
INDORE, NOVEMBER 13

EBADOT HOSSAIN, the fastest bowler in the Bangladesh squad who might play the first Test in Indore, had to wait for a letter from the Bangladesh board saying he has been selected for the India tour. He then took it to human resources department of the Bangladesh Air Force and asked for leave which was granted. It’s a decision the Air Force takes series by series; just because he is the next big hope in Bangladesh doesn’t mean he gets a free pass.

Not that Hossain is complaining. For the middle-class boy, the job was a life-changer. “I am a soldier in the Air Force. It’s a permanent job and means a lot to me and my family,” he tells *The Indian Express* after a long bowling session at the nets.

However, it was his prowess as a volleyball player that got him the job in 2012 through the sports quota. The Bangladesh volleyball team largely comprises members of the different services and they play all year long. Hossain hasn’t yet played for the Bangladesh volleyball team but turns out for the main Air Force team.

Hossain had played tennis-ball cricket as a teenager and was a sought-after player in the villages and district-level amateur cricket

in the Moulavi Bazaar district in northeastern Bangladesh, that borders Assam and Tripura. “I played for teams here and there, whoever would pay me money to come play for them.” As years went by, though his love for cricket remained, Hossain chose volleyball for job security.

“In Bangladesh, the services don’t have quotas for cricketers or footballers. It’s in other sports that we get jobs. Like volleyball. I play four hours of volleyball in the Air Force, two in the morning and two in the evening. I have been told that I would be given an administrative role once my playing days are over.”

It was a pace hunt in 2016 that changed Hossain’s life again. He was one of nearly 40,000 young pacers who tried their hand in the Robi Pace hunt, supported by the Bangladesh Cricket Board. Hossain speared a ball at 139.9 kmph, the fastest in the hunt, and came into limelight. “It was then I thought I can probably do something with cricket but nothing was sure still.”

Then came Aquib Javed, the former Pakistan bowler, for a week-long camp in Dhaka. “I was sent for it after the pace hunt and I think he liked me. For the first three days, he taught us how to bowl with the new ball and then the last four days it was about reverse swing. Just a short camp but it was important as I began to believe I can

play at a higher level.” Javed was effusive in praise. “He has pace, good body and action. Ebadot is bowling 138-140 kph with his physique. If he can build a decent body, he can be a future Bangladesh fast bowler. But coaches tell me that he will go back to the Air Force and stop practising.”

Those words spurred on Hossain, who went to his bosses in the Air Force with a request to let him continue playing cricket. “Initially, there were some who objected but some officers came to my help after they saw Aquib sir’s words and support from the Bangladesh board. They began to support my cricket, started to grant leave for camps — then for club cricket and professional cricket in BPL etc.”

So after just two years of earnest cricket training, Hossain found himself in the national team and made his debut on the tour of New Zealand earlier this year.

Brett Lee fan boy

Growing up, Brett Lee was his hero and there is something of the Aussie speedster in his action. “I remember I saw him as a child and fell in love with his action and the way he bowled. I don’t try to copy him consciously but it has become natural. The body mechanism in my action is like him. I have gone twice to Australia but have never met him,

something I would love to do one day.”

Hossain’s bowling speed averages around 138-140 though “I bowled a 147 kph delivery once in BPL,” he beams.

Just not Hossain, it’s a pretty inexperienced Bangladesh team in the absence of Shakib Al Hasan and Tamim Iqbal. The buzz in Indore, from a large Bangladeshi media contingent, is that they will be brushed aside by India without much fuss. Time will tell, but there isn’t much expectation. Even new captain Mominul Haque said as much two days before the game.

“We are not under any pressure; we all know there isn’t much expectation from this series. We will try to play good cricket.” It would be interesting to see if Bangladesh choose to give the likes of Hossain a chance against the Indians. “It would be a great challenge for me if I am given a chance to bowl against Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma. It would be a great experience for me,” he said.

Despite the need for permission and leave to play for his country, Hossain is in love with the Air Force. “It’s a great way of life and I’m really grateful for all the support. They have told me that if I continue to do well in cricket, they would make me the brand ambassador for the Air Force in my country. That would be so special.”



Why Hockey 5s could be the future of the sport at Olympics

FOR SOME, it's a smarter, simpler version of the sport. For quite a few, it is an upstart that will ultimately overtake – or take over, depending on which side of the debate you are on – the traditional format. Hockey 5s, a fledgling format that is rapidly spreading its wings, has evoked cynicism and thrill in equal measure. But when the International Hockey Federation (FIH) announced on Monday that a Hockey 5s World Cup will be launched in 2023, there was more scepticism than excitement over their intentions.

Eye on the Games

What were once whispers have turned into roars that the shorter version of the sport will replace the traditional 11-a-side game at the Olympics, with many even suggesting the change could take place as soon as the 2028 Games in Los Angeles.

The FIH has denied any such move. "There is no plan at all to have 11-a-side hockey cease to exist at the Olympics," a spokesperson told *The Indian Express*. "We have seen how other sports are successfully running two formats."

Another possibility, of both formats taking place simultaneously at the Games, has been put forth as well, like volleyball and beach volleyball. But at a time when the International Olympic Committee is looking to reduce the number of events, this looks like a remote possibility.

No 'D', use of sideboards

Hockey's complicated, and constantly changing, rules have been one of the biggest deterrents in terms of viewership. The 5s version, played over three 10-minute periods, cuts the complexity.



In many ways, Hockey 5s will mirror ice hockey.

In many ways, it mirrors ice hockey. As the name suggests, five players are allowed in the starting line-up and four on the bench. Like the 11-a-side version, rolling substitutions are allowed.

Unlike the traditional format, however, there is no 'D', which means a goal can be scored from anywhere on the 'court', which is half the size of a normal hockey pitch.

The boundary boards can be used to rebound the ball, giving the players an option to use the speed and angles generated from it in attacking moves. The ball is out of play only when it completely passes over the boundary board on the sideline or backline. That means, more often than not, the game stops only when a player gets injured.

New destinations

The world body hopes that like Rugby 7s or Twenty20 cricket, Hockey 5s will attract newer countries to the sport. The format was tried at the last two Youth Olympics and has thrown up a few surprising results –

Zambia, for instance, stunned Germany 8-1 in the Nanjing Games and teams like Austria and Kenya gave a good account of themselves in Buenos Aires last year.

"The FIH Hockey 5s World Cup is created first and foremost to promote hockey and to have a high-level FIH competition for Hockey 5s, therefore giving many National Associations a chance to have a competitive Hockey 5s team than an 11-a-side one," the FIH said.

India's position

India has been slow to warm up to the concept and did not compete at the 2014 Youth Olympics. In 2018, however, the team led by Vivek Sagar Prasad, now an established player in the senior 11-a-side team, won the silver medal after losing to Malaysia in the final.

The FIH has said continental 5s championship will act as qualifiers for the World Cup, which will be a 16-team affair. Hockey India does not have a dedicated 5s programme yet, although they have been conducting national championships for a couple of years.

It is learnt that there will be separate camps for 5s and 11-a-side versions of the games going forward. No timeline, however, has been set so far for that.

MIHIR VASAVDA

Sindhu wins, Saina, Sameer knocked out

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

HONG KONG, NOVEMBER 13

WORLD CHAMPION P V Sindhu made a positive start to her campaign but Saina Nehwal and Sameer Verma were ousted from the Hong Kong Open after suffering contrasting defeats in the opening round of the \$400,000 event here on Wednesday. Sixth seed Sindhu, who had faltered in the opening round in a couple of recent tournaments, took 36 minutes to see off World No.19 Kim Ga Eun of Korea 21-15, 21-16 to progress to the second round. The Olympic silver medalist will face Thailand's Busanan Ongbamrungphan next. HS Prannoy also crossed the opening hurdle, beating China's Huang Yu Xiang 21-17 21-17 in 44 minutes to a clash with sixth seed Indonesian Jonatan Christie.

However, eighth seed Saina, who claimed the Indonesia Masters in January this year, suffered her fifth first-round loss in the last six tournaments, going down 13-21, 20-22 to China's Cai Yan Yan for the second successive time. She had lost to Cai at China Open last week. World No.16 Sameer fought for 54 minutes before going to Wang Tzu Wei of Chinese Taipei 11-21, 21-13, 8-21 in the opening match. It was his third successive loss in the opening round.

Saina and Sameer are both scheduled to play Gwangju Korea Masters Super 300 tournament next week. Women's doubles pair of Ashwini Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy also couldn't cross the opening round, losing 13-21, 12-21 to Denark's Maiken Fruergaard and Sara Thygesen.

World No.6 Sindhu moved to a 8-4 lead early on but Kim managed to turn the tables, holding a 11-10 advantage at the breather. The Indian then reeled off six points at 13-13 to match ahead and seal the opening game.

The second game was no different as Sindhu again broke off at 5-5, grabbing seven points on the trot to move to a massive 12-5 lead. The Indian kept moving ahead and eventually shut the door comfortably on her opponent.

Earlier, Saina lacked the wherewithal to put up a fight against Cai in the opening game and fell behind from the very start. She couldn't catch up with the Chinese, who moved to a comfortable 11-4 lead at the break and kept surging ahead to win the first game. In the second game, Saina was 3-0 up initially but Cai reeled off seven straight points at 2-4 to jump to a 9-4 advantage. The Indian narrowed the gap but Cai was ahead 11-9 at the breather.

After the interval, the Chinese jumped to a 17-11 advantage. However, Saina managed to fight back and grab a game point at 20-19 but the Chinese once again managed to nose ahead. Sameer, on the other hand, managed to take one game away from the world no.26 Wang after meekly surrendering the opening game.

Worry lines before kick off

Lack of goals and uncertainty in defence makes India's qualifer against Afghanistan a tough task

MIHIR VASAVDA

NOVEMBER 13

ONLY SEVEN players in India's travelling contingent of 26 have played every minute of their clubs' domestic campaigns. Between them, the squad has scored just five goals after the first four rounds of the Indian Super League. And when the team lines up against Afghanistan tonight, they might be without a regular central defensive pair.

Much has been made about the conditions that welcomed India in Dushanbe – the chilly weather, artificial turf, convoluted flight paths, et al. But it will be the on-field problems that will trouble coach Igor Stimac more ahead of two crucial 2022 World Cup and 2023 Asian Cup joint qualifying matches, against a tricky Afghanistan on Thursday followed by a much superior Oman next Tuesday.

Some, like the lack of goals, are old issues that resurface in newer ways. But it is the defence line that will concern Stimac going into the doubleheader.

Most of India's recent performances – the two wins over Thailand, the draw in Qatar, etc – have come on the back of a solid defensive performance. Heading into the Afghanistan match, however, one wonders if Stimac himself is sure of the back four that will start on Thursday.

Sandesh Jhingan, who leads the defence line, has been ruled out for at least five more months after twisting his knee and rupturing the Anterior Cruciate Ligament during India's practice game against NorthEast United before the Bangladesh match in October. On Tuesday, Anas Edathodika returned home due to a family bereavement.

Adil Khan, whose late goal saved India from an embarrassing defeat at home to Bangladesh, is reported to have a tight hamstring. Although he is not ruled out yet, Stimac has a tough decision to make – should Khan be risked against Afghanistan in cold conditions on an artificial turf, which can aggravate the injury, or save him for the match against Oman?

The only central defender who is available and match-fit is Narendra Gahlot. The 18-year-old made his international debut earlier this year but has not played a single minute for Jamshedpur FC. It is likely Stimac will opt for either right-back Rahul Bheke or left-back Subhashish Bose in a central position, which will open the door for the likes of Pritam Kotal and Sarthak Golui to make the starting XI.

The midfield might not pose such selection issues for Stimac, but the form of a few will concern him. Udanta Singh's pace on the right has set up several counterattacks and goal-scoring moves for club and country. The winger also has a tendency to get into scoring positions himself but lack of composure inside the box has been a repeated letdown.

Bangladesh choked India's young mid-



The Indian football team has not been the best of travellers. File

field and made them irrelevant with some smart tactical play to which India had no counter. Afghanistan, who prefer a 4-5-1 formation or a variation of it, are expected to do the same. Stimac has argued that the 510 passes India made against Bangladesh, along with the 17 attempts on goal, show they were the better side who just had an off day. But the conversion rate has been abysmal for quite some time now, and there seems to be no solution in sight.

Farukh Choudhary and Manvir Singh – the two recognised strikers apart from Sunil Chhetri – have not set the ISL on fire. Manvir, in fact, has struggled to get playing time in a star-studded FC Goa forward line. The onus to score, or create, goals will thus be on Chhetri once again.

Perhaps, Stimac had foreseen these problems when he asked for extra training time with the team ahead of the twin ties. Last month, the Croat wished that at least one round of the ISL be postponed so that he gets more time with the players in a conditioning camp before the crucial matches against Afghanistan and Oman.

He was cut down to size immediately, when an unnamed ISL official reportedly called Stimac's comment 'unfortunate' and his approach 'unprofessional'. "... it was discussed and agreed upon that since the ISL schedule is out and a lot of planning goes into the whole process of organising games like broadcasting, booking of stadiums and lodging of players, it is not possible to give a longer break before the November games and FIFA rules will be followed," the official was quoted as saying by IANS.

Since then, Stimac has not reiterated his demand. The next two matches will show how much the injuries, lack of playing time and – from the coach's point of view – inadequate preparation will impact India, who are still searching for their first win of the qualifiers.

Uphill task: Stimac

PTI adds: Searching for their first win of the campaign, India coach Igor Stimac said the situation his team is in, that it cannot afford to slip at any cost.

"It will not come to us, rather we need to go

and snatch it. It's always about us and our performance to achieve something," the Croatian said on the eve of the Pool E 2022 World Cup and 2023 Asian Cup joint qualifier against Afghanistan. "We see Afghanistan as a physical side with good composure. They have some players who also have the experience of playing in Europe. They are not in the top division, but playing in Europe always gives you an extra bit of confidence. They have stamina and they'll pose a tough challenge for us."

The war-ravaged Afghanistan chose Dushanbe as their home venue and the match will be played on artificial turf amid freezing temperatures. This has added to the woes of Stimac whose players are not used to these playing conditions. "It's very cold and mercury level drops to closer to sub-zero," Stimac said. "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," he added.

Live on Star Sports network: 7:30 pm

[SPORTS BAR]



FIFA hires ex-Arsenal manager Wenger

Former Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger has been appointed as FIFA's new chief of global football development, with the Frenchman set to oversee the growth of the sport plus technical matters, soccer's world governing body said on Wednesday. The 70-year-old was recently linked with the Bayern Munich job following the sacking of Niko Kovac but said that while he was approached he was never a candidate for the job. Wenger will be the leading authority on technical matters on FIFA's Football and Technical Advisory Panels involved in the International Football Association Board (IFAB) review and decision-making process on potential changes to the game's laws. He will also be the chair of a technical study group.

Prajnesh in Pune Challenger last 16

Led by Prajnesh Gunneswaran, India's top singles players progressed to the pre-quarterfinals with contrasting victories, but Saketh Myneni was knocked out of the KPIT-MSTLA Challenger after being in a position of strength here on Wednesday. Prajnesh needed just 49 minutes to demolish Chandril Sood 6-1 6-3 while third seed Sumit Nagal quelled a late challenge from Aryan Goveas to emerge a 6-3 7-6(5) winner in one hour and 16 minutes. Sixth seed Ramkumar Ramnathan hammered eight aces on his way to a 6-3 6-4 win over Greek player Markos Kalovelonis.

PBL 5 will kick off on January 20

Top shuttlers including World champ P V Sindhu will be in action at the fifth edition of the Premier Badminton League (PBL), featuring eight teams, which gets underway on January 20. The upcoming season which concludes on February 9 will be staged in Chennai, Delhi, Lucknow, and Bangalore. The league owned by Badminton Association of India (BAI) and organized by Sportzlive, offers a total purse of Rs 6 crore with the winner taking home a cheque of Rs 3 crore. While had lifted the trophy in the last edition, Hyderabad Hunters, Chennai Smashers, Delhi Dashers, and Hyderabad Hotshots are the other past winners.



Dutee Chand won two silver medals at the 2018 Asian Games.

Express file

Dutee named in TIME 100 Next list

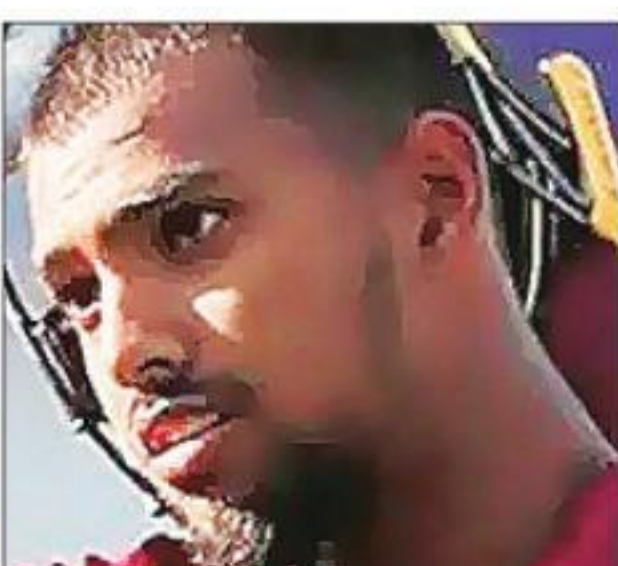
India sprinter Dutee Chand has been named in the TIME 100 Next, an expansion of the TIME 100 list of the most influential persons in the world. The list, an initiative of TIME magazine, highlights 100 rising stars who are shaping the future of business, entertainment, sports, politics, health, science, activism etc. "I am delighted to receive this recognition from the TIME magazine. I believe in gender equality. I will continue to fight for the rights of young girls and women in sports as well as in the larger society," Dutee said in a statement. Dutee had won two silver medals – 100m, 200m – at Jakarta Asian Games and had become the first Indian woman sprinter to win gold at the Universiade in Napoli, where she competed in 100m. She was invited by the IAAF to compete at the women's 100m event at the Doha World Championships in September but could qualify for the semifinals, fading in the heats after clocking 11.48s.

Spain great Villa to retire at end of season

Spain's all-time top scorer David Villa announced on Wednesday he is retiring from football at the end of the Japanese top flight season. Villa, who has been playing in Japan with Vissel Kobe since the beginning of this year, made the announcement with a statement on Twitter as well as calling a news conference. "After 19 years as a professional, I have decided to retire from playing football at the end of this season. Thank you to all the teams, coaches and teammates that have allowed me to enjoy this dream career," he wrote.

India shines at Youth Boxing Championships

India were assured of a bagful of medals at the Asian Youth Boxing Championships after six of the country's pugilists advanced to the semifinals on Wednesday. Soy Selay (49kg), Aman (+91kg), Ankita Narwal (60kg), Naorem Chanu (51kg), Jasmine (57kg) and Vinka (64kg) made the last four stage here. Selay defeated Philippines' Flint Jara 5-0, while Aman (+91kg) out-punched Taiwan's Kai-Hsung Wang in a bout that didn't go the full distance. Narwal was also up against a Taiwanese in Yu Lin and the Indian prevailed 5-0. In the women's draw, Chanu claimed a 5-0 triumph over Korea's Eunsu Sun.



Pooran banned for ball tampering

West Indies wicketkeeper-batsman Nicolas Pooran was on Wednesday handed a four-match suspension after admitting to ball-tampering in the third ODI against Afghanistan, an offence for which he also issued a public apology. Pooran will now miss the next four T20 Internationals for the West Indies and will have five demerit points added to his record. The game in question took place in Lucknow on Monday. "Nicolas Pooran has been handed four suspension points after admitting breaching level 3 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel..." the International Cricket Council said in a statement. Pooran admitted the offence on Tuesday and accepted the sanction proposed by match referee Chris Broad.



Thiem of the Finals

After beating Federer, Austrian pips World no 2 Djokovic 6-7(5) 6-3 7-6(5) to reach semis; other two face off for a last-4 spot

REUTERS
LONDON, NOVEMBER 13

NOVAK DJOKOVIC suffered defeat in a thriller against an inspired Dominic Thiem at the ATP Finals on Tuesday and now faces a showdown with great rival Roger Federer to decide who will reach the last four at the season-ender.

Swiss Federer shrugged off defeat by Austria's Thiem in his opening group match to comfortably beat Italian Matteo Berrettini 7-6(2) 6-3 in the day's opening singles.

But the real drama at The O2 arena came later when Thiem beat Djokovic 6-7(5) 6-3 7-6(5) in the standout match of the tournament so far. World number five Thiem blazed 50 winners in a sensational display of aggressive hitting to claim his second group win and seal his first semi-final in his fourth appearance.

Whatever his result against the already-eliminated Berrettini the Austrian will progress, but only victory will

do for Djokovic and Federer as they clash for the 49th time and first since Djokovic won an epic Wimbledon final in July. While Federer is trying to avoid only his second group stage exit in 17 appearances at the year-ending showpiece, the stakes will be even higher for Djokovic.

Defeat would not only halt his bid to equal Federer's six titles but would also mean he cannot end the year ranked number one. Djokovic must reach at least the final to overhaul Rafael Nadal and equal Pete Sampras's feat of finishing a year ranked number one on six occasions.

Breaking point

He will have to recover quickly after being stretched to breaking point by Thiem in a match lasting nearly three hours. "We go head to head with Roger. Winner goes to semis. Loser doesn't qualify. As simple as that," Djokovic, who led 4-1 in the final-set tiebreaker against Thiem, told reporters.

Nadal roars back to victory from brink of defeat

RAFAEL NADAL produced an incredible fightback to beat Russian Daniil Medvedev and keep his ATP Finals hopes alive on Wednesday, saving a match point at 1-5 down in the decider before winning 6-7(3) 6-3 7-6(4).

The 33-year-old looked beaten as 23-year-old debutant Medvedev broke serve twice in the decider to stand on the brink of a first career victory over the Spaniard he pushed to five sets in an epic U.S. Open final in September.

For once world number

one Nadal's trademark fighting spirit seemed to have deserted him but he saved a match point at 1-5 with a superb drop shot and was suddenly re-energised.

Twice Medvedev served for the match, at 5-2 and 5-4, but he tightened up and Nadal, roared on by the 02 Arena crowd, needed no second invitation to take advantage.

Nadal edged ahead when he held serve at 5-5 and when Medvedev trailed 0-30 in the next game it appeared the Russian was now a spent force.

REUTERS

cessful. However, the Austrian made sure at the second time of asking as a weary Djokovic netted.

Courageous tennis

Generous in defeat, Djokovic said: "I thought he deserved to win. He just played very courageous tennis and was just smacking the ball. He went for broke. "It was amazing. I have played him before. I know his game. But what he did tonight was just out of ordinary." The 26-year-old Thiem is the first Austrian to reach the semi-finals of the tournament.

Federer was pushed hard by Berrettini in the first set as the Italian powerhouse showed the kind of form that has propelled him into the world's top 10.

But once Federer changed gear to claim 10 of 11 points to breeze through the first set tiebreak and break to love at the start of the second his 58th victory at the tournament was never in doubt. The 38-year-old's thoughts then turned to Djokovic.



World no. 5 Dominic Thiem said his match against Djokovic was one of the best he's ever been part of. *Reuters*

Tainted Salazar denies abuse, admits using 'callous' language

AFP
LOS ANGELES, NOVEMBER 13

RUNNING coach Alberto Salazar denied subjecting former members of his Nike Oregon Project to abuse or gender discrimination on Tuesday but admitted using "callous" language against athletes in the training group.

Salazar, who was banned for four years last month for a range of doping offences, has faced stinging criticism from several former runners over methods used in his controversial Oregon Project, which has now been disbanded.

Last week, former US runner Mary Cain said she had suffered physical and mental abuse at the training camp as a result of Salazar's demanding regime.

Cain, a former high school prodigy who was tipped for middle-distance greatness, said she had suffered suicidal thoughts and started cutting herself as life in the training group took its toll.

In an op-ed in the New York Times, Cain detailed how she had faced pressure to become "thinner and thinner and thinner," eventually causing her to stop menstruating for three years.

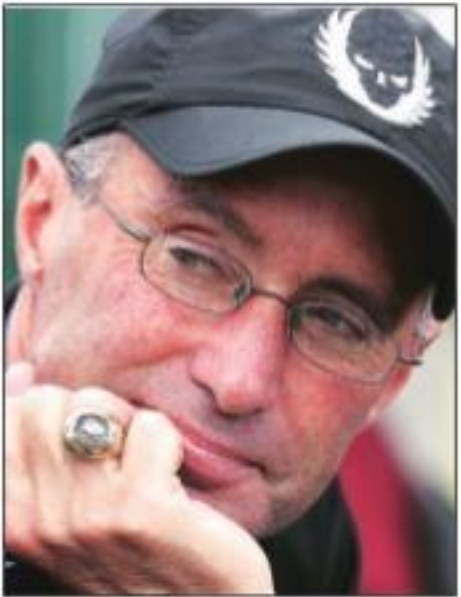
More voices

Another former runner, Olympian Amy Begley, said Salazar barred her from the training group in 2011, complaining she was "too fat" and "had the biggest butt on the starting line." In a statement to The Oregonian newspaper Tuesday, Salazar acknowledged using insensitive language but insisted it was part and parcel of life as an elite athlete.

"On occasion, I may have made comments that were callous or insensitive over the course of years of helping my athletes through hard training," Salazar said.

"If any athlete was hurt by any comments that I have made, such an effect was entirely unintended, and I am sorry.

"I do dispute, however, the notion that any athlete suf-




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ALBERTO SALAZAR
FORMER NIKE COACH

ferred any abuse or gender discrimination while running for the Oregon Project." Salazar said his emphasis on weight was related to "what (an athlete's) target training weight and performance weight should be to attain peak performance while maintaining an overall good well-being." "That's part of elite sport," Salazar said. "Maybe that needs to change. Indeed, I have always treated men and women similarly in this regard -- to treat my female athletes differently I believe would not be in their personal interests or in the interests of promoting their best athletic performance."

Nike shut down the Oregon Project in October when Salazar was banned for four years for an array of doping offenses that included trafficking in testosterone, tampering with the doping control process and administering illicit infusions of the fat-burning substance L-carnitine.

Salazar has denied wrongdoing and vowed to appeal the ban.



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(Deputy Chief, AERA)
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