

HC asks Karnataka: How will you protect kids of detained illegal migrants?

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, NOVEMBER 28

THE KARNATAKA High Court on Thursday directed the state government to respond on how children of alleged illegal immigrants will be protected in the event of detention of the parents.

The court also told the state government that deportation process of a person accused of being an illegal immigrant must begin soon as an FIR is registered.

The single-judge bench of Justice KN Phaneendra posed the question on children of detainees after an advocate representing two alleged illegal immigrants from Bangladesh, arrested in September 2018, told the court that two young children of a woman, arrested by the police in Sarjapur area of rural Bengaluru, were housed at a children's home, separated from their imprisoned mother for more than a year now.

Justice Phaneendra was hearing the bail of alleged illegal Bangladeshi immigrants Babul Khan, 46, and his daughter Taniya, 20.

The judge asked, "What happens if kids are separated from parents in the process? Grown-up children will be okay, but what if children are small, and what happens if their education is affected? Can the State do something?"

UGC proposes to regulate fee charged by deemed universities

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 28

THE UNIVERSITY Grants Commission (UGC) is set to regulate the fee charged by private deemed universities for professional programmes.

The higher education regulator is working on a regulation that proposes to set up a high-powered committee to determine the "reasonableness" of the fee charged by private deemed-to-be universities.

As per the UGC (Fees in professional education imparted by private-aided and unaided institutions deemed to be universities) Regulations, 2019, a deemed university can only charge fee approved by the said committee. UGC made the draft regulations public on Thursday for feedback and comments.

Most states have fee fixation committees and even laws for fee charged by state private institutions for professional programmes. However, there's no regulation of fee charged by private deemed universities which

Justice Phaneendra observed, "Children are children even if they are children of illegal immigrants. What is the international convention we have to see and also what can be done."

Assistant Solicitor General C Shashikantha informed the court that all children will be housed with their parents once detention centres are set up in the state over the next year, starting with one facility near Bengaluru in early-2020.

The court directed the government to file its response by December 4. Justice Phaneendra also indicated that alleged illegal immigrants must be detained at detention centres established as per international convention and not in prisons.

"Once FIR is registered and the person is arrested under Foreigners Act, then the process of deportation should begin immediately. The notification says mere registration of FIR can start the process," the court said. "Once Foreigners Act is invoked by the police, the deportation process must start irrespective of outcome of the case. If secured, they (alleged illegal immigrant) should be brought to court and they should be put in detention centres."

On Tuesday, the government had told the High Court that 35 detention centres will be set up across the state to house illegal foreigners before deportation.

SC reserves order on Chidambaram's bail plea

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 28

THE SUPREME Court on Thursday reserved its order on former Union minister P Chidambaram's petition seeking bail in the INX Media money laundering case.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) opposed the plea and argued that "sufficient evidence has come on record that" the senior Congress leader "has been indulging in destruction of evidence and influencing witnesses".

Appearing for ED, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told a bench of Justices R Banumathi, AS Bopanna and Hrishikesh Roy that "three witnesses have given statement that the petitioner and his family members have pressurised them and asked them not to appear" before ED.

One of them, who was also part of the money laundering, had written to the agency stating that he does not want to be confronted with the accused, as the latter is a "powerful" person, Mehta said. The other two witnesses simply did not turn up.

Mehta submitted that to conceal proceeds of crime, the accused closed certain bank accounts and opened new ones.



P Chidambaram

During the probe, it was found that two bank accounts of the petitioner's son Karti Chidambaram in Metro Bank, UK, were closed, he said. As part of the cover-up operations, shareholding patterns and directors of shell companies set up to launder the ill-gotten money was changed, he contended.

The SC is hearing Chidambaram's petition against the Delhi High Court order dismissing his bail plea.

The Congress leader has contended that although HC observed that he is not likely to flee or tamper with evidence or influence witnesses, the court denied him bail on the ground that the alleged offence was grave. Gravity of offence cannot be the ground for denying bail, and if HC's view was accepted then no undertrial would get bail in any

case until the trial ends, Chidambaram told the apex court. Opposing this, Mehta said gravity indeed had to be taken into consideration, especially in economic offences which "affects nation and national economy".

During the probe, Mehta said, the agency recovered several details from digital devices of Karti Chidambaram and other accused which linked the accused to the alleged crime.

During the investigations, it had come on record that proceeds of the crime were used for investments in India and abroad, he said.

Chidambaram's lawyers had said that only he was in jail while the other alleged co-conspirators in the case had got bail.

Countering this, Mehta said Karti had not got regular bail in the ED case. He had challenged certain provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act in High Court, which, while taking it up, granted him protection from arrest. Mehta said the ED had challenged that in SC, as "the High Court order ought not to have been passed".

"Karti, too, will have to be arrested when the (HC) order is vacated, given the material the ED has found," Mehta said.

Sonia slams govt's 'vindictiveness', asks all to stand up to 'regime'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 28

CONGRESS PRESIDENT Sonia Gandhi on Thursday lashed out at the Centre over the prolonged incarceration of P Chidambaram and called it "sheer vindictiveness" of the Narendra Modi government that has kept the former Union minister in prison for 100 days.

His son and Lok Sabha MP Karti also hit out at the government and asked whether he is being kept in jail for political reasons.

Addressing a general body meeting of the Congress Parliamentary Party, Sonia asked the party to be united in standing up to the Narendra Modi and Amit Shah's "regime", which, she alleged, is intoxicated by power and does not follow rules and conventions.

Sonia's criticism came on a day the Supreme Court reserved its verdict on a plea filed by Chidambaram seeking bail in the INX-Media case.



Karti Chidambaram claimed the government is 'afraid' and doesn't want to face his father in Parliament. PTI

Sonia said: "Let us be united in our resolve to stand up to the Modi-Shah regime, a regime that knows or follows no rules and conventions, intoxicated by power, and wielding it to strike at every institution of our democracy, at political opponents... like our colleagues [D K] Shivakumar and Chidambaram. It is sheer vindictiveness that has


kept Chidambaram in prison for 100 days."

She said, "These are undoubtedly extraordinary times, when our fortitude and resilience are under the greatest of tests. But collectively we will turn the tide — not for our sake but for the sake of the Constitution, for the sake of a liberal and pluralistic democracy, and for the sake of our country and our people."

Karti told *The Indian Express* that it is "very unfortunate" that Chidambaram has been kept in remand for 100 days.

He said: "It is not even a trial. He has not even faced trial. It is a pre-trial remand for investigation. How long will you investigate something which happened in 2007, for which you filed an FIR in 2017... Is it being done because you don't want him to speak in Parliament. What is this remand for. His personal liberty, right to reputation everything is greatly damaged by this," Karti said.

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THE INDIAN NAVY

INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR SHORT SERVICE COMMISSION OFFICERS FOR INDIAN NAVY ENTRANCE TEST (INET) FOR VARIOUS ENTRIES - JAN 2021 COURSE

1. Applications are invited from unmarried eligible men & women candidates for grant of Short Service Commission (SSC) in under-mentioned branches / entries in the Indian Navy for course commencing Jan 21 at Indian Naval Academy (INA) Ezhimala, Kerala. Candidates must fulfill conditions of nationality as laid down by the Government of India.

2. Educational Qualifications.

Ser	Branch/ Cadre	Eligible streams of Bachelor of Engineering/Bachelor of Technology and Other Qualifications	Vacancy	Gender	Born Between (Both Dates inclusive)
Executive Branch					
(a)	SSC Naval Armament Inspectorate Cadre (NAIC)	BE/B.Tech from AICTE recognized institute / university with minimum 60% marks in Mechanical / Mechanical with Automation / Electrical / Electrical & Electronics / Electronics / Micro Electronics / Instrumentation / Electronics & Communication / Electronics & Tele Communication / Instrumentation & Control / Control Engineering / Production / Industrial Production / Industrial Engineering / Applied Electronics & Instrumentation/ Electronics & Instrumentation / Information Technology / Computer Science / Computer Engineering / Computer Application / Metallurgy / Metallurgical / Chemical/Material Science / Aero Space / Aeronautical Engineering OR Post Graduate degree in Electronics / Physics. Candidate must have 60% aggregate marks in class X and XII and minimum 60% marks in English in class X or class XII.	06	Men & Women	02 Jan 1996 & 01 Jul 2001
(b)	SSC ATC	BE/B.Tech in any discipline from AICTE recognized institute / university with minimum 60% marks. (Candidate must have 60% aggregate marks in class X and XII and minimum 60% marks in English in class X or class XII).	04	Men & Women	02 Jan 1996 & 01 Jan 2000
(c)	SSC Observer	- do -	06	Men & Women	02 Jan 1997 & 01 Jan 2002
(d)	SSC Pilot (MR)	- do -	03	Men & Women	02 Jan 1997 & 01 Jan 2002 *
(e)	SSC Pilot (Other than MR)	- do -	06	Men	02 Jan 1997 & 01 Jan 2002 *
(f)	SSC Logistics	(i) BE/B.Tech in any discipline with First Class from AICTE recognized institute / university, or (ii) MBA with First Class, or (iii) B.Sc / B.Com / B.Sc.(IT) with First Class with a PG Diploma in Finance / Logistics / Supply Chain Management / Material Management, or (iv) MCA / M.Sc (IT) with First Class	11	Men & Women	02 Jan 1996 & 01 Jul 2001
(g)	SSC X (IT)	BE/B.Tech from AICTE recognized institute / university with minimum 60% marks in Computer Science / Computer Engg / IT / M.Sc (Computer) / MCA	10	Men	02 Jan 1996 & 01 Jul 2001
(h)	SSC General Service (GS/X) / Hydro Cadre	BE/B.Tech in any discipline with First Class from AICTE recognized institute / university	30 (27 (GS/X) + 03 (Hydro))	Men	02 Jan 1996 & 01 Jul 2001**
Technical Branch					
(i)	SSC Engineering Branch [General Service (GS)]	BE/B.Tech from AICTE recognized institute / university with minimum 60% marks in streams (i) Mechanical/Mechanical with Automation (ii) Marine (iii) Instrumentation (iv) Production (v) Aeronautical (vi) Industrial Engineering & Management (vii) Control Engg (viii) Aero Space (ix) Automobiles (x) Metallurgy (xi) Mechatronics (xii) Instrumentation & Control	26	Men	02 Jan 1996 & 01 Jul 2001**
(k)	SSC Electrical Branch [General Service (GS)]	BE/B.Tech from AICTE recognized institute / university with minimum 60% marks in streams (i) Electrical (ii) Electronics (iii) Tele Communication (iv) Electronics & Communication (v) Power Engineering (vi) Power Electronics (vii) Electronics & Instrumentation /Applied Electronics & Instrumentation (viii) Instrumentation & Control (ix) Instrumentation, (x)Applied Electronics and Communication (AEC).	27	Men	02 Jul 1996 & 01 Jul 2001
Education Branch					
(l)	SSC Education	(i) First Class in M.Sc. (Maths/Operational Research) with Physics in B.Sc. (ii) First Class in M.Sc. (Physics/Nuclear Physics) with Maths in B.Sc. (iii) First Class in M.Sc. (Meteorology/Oceanology/ Atmospheric Science) (iv) BE/B.Tech from AICTE recognized institute / university with minimum 60% marks (Computer Science/Information Technology/Computer Technology//Information Systems/Computer Engineering) (v) BE / B.Tech from AICTE recognized institute / university with minimum 60% marks (Electronics & Communication/ Electrical & Electronics/ Electronics & Instrumentation/ Electronics & Telecommunications/ Electrical) (vi) BE / B.Tech from AICTE recognized institute / university with minimum 60% marks in Mechanical Engineering Note (1): Candidates applying for the Education entry must have scored minimum of 60% marks in class X and class XII and minimum 60% marks in English in class X or class XII.	15	Men & Women	02 Jan 1996 & 01 Jan 2000

Note (2)

(i) These vacancies are tentative and may be changed depending on availability of training slots.

(ii) * Commercial Pilot License (CPL) Holders. Candidates having valid and current CPL issued by DGCA (India) and born between 02 Jan 1996 and 01 Jan 2002 (both dates inclusive) can apply for Pilot entry as per eligibility criteria stated at Para 2(d) & 2(e).

(iii) ** Merchant Navy Personnel. Candidates having Government of India, Ministry of Shipping & Transport Certificate of Competency (Foreign going) either as a Second Mate, Mate or Master and born between 02 Jan 1991 and 01 Jul 2001 (both dates inclusive) can apply for Executive Branch entry (General Service) and Technical Branch entry (SSC Engineering) as per stipulations stated at Para 2(h) & 2(j) respectively.

3. Who can Apply.

Candidates who have graduated or in the final year of the applicable qualifying degree in the above mentioned disciplines from a AICTE recognised educational institute/AIU certified foreign university can apply for the exam. The candidates will, however, be required to fulfil the educational qualifications stipulated above before joining INA. The candidates failing to meet stipulated educational criteria will not be permitted to join INA, Ezhimala.

4. How to Apply.

(i). Candidates are to register and fill application on Indian Navy website www.joinindiannavy.gov.in. To save time during the application submission window, candidates can fill in their details and upload documents in advance.

(ii) .Online (e-application). Whilst filling up the e-application, it is advisable to keep the relevant documents readily available to enable the following:-

(a) Correct filling up of personal particulars. Details are to be filled up as given in the Matriculation Certificate.

(b) Fields such as e-mail address, mobile number are mandatory fields and need to be filled.


(c) All relevant documents (preferably in original), marks sheets upto 5th & 7th semester for regular and integrated B.E. / B.Tech courses & other degree examination respectively, date of birth proof (as per 10th & 12th certificate), CGPA conversion formula for BE/B.Tech, Commercial Pilot Licence(CPL) issued by DGCA, Government of India, and a recent passport size colour photograph should be scanned in original JPG/TIFF format, for attaching the same while filling up the application.

(d) If any scanned document is not legible/readable for any reason the application will be rejected. Candidates are to take print out of application and carry it while appearing for INET(O) or SSB interview.

Important - Please read the instructions given on the website carefully before submitting your 'e-application' form. Candidates can call Toll-free number 1800-419-2929 and press Option 7 to speak to a customer care representative from Monday-Sunday between 0800-2000 hrs regarding INET(O) and SSB interview.

Note (3) : Your application is subject to subsequent scrutiny and the application can be rejected, if found INELIGIBLE/INVALID at any point of time.

The terms and conditions given in this advertisements are subject to change and should therefore be treated as guidelines only. The full advertisement regarding detailed information and selection procedure will be published in Employment News dated 23 Nov 19 and will also be available on www.joinindiannavy.gov.in



PIB to fact-check govt-related news

KRISHN KAUSHIK
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 28

"RECEIVED A forward that looks too good to be true!!! or maybe came across a piece of news that you want verified !! Send it across and we will Fact Check it for you, no questions asked."

This is what the official handle of the Press Information Bureau (PIB) tweeted on Thursday. It added, "Ever wondered if a WhatsApp forward is true or just fake news? Or if a tweet/ FB (Facebook) post is real? Fret no more!"

It said the web link or a "snapshot" of that information can be shared through email, and the government would respond after checking its authenticity. It announced that PIB is now officially trying to bust fake news or false information, but the information has to be related to the government.

Kuldeep Singh Dhatwalia, Principal Director General of PIB, told *The Indian Express* that because of the "speed at which false information is being circulated on social media", the government will try to verify the authenticity of government-related information.

"We are starting with government-related news," Dhatwalia said. "If it is not factually correct and it comes to our notice, we will ask the concerned officer of the particular ministry to check

with the ministry and we will put out the factual position."

Dhatwalia added that PIB would be "thankful" to those who "bring something which is not genuine to our notice", and "the moment we are sure that it is fake news, we will put the official version in the public domain".

He said that PIB has to "put a new system in place", for which they are "identifying and training officers". The team will include "just a few officers who are already working on social media", he said, who will be groomed and trained. He said the initiative is restricted to information about the Union government and its ministries and departments as of now, but "we will see how far we can go" with it.



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TENDER NOTICE

Item rate tenders are invited through e-tendering portal by S.M. (Engg.E). AAI, L.B.S.I Airport Varanasi-221006 on behalf of Chairman AAI from eligible contractors for the work of "Construction of New ATC tower and Technical Block at Varanasi Airport. SH: Shifting of GLF cables, CCR's along with associated works" for an estimated cost of ₹ 1,17,65,888.00 (excluding GST) with completion period of 04 (Four) Months. Last Date & Time of submission of bid documents is 11.12.2019 upto 18:00 Hrs.

For detailed information, clarification / corrigendum, log on to CPP e-Procurement portal <https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app> or www.aai.aero.



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QUALITY OF LENDING

Sharp rise in bad loans under Mudra is cause for concern. RBI should step in to examine extent of fallout

THE PRADHAN MANTRI Mudra Yojana has often been held up as the solution to India's job problem. It was expected that the scheme, which entailed the provision of collateral-free loans, would spur both entrepreneurship and job creation in the country. But not only has its performance on creating new jobs been underwhelming — a report in this paper showed that not every loan translated to new jobs — there are now grave doubts over the quality of the loans extended as well, with a sharp rise in the number of loans turning non-performing. On Tuesday, RBI Deputy Governor MK Jain voiced concern over rising bad loans under the scheme. “While such a massive push (Mudra) would have lifted many beneficiaries out of poverty, there have been some concerns at the growing level of non-performing assets (NPAs) among these borrowers,” he said.

Loans under Mudra fall under three categories: Shishu, which covers loans up to Rs 50,000; Kishore, for loans between Rs 50,000 and Rs 5 lakh; and Tarun, for loans between Rs 5 lakh and 10 lakh. At the end of 2018-19, Mudra loans worth Rs 8,93,000 crore had been sanctioned by Member Lending Institutions (MLIs), Anurag Thakur, Minister of State for Finance, said in reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha. Of these, only 2 per cent or Rs 17,651 crore had turned non-performing. But, in the subsequent six months, there has been a sharp rise in bad loans. As reported in this paper, the number of bad loans in the Kishore category has more than doubled, rising by 107 per cent at the end of September 2019, over March. In value terms, bad loans have surged by 71 per cent in this category. In the Tarun category, too, bad loans have risen to Rs 3,425 crore in September, up 45 per cent from Rs 2,353 crore in March. The Shishu category has also seen a spurt in the number of bad loans, though of a lower magnitude.

Several factors could have contributed to this spurt in bad loans. Poor credit appraisals and lack of monitoring by banks, wilful defaults, and the growing inability to pay back obligations due to a slowing economy could have all played a part. But, coming at a time when banks are struggling to resolve their existing pile of non-performing loans, this spurt in bad loans under Mudra may end up becoming another source of vulnerability for them. While the political overtones of the scheme are hard to dismiss, the RBI should examine the implications for the financial system more closely and step in if necessary.

A NEW CAST

By choosing an upper caste politician to lead it, the RJD sends out a political signal in turbulent times

THE CHOICE OF Jagdanand Singh, a Rajput, to lead the Rashtriya Janata Dal may be a snapshot of change, a reflection of the compulsions the party is facing in the current political moment. Singh, 74, a seasoned politician, associated with the socialist movement in Bihar since the 1960s, has been a founder member of the RJD and minister when Lalu Prasad was chief minister. He is also the first upper caste politician to lead the RJD since it was formed in 1997. His unanimous election earlier this week is being read as an attempt by the party to reach out to sections of the society, particularly the upper castes, which have, all these years, been seen to oppose it.

This outreach could be an indication that the RJD finally acknowledges that it has reached the limits of identity politics. Since the Mandal driven realignment of political forces in the 1990s, the RJD projected itself as a bulwark of the politics of secularism and the custodian of lower caste interests in Bihar. Yadavs and Muslims formed the core of this support base that included a spectrum of backward castes and Dalits. Though the Mandal consensus that briefly united the backward castes and Dalits disintegrated following splits in the Janata Dal, the Muslim-Yadav math helped the RJD to continue to win assembly elections. However, the layered politics crafted by the BJP since the advent of Narendra Modi in national politics, combining the Hindutva agenda and hard nationalism, has shown a trans caste appeal which has breached the core constituencies of several caste-based parties, including the RJD. With Lalu ailing and in jail, the RJD leadership has found itself short of ideas, tactics and a charismatic leader to challenge the BJP narrative and contain its spread even among the Yadavs. When a similar unravelling of Mandal politics took place in UP earlier, the SP and BSP had tried to broaden their appeal by building pan-caste alliances.

Is the RJD planning to emphasise the class dimension in politics now, especially since there is a view that its opposition to the 10 per cent quota for the poor among the forward castes may have hurt its prospects in the May general election? It has already promised to reserve 45 per cent of the party posts for the Extremely Backward Castes and Dalits. The party now seems to want to build a broader social coalition and pitch a larger tent.

GOOD MORNING

Trump greets the world dressed in Rocky Balboa's washboard abs. He offers no explanation

ON WEDNESDAY MORNING, two world leaders reached out to the world. German Chancellor Angela Merkel shared a clip of a speech on the meaning of freedom in the digital era. US president Donald Trump shared a picture of his head grafted onto the bare body of Sylvester Stallone as Rocky Balboa. Merkel's communication was meaningful, while Trump's was perplexing, except to his following, who would get the semiotic instantly.

Having failed to convince the world that he is doing enough about the Russians, with this image — doctored for the age of fake news — Trump has entered the lists in the war of chests, washtub abs and all. Avid outdoorsman Putin, who has bared it proudly in several photo shoots, is his most celebrated competitor. But there are others. In a world that seeks strongmen, there will be more.

Trump has a bipolar relationship with movie boxers. Earlier, he had accused his critic, Robert de Niro, of being concussed from acting in too many boxing movies, starting with *Raging Bull*. Now, he has chosen to merge with Stallone. But this is politically clever, because Rocky Balboa, played by Stallone, is one of the most inspirational speakers ever, and his quotes are still as current as Chuck Norris facts. A popular example: “It ain't about how hard ya hit. It's about how hard you can get it and keep moving forward. How much you can take and keep moving forward. That's how winning is done!” That was a ha-rangue to his son. Balboa was harder on himself: “I gotta problem I gotta fight!” For a populace bamboozled by fake news and MAGA-ness, such clarity and sense of purpose is the universal nostrum. Even Putin would approve, though he wouldn't dream of taking it on the chest. Being intelligent, he would sidestep.



SOUMYA KANTI GHOSH

IN 2016, INDIA embarked on a landmark reform of providing a robust platform for resolution of troubled corporate entities. In principle, insolvency and bankruptcy are covered in the Seventh Schedule under the Concurrent List in the Constitution, allowing both states and the Centre to develop the legislative framework. However, in India, there is no state legislative history regarding either insolvency or bankruptcy in the post-Independence period, an important departure from the US. All such Indian post-Independence laws have their origins in UK laws.

Till the year 1985, the legal framework for dealing with corporate insolvency and bankruptcy in India consisted of only one law — the Companies Act, 1956. In 1985, the Sick Industrial Companies Act, 1985 (SICA), followed by the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 (RDBFI) under which debt recovery tribunals (DRTs) were established and finally, the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securities Interest Act (SARFAESI) was enacted in 2002. Around the same time when the SARFAESI Act was introduced, the Reserve Bank of India introduced a corporate debt restructuring scheme that provided broad guidelines for banks. It was thus clear by the year 2010 that a single, comprehensive framework was needed to effectively tackle delay in insolvency and bankruptcy proceedings.

This 60 years of Indian experience in insolvency resolution (till the IBC came into existence) suggests a similar story as in the US, where the first bankruptcy law was passed on April 4, 1800. Over time, however, almost all the efforts prior to the IBC failed to meet expectations. The success rate of companies under several regulations pre-2016 was abysmally low and varied from 16 per cent to a maximum of 25 per cent. In contrast, the success rate of companies under the IBC in terms of a closure is already at 41 per cent and increasing. The recovery rate is 43 per cent, up from 12 per cent in FY15 through other mechanisms with defaulting promoters losing control of the company. The Essar judgement, assuming a provision of 80 per cent, could potentially result in a provision writeback of more than Rs 30,000 crore for

Three years on, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code is learning from outcomes, growing stronger

Where the IBC has been largely successful, in countries like China and Japan, culture has played a crucial role. As an example, Japan makes bankruptcy a personal, not business, failure. This characterisation of bankruptcy in Japan often leads to tragedy for the individual, be it isolation from family or otherwise. Culture also plays a substantial role in Chinese laws. In Chinese society, the notion of bankruptcy has long been condemned as ‘bad luck’. If a father owes a debt, his sons or grandsons would be responsible for it; bankruptcy implies living with a burden for generations to come.

the banking system.

There are, however, a few trends that merit attention. Firstly, the number of cases admitted through Lok Adalats and DRTs has declined significantly post introduction of the IBC. As an example, the IBC platform is now being used by operational creditors (48 per cent of the cases admitted). Given the very small threshold limit of Rs 1 lakh, operational creditors seem to be more aggressive in dragging the corporate debtor into the NCLT, eating up the bandwidth of the court and thereby delaying resolution of the bigger cases and defying the main objective of the IBC. It is high time that the government seriously rethinks increasing the threshold value substantially from Rs 1 lakh and increasing the number of NCLT benches with a preponderance of more erudite professionals who understand the financial system better. This will ensure that the IBC platform is not used as a recovery but more as a resolution tool.

Secondly, it is observed that more than 23 per cent of the admitted companies ended with liquidation. One way of viewing it is that at the time of low demand and economic downturn there are not enough buyers of the stressed assets. Regulations must be made allowing foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) to acquire stressed rupee loans directly instead of going through an asset reconstruction company (ARC) and allowing eligible external commercial borrowing investors to fund the acquisition of stressed companies both under the IBC and outside it.

In fact, as companies are admitted into liquidation, the employees on the rolls of the company are only cumulatively compensated till the resolution process is completed, while the contractual employees are downsized. This could also act as a constraining factor on consumption growth and thus it is essential that we find a quick resolution (average resolution time is of 324 days as on March 2019).

Thirdly, it is also observed that sectors such as construction, EPC, electricity, where there are no hard assets, are also being dragged to the NCLT and such companies are mostly liquidated. Efforts should be made to find a resolution of such companies outside the NCLT as these could save resources and time for hard-pressed NCLT benches.

Fourthly, will the IBC facilitate the development of the corporate bond markets in India? After the IBC came into force, the SEBI chairman in a summit organised by CII in August 2017, said: “From an investors' standpoint, an effective and robust bankruptcy regime is important for developing the corporate bonds market. Investors have been shying away from low-rated corporate bonds and even if the rating is of investment grade, given the high rate of defaults”.

The recent empirical work on links between corporate bond markets and the bankruptcy system predicts that safe firms will issue bonds but higher risk firms, for whom insolvency is more likely, issue bonds as long as bankruptcy is efficient. Clearly, this might require more analysis in the Indian context but there is evidence already.

Finally, where the IBC has been largely successful, in countries like China and Japan, culture has played a crucial role. As an example, Japan makes bankruptcy a personal, not business, failure. This characterisation of bankruptcy in Japan often leads to tragedy for the individual, be it isolation from family or otherwise. Culture also plays a substantial role in Chinese laws. In Chinese society, the notion of bankruptcy has long been condemned as “bad luck”. If a father owes a debt, his sons or grandsons would be responsible for it; bankruptcy implies living with a burden for generations to come.

Is Indian culture any different? Interestingly, in India, ordinary households take it upon themselves to repay their debt (household debt to GDP is lowest across all countries at 11 per cent of GDP). Thus, culture is indeed important. But in the larger context, two things are imperative to making the IBC successful in India.

First, learn from outcomes and strengthen the code so that the law is robust over time. This is currently being done. And, the ultimate test for culture is when promoters themselves approach the IBC for resolution for the benefit of all stakeholders.

The writer is group chief economic advisor, State Bank of India. Saket Hishikar, economist, SBI, contributed to this article. Views are personal



BINOY VISWAM

CAMPUSES ALL OVER the world have been breeding grounds of ideas and activism. How can one forget the student activism in Paris that frightened the French ruling class in the 1960s? During the Vietnam war, campuses in the US were centres of the anti-war movement. Students in Latin America have waged heroic struggles against fascist dictatorships.

One needs to look at recent developments in JNU from this perspective. JNU signifies ideas, values and commitments that are fundamental to the idea of India. That is why the happenings in JNU are of relevance beyond its campus. Many campuses in India, not just JNU, have become centres of study and struggle. These include the FTII and IITs.

Commercialisation and communalisation are the twin threats to the Indian education system today. Neo liberal globalisation has created such challenges. This threat has become more acute with the RSS-backed BJP in office at the Centre, and in several states. The imprint of the Sangh Parivar is prominent in syllabi from the school level to universities — and in the administration of universities as well.

The entry of students from backward sections to institutions of higher learning did not happen in one day. It was the outcome of years of struggle to make education a right — not a privilege. Such struggles opened the gates of institutions like JNU for the daughters and sons of the weaker sections across India. Reservation in education, an outcome of these struggles, was a progressive step.

BASTION FOR HUMANISM

First-generation learners at JNU are beacons of hope for their communities

The entry of students from backward sections to institutions of higher learning did not happen in one day. It was the outcome of years of struggle to make education a right — not a privilege. Such struggles opened the gates of institutions like JNU for the daughters and sons of the weaker sections across India. Reservation in education, an outcome of these struggles, was a progressive step.

Today, most of the students who enter campuses like JNU belong to socially and educationally backward families. In many cases, these first-generation learners become beacons of hope for their communities. In JNU, 71 per cent of students avail various scholarships sponsored by agencies like the UGC, CSIR, DBT and the university itself. Such a shift in social composition of students is a matter of pride for the country.

The Sangh Parivar's ideology makes it biased against the poor and lower castes. Today's Ekalavyas compete with children from wealthy and upper caste families. How can the Sangh Parivar tolerate this? Its agenda on access to education, which was hidden for long, has come to the fore since the Sangh captured political power. Their strategy is to oust students from poor, backward and minority families from the campuses. It tried to ignite ultra nationalism to counter the popularity of Kanhaiya Kumar and spewed venom on all who did not agree with its ideology.

The winds of hatred sponsored by the Sangh have created havoc in universities like Allahabad, Jadavpur, BHU and Aligarh. Now, a new onslaught is in the offing. It seems to be more planned and brutal. As expected, JNU has been made the testing ground of this brutality. The proposed rise in hostel fees, to the tune of 300 per cent, is aimed at forcing many poor students to drop out of the university.

The JNUSU, the representative body of the students, is not being allowed to function. A

few days ago, this writer visited the campus to express solidarity with the students and was greeted by a notice from the registrar urging him not to go near the administrative block as section 144 had been imposed there.

After the sit-in strike, when the students came out for a peaceful march, the government responded in a cruel manner. As night fell, the police switched off streetlights and mercilessly beat up students without sparing even the differently-abled students. Such attacks bare the government's nervousness about a vibrant campus. This campus has produced not only left-minded leaders and academics but also eminent intellectuals like Abhijit Banerjee and leaders like Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

JNU and other campuses are expected to remember what Jawaharlal Nehru once said about universities: “A university stands for humanism, for tolerance, for reason, for the adventure of ideas and for the search for truth.” The government has diametrically opposite views about universities. Hence, this is a struggle between ideologies. On one side are the students and their comrades who are committed to a search of knowledge and protecting diversity and scientific temper. And on the other side is a government armed with a majoritarian ideology mortgaged to markets and profits.

The writer is Rajya Sabha MP from the Communist Party of India



NOVEMBER 29, 1979, FORTY YEARS AGO

KERALA DRAMA

THE CHIEF MINISTER C H Mohammed Koya has recommended the dissolution of the Kerala Assembly followed by mid-term polls. Koya, whose support in the 140-member assembly plummeted from 71 to 49 following the decision of the Congress to move over to the opposite camp, has, however, chosen not to resign pending a final decision on his recommendation to the governor. The chief minister, who called on the governor early in the morning, told reporters in the evening that at the time he recommended dissolution, he had a majority in the Assembly. “Even now the Congress has not formally informed me of the withdrawal of its support,” he said.

US HOSTAGES

DESPITE AMERICA'S PRODDING, India has decided to keep aloof from the confrontation that is building up between Washington and Teheran, it is learnt. The government has not responded one way or the other to President Jimmy Carter's appeal to use its good offices for the release of hostages in Teheran. To save itself from embarrassment, New Delhi has allowed its ambassador to Iran, Vishnu Ahuja, to return from his post, long before he leaves for Tokyo on his new assignment. A few feelers at lower levels from some powers to show solidarity with “diplomats of all nations” have gone awry.

DANGE'S ON INDIRA

SRIPAD AMRIT DANGE, who has just resigned from the chairmanship of the Communist Party of India, feels that the party has “failed to understand Mrs Gandhi as a representative of the patriotic national bourgeoisie which is intrinsically anti-monopolist, anti-imperialist and anti-feudal”. In a note, dated November 23, to the members of the central executive committee and the national council of the party, Dange regrets that the party has adopted “a self-liquidationist line”. He laments that a section of the party leadership is “falling into the Sino-CPM net despite the lessons of 1959.” However, he is confident that “we will soon repent”.



On a new footing

There is room for a creative policy of economic engagement with Sri Lanka under Gotabaya Rajapaksa. Delhi must be seen as a friend of all communities in the country



C RAJA MOHAN

AS DELHI RECEIVES the new Sri Lankan President, Gotabaya Rajapaksa, there is considerable optimism about making a fresh start in the bilateral relationship that has endured unprecedented stress in the last few years. During his first term, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had made a big effort to normalise the relationship; but the fractures in Colombo's power structure and its poor governance limited the possibilities.

The return of the Rajapaksas has been widely feared as heralding the renewal of authoritarian rule in Sri Lanka. The election of a strong interlocutor, however, also offers Delhi an opportunity to explore the prospects for a reconstruction of the relationship. Unlike the previous government in Colombo that became dysfunctional due to deep differences between the president and prime minister, the Rajapaksas are now expected to bring political coherence.

In the last few days, Gotabaya has cleared the air on some issues of special interest to India. His visit to Delhi, the first trip abroad since the election, is a good occasion to build mutual trust with the new regime led by Gotabaya and his brother Mahinda, who has been appointed prime minister.

During his visit to Colombo last week, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar was signalling that India is ready for a fresh start in the relationship. This message was reinforced in a major speech this week by the Indian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, Taranjit Singh. Singh underlined the importance of the two countries putting the past behind them and looking at a more productive relationship.

Both sides have hopefully learnt much from their past mistakes and will find a new balance in the relationship. The central question is about managing proximity that imposes inextricable interdependence, for both good and bad. For Gotabaya, the challenge is to be mindful of the sensitivities of its larger neighbour. For Modi, it is about respecting the sovereignty of its smaller neighbour.

On his part, Gotabaya has publicly affirmed that Colombo will not do anything that might harm Delhi's interests. But he also expects that Delhi will respect Colombo's freedom of choice in the conduct of its foreign and domestic policies. Sri Lanka's ties to other powers has always been of some concern to Delhi and this problem today is focused on the nature of the ties between Colombo and Beijing. On the internal side, it is the prolonged conflict between the Sinhala majority and Tamil minority in Sri Lanka that has severely undermined bilateral ties in recent decades.

The Sri Lankan president said he is acutely conscious of the China factor in the bilateral relations with India. He has affirmed repeatedly that Colombo does not want to be caught in the rivalry among the major powers and that it will follow a policy of "neutrality". Without having to go into a strict definition of what neutrality might mean here, two important things stand out.

One is that Delhi can live with Colombo's neutrality — after all India has no need to develop either a military base in Sri Lanka or deploy its forces in an island that is physically so close to peninsular India. But Delhi certainly can't accept a situation where Sri Lanka lets the Peoples Liberation Army turn the Emerald Island into an aircraft carrier for China, or for any other power.

In affirming neutrality, Gotabaya is saying that he understands India's redlines and is prepared to respect them. As a realist, Gotabaya



CR Sasikumar

recognises that there is no national mileage for Lanka in provoking India. Gotabaya has gone a step further. He said it was a mistake for the previous government to have handed over the Hambantota port on a 99-year lease to China. He added that his government would like to renegotiate the agreement with China. Whether he can persuade Beijing or not is another matter, but his instincts on the question should be welcome in Delhi.

But on economic issues, Gotabaya made it clear that Lanka has every right to follow its national interest in engaging China. Delhi has no basis to object to this; after all, India itself is eager to expand the economic engagement with China despite many political disputes and clearly articulated objections to Beijing's Belt and Road Initiative. Lanka, like all other countries, can't afford to turn its back to the world's second-largest economy. In an important addition, Gotabaya said he wants all major countries including India, Japan, Singapore and the US to invest in Sri Lanka. Notwithstanding the deep statist tradition in Lanka, Gotabaya has promised to reform and reorient the economy. In other words, there is considerable room for creative Indian policy for economic engagement with Lanka under Gotabaya.

That brings us to the vexed question of the bitter legacy of the brutal civil war that shattered ethnic harmony in Sri Lanka. India's own tragic involvement in this conflict saw India become a major collateral casualty in the war. The end of the war did not materially improve India's position vis a vis Lanka.

Sceptics at home and abroad have been quick to write off Gotabaya as incapable of addressing the deep grievances of the Tamil minority in Sri Lanka. That the Tamils voted overwhelmingly against Gotabaya, the record of the Rajapaksas in government, and the strong majoritarian sentiment of their support base would seem to justify this scepticism. But Delhi should be prepared to listen with an open mind to what Gotabaya has to say and how he plans to deal with the problem. The most important lesson from the

Sceptics at home and abroad have been quick to write off Gotabaya as incapable of addressing the deep grievances of the Tamil minority in Sri Lanka. That the Tamils voted overwhelmingly against Gotabaya, the record of the Rajapaksas in government, and the strong majoritarian sentiment of their support base would seem to justify this scepticism. But Delhi should be prepared to listen with an open mind to what Gotabaya has to say and how he plans to deal with the problem.

Indian military intervention in Sri Lanka during the late 1980s is that Delhi's ability to shape its neighbour's domestic politics is limited. India's own diplomatic failures in Lanka also reveal that Delhi will be the loser if it makes the entire relationship hostage to the question of Tamil minority rights.

In the past, coalition politics at the Centre saw Delhi cede a veto to Chennai over its Lanka policy. The Modi government is stronger today vis a vis Chennai, but it can't simply pretend that the issue does not exist. Meanwhile, Gotabaya has affirmed that he will not take dictation from foreign powers on how to deal with the Tamil question. This is not very different from what India says in response to international concerns about the latest developments in Kashmir.

For Modi and Gotabaya, the challenge is to find a way out of this difficult corner. Mutually reinforcing steps along different axes could hopefully expand the possibilities not just for Delhi and Colombo but also Chennai and Jaffna. These steps could include Colombo's confidence building measures with the Tamils, Delhi's strong support for practical advances between Colombo and Jaffna, greater cross-border economic cooperation as well as between northern Sri Lanka and Tamil Nadu, and Delhi's political investment in resolving the fisheries dispute.

Delhi can't present itself as an impudent demandeur on Lanka's internal political arrangements. Such an approach, as we have seen, is counter productive. Instead, Delhi must be seen as a friend of all the communities in Sri Lanka that can offer its good offices to resolve problems between themselves. Colombo too will find that incremental progress on the Tamil question will rapidly widen its space in regional and global affairs and create better conditions for a much-needed economic renewal.

The writer is director, Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore and contributing editor on international affairs for The Indian Express

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

“To maintain ‘one country, two systems’, the Chinese mainland and the HKSAR need to work together. Anyone who colludes with external forces to undermine ‘one country, two systems’ must pay a heavy price.”

—GLOBAL TIMES, CHINA

How to regain friends in Sri Lanka

India has lost the moral high ground. But there are concrete steps it can take towards repairing the relationship with its southern neighbour



NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN

TWO QUICK DEVELOPMENTS took place in India-Sri Lanka relations in the days following the election of Gotabaya Rajapaksa as the President of Sri Lanka. First, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar upended at least two decades of established practice by taking the first flight to Colombo to greet the new president. Until now, it used to be a newly elected Sri Lankan president or prime minister who would make tracks to India for their first official visit abroad. The Colombo press used to describe the ritual as “doing puja to Delhi”.

This is the first time India did puja to Colombo, and it must have been immensely satisfying to Gota, as he is called by both critics and admirers. After all, just six years ago, he was summoned to Delhi when he was defence secretary during his brother Mahinda's presidency, and given a dressing down for not keeping India informed of a visit by a Chinese submarine. Jaishankar's visit was seen as India going the extra mile to get a foot in the door ahead of China with the new dispensation.

The second came on Jaishankar's return from Sri Lanka, when somewhat counter-intuitively, Delhi put out a statement that the minister had “conveyed to President Rajapaksa India's expectation that the Sri Lankan government will take forward the process of national reconciliation to arrive at a solution that meets the aspirations of the Tamil community for equality justice peace and dignity”. This is the first time in several years that India has pushed upfront its interest in the Tamil question.

Together, the two developments are seen as a signal that India is ready to go out of its way to repair its rocky relations with the Rajapaksa family, but would not hesitate to wield the Tamil issue as an instrument to prevent a pro-China tilt, and keep Gota on the straight and narrow.

Jaishankar's Colombo trip yielded a commitment from Gota, who arrived in Delhi on Thursday, that he would come to India for his first official foreign visit. For a government in Delhi obsessed with perception management, it would have been terrible optics had he gone off to Beijing first instead.

But let's face it. Gota will go to Beijing soon. As for the Tamil card, India's leverage in the matter at this point is overstated, if not misplaced. From Gotabaya's inauguration at the ancient Ruwanwelisaya temple in Anuradhapura, built by King Dutugemunu, the icon of Sinhala-Buddhism, whose fabled defeat of a Tamil king of the Chola dynasty has been immortalised in the epic *Mahavamsa*, to his appointment of a general accused of war crimes as the defence secretary, there is no sign that the new regime is worried about Indian or global concerns about Sri Lanka's minorities, both Tamil and Muslim.

After all, the new Sri Lanka, the one that

has elected Gota, has modelled itself after the new India. In its majoritarian sweep, Gota's victory is a mirror of the BJP's victory in India. The Sinhala-Buddhist extremist group Bodhu Bala Sena, with which he has links, and which has fomented communal violence in the island against Muslims and Christians, has made no secret of its admiration for Hindutva, for groups like the BJP and RSS to “protect” Buddhism, and for a “leader like Narendra Modi”.

Gota has made plain that he does not need those who vote “against” him. Tamils did not vote for him because of their memories of the war. Facing majoritarian wrath in the aftermath of the Easter bombings, the Muslim community too did not vote for him. His 51-member cabinet, has 49 Sinhalese, two Tamils and no Muslims.

Not just India's majoritarian swag, the democracy deficit in how India has dealt with Kashmir is being watched not only by liberal western democracies and what Jaishankar described as their “liberal English-language media”, but also by other nations with similar problems. The former watch, with concern, the latter with admiration. Certainly, Gota, the architect of the LTTE's military defeat, needs no lessons on how to handle a recalcitrant population. But India's handling of the Kashmir issue on the world stage must have encouraged him. The external affairs minister is on record that he does not care what a newspaper in New York thinks about India. Among the very first statements from the new president was that the war crime enquiries against the Sri Lankan army were imposed by “biased western NGOs”. Soon perhaps, Gota may say he does not care what a newspaper in Delhi, or for that matter Chennai, writes about Sri Lanka.

In short, India no longer occupies a moral high ground when it preaches to Sri Lanka about equality and justice for Tamils. Such words will be measured against India's own knuckle-duster policy in Kashmir, the NRC, lynchings, and other acts of bigotry now commonplace.

As for the Tamils, it's been at least a decade since they stopped placing their bets on India. Forget Delhi's decision to turn away from the 2009 end-of-war civilian massacre in northern Sri Lanka, India was unable — or unwilling — to influence a friendly Sri Lankan government that took charge in 2015 to get on with constitutional reform.

Worried about the Chinese gaining ground, over the last five years, Delhi put the Tamil question on the backburner. In 2015, Narendra Modi, the first Indian prime minister to visit Jaffna, advised Tamils to be “patient” with the new government. Now the Tamil community is leery of getting its hopes up.

But despite its own loss of a high pedestal, Delhi is not without options. For starters, it could appoint a Tamil as the next High Commissioner to Colombo. It has never been done before and it would send a stronger signal than a preachy statement from Delhi. India's pockets are not as deep as China's but appointing a Special Envoy to Sri Lanka, in the manner of US special representatives to Afpak, someone who knows China as well as Sri Lanka, may be another modest beginning toward making friends and regaining influence in Sri Lanka.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SENA'S CHALLENGE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘From Sena to party’ (IE, November 28). An assertive BJP under the Narendra Modi-Amit Shah seems to project itself as the sole inheritor of Hindutva politics. It was, therefore, expedient for the Shiv Sena to break the alliance. Uddhav Thackeray will have to run a government based on inherent contradictions. Turning political exigency into a governance success will be the challenge for the new CM.

Anirudh Parashar, Solan

FRINGE IN HOUSE

THIS REFERS TO the report, ‘Uproar as Pragma praises Godse again, this time in House, remark expunged’ (IE, November 28). Remarks such as the one in praise of Nathuram Godse were earlier attributed to so-called fringe elements. While Pragma Thakur's remarks have been expunged from record, there has been no public admonition of her.

L R Murmu, Delhi

IMPROPRIETY GALORE

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘Checkmated by the Constitution’ (IE, November 27). The central government's role in the recently-concluded political drama in Maharashtra throws light on the misuse

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.

of power. However, such tricks are not new. The governor's office was misused during Indira Gandhi's rule.

Virendra Piplwail, via e-mail

RIGHTS FORGOTTEN

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘Two sides of a coin’ (IE, November 27). What is the need to emphasise Fundamental Duties — not conceived as a part of the Constitution on November 26, 1949? Is it the most essential part of the Constitution? Why not discuss freedom of expression and the right to equality?

Afshin Rizvi, Lucknow

THE Urdu PRESS

AYODHYA, FINALLY

SIASAT ON NOVEMBER 11 writes that the various aspects in the Ayodhya “verdict must be analysed. The Supreme Court has accepted that the destruction of the Babri Masjid on December 6, 1992 was an illegal act but it has not said anything about bringing a speedy end to the trial on the matter or for the destroyers to be brought to justice. The Court has also accepted that the absence of namaz did not mean that the Muslims had abandoned the mosque.” The newspaper writes that as the Supreme Court is “the apex court, its decision must be accepted but all the legal points that must be considered should be, and if any action is to be taken, it must be explored. But no one must be allowed to take political advantage of the case — politics has gone on around the issue for long enough. This has changed the politics of the country, now, no more.”

Inqilab has an editorial on the same day titled, ‘After a long time!’. The paper opines: “The verdict was acceptable when it was not given, it is acceptable when it has been made public. The only difference is that before it there was hope, now there is none.” It adds: “Disappointment is not in order, but an ab-

sence of peace of mind is natural.” Elaborating on the reasons for this, the paper says, “the Babri Masjid matter was an old one. It has witnessed many ups and downs. There have been many court hearings, and every side has presented arguments. The country's top court would have examined witnesses and appeals, undoubtedly. It appears that more than evidence, the overall context was looked at.” The editorial adds: “The generation which had seen the mosque get destroyed by Hindutva forces is around today... What we (the paper) are unable to understand is how, if the Masjid is acknowledged as such, why was there no ruling in favour of it?”

Etemad, the Hyderabad-based paper of the AIMIM, says the main “worry is that it (the verdict) will now be used as an example in Kashi, Mathura and various other mosques that are deemed ‘controversial’.” It hits out at the Congress for supporting the verdict. The paper writes that “it is 27 years after the demolition of the Babri Masjid that the verdict is in, and it makes the road to the temple conducive. Those minorities that trusted the judiciary throughout are most concerned and uneasy. Minorities, at this sensitive time, have demonstrated that they

are peace-loving.”

Munsif, on November 12, devotes an editorial to the “exemplary patience” of Muslims. It writes that “like all judgments, in this case too, a consensus is difficult. But looking at the country's communal environment, the judges tried to please everyone and push through a consensus”. The editorial asserts that “non-Muslims are experiencing a wave of joy but Muslims are disappointed and this is natural. But the most important thing is that Muslims are peace-loving and accept the verdict of the Supreme Court without rancour. So, those who now ask for a certificate of patriotism from Muslims must get their heads examined.”

Calling attention to what happened when the Court announced its verdict, the editorial claims that “there were those on the lawns of the Court who blew conch shells and many lawyers raised slogans of Jai Shri Ram, the supporters of the Nirmohi Akhara and the Hindu Mahasabha came in a procession to the lawns.” The paper claims that those “on the other side, demonstrated that they had accepted the verdict, as they had always said they will and their purpose was to enforce the rule of law, as no section of society can be safe minus the rule of law.” The editorial also

quotes the late Chief Justice Verma — the “Supreme Court is final, but not infallible”.

MAHARASHTRA DRAMA

GOINGS ON IN Maharashtra's political theatre have received ample comment.

What stands out in Urdu dailies is unabashed praise for the NCP stalwart, Sharad Pawar, for ensuring a Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) being formed. *Inqilab* on November 28 speaks of “relief” that the MVA would take oath and that “it is settled.” *Urdu Times* has an editorial titled, ‘Pawar ka power’ on how “his quiet strategy and deft handling bore fruit”. It comments on how the Supreme Court may have realised that more time to prove support would mean horse-trading. The Court may have noted how democracy was trifled with earlier, when the swearing-in of Devendra Fadnavis was allowed, and that might happen again if the 15 days, as asked, were to be given.”

Roznama Rashtriya Sahara on the same day, characteristically vacillates and says the events underline how “there are no permanent friends or foes in politics”.

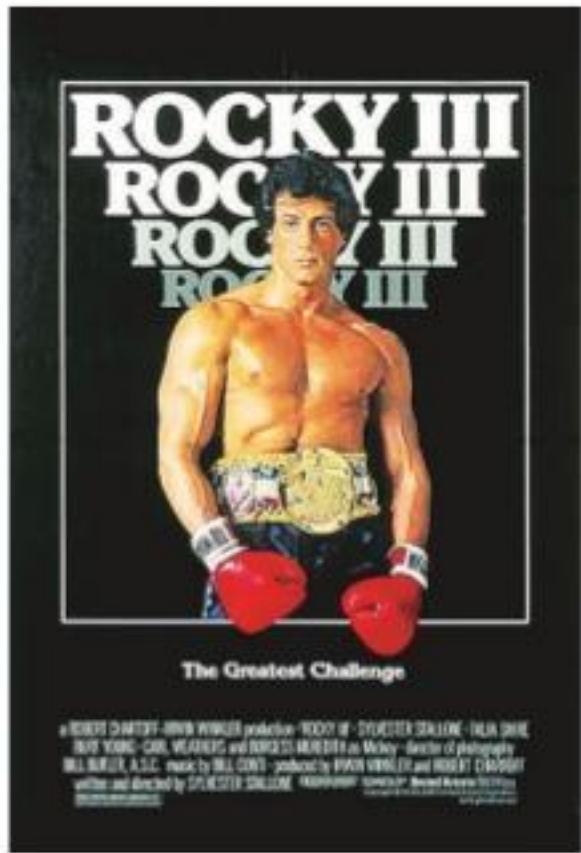
Compiled by Seema Chishty

FACT CHECK, GROUND REALITY

TRUMP'S 'ROCKY' TWEET: WHAT'S THE OCCASION, IS THERE A CONNECTION?



Donald Trump's tweet, and the original poster from 1982



ON WEDNESDAY, US President Donald Trump tweeted a morphed photo showing himself in a boxing outfit. The image, which is still viral, has Trump's face superimposed on a poster of the 1985 film *Rocky III*, while the body of actor-writer-director Sylvester Stallone remains in place. Trump wrote no caption to explain the tweet.

The Rocky films

Running since 1976, the series is one of the most successful ever. Six *Rocky* films between 1976 and 2006 show the boxer fighting against various odds, followed by the spin-off *Creed* (2015) and *Creed II* (2018) that feature an older Rocky Balboa as the trainer of Adonis Johnson, son of his deceased rival-turned-friend Apollo Creed. Rocky Balboa remains the definitive role, alongside Rambo, in making Stallone one of the best-known action heroes of his generation.

The series also owes much of its success to the critical acclaim earned by the first film in 1976. It shows Rocky Balboa, then a small-time boxer, taking on champion Apollo Creed and aiming not to win, but to survive the entire fight (without being knocked out) and earn self-respect. In a list of the 100 most inspirational American films compiled by the American Film Institute in 2006, *Rocky* (1976) is ranked fourth, after the classics *It's a Wonderful Life* (1946) and *To Kill a Mockingbird* (1962) and the relatively modern *Schindler's List* (1993).

The occasion & the mismatch

Wednesday happened to be the anniversary of the release of *Rocky IV*, which had opened in US theatres on November 27, 1985. The poster that was morphed in Trump's tweet, on the other hand, was of *Rocky III* (1982), which had released in May that year, not November. It is not clear whether Trump chose the wrong poster for the right occasion, or whether the anniversary was on his mind at all. A number of replies to his tweet made mocking references to Trump's perceived relationship with Russia, which has been accused of influencing his election in 2016. "Yeah, but Rocky actually fought the Russians," tweeted Eric Strangel, a TV and radio show writer-producer. In fact, in

SERIES & SPIN-OFF

Film	Writer	Director
Rocky (1976)	Stallone	John G. Avildsen
Rocky II (1979)	Stallone	Stallone
Rocky III (1982)	Stallone	Stallone
Rocky IV (1985)	Stallone	Stallone
Rocky V (1990)	Stallone	John G. Avildsen
Rocky Balboa (2006)	Stallone	Stallone
Creed (2015)	Various	Ryan Coogler
Creed II (2018)	Various*	Steven Caple Jr

*Stallone co-wrote screenplay for *Creed II*

only one film in the *Rocky* series is the boxer's rival connected with Russia — Ivan Drago of *Rocky IV* is a Ukrainian boxer backed by the Soviet Union.

Trump & Stallone

Stallone's signature runs across the series, and even the spin-offs. He created the original characters, wrote all six *Rocky* films and co-wrote the screenplay for one of the *Creed* films, directed four of the first six, was boxing choreographer for five of the six, and co-produced both *Creed* films. The relationship (or lack of it) between Trump and Stallone — both 73 and one born within a month of the other — has been a subject of interest in the past. In 2016, Stallone told *Variety* magazine: "I love Donald Trump." In December that year, *The New York Times* reported that Stallone had been offered an arts-related position in the Trump Administration, including as chairman of the United States' National Endowment for the Arts, but the actor issued a statement suggesting that he was not interested in such a role; he thought he would be more effective in helping military veterans "find gainful employment, suitable housing and financial assistance these heroes respectfully deserve". Earlier this year, Stallone told *Variety* that he did not vote for Trump (or anyone) in 2016.

KABIR FIRAQUE

SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER

FASTags: What, why, how

From December 1, such tags will be mandatory for toll payment on National Highways. Installed in vehicles, FASTag will enable electronic payment when it crosses a booth. How can it be bought, and how will it work?

AVISHEK G DASTIDAR
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 28

FROM DECEMBER 1, lanes on national highway toll plazas across India will accept toll only through FASTag — fitted in a vehicle that pays toll automatically when the vehicle crosses the boom barrier of the toll plaza. (One hybrid lane will continue to accept cash in addition to being tag-enabled.) All new vehicles bought over the last few years, in fact, already come with FASTag pre-installed. So, from next month, all 560-odd plazas under the control of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) will collect toll without human intervention, and vehicles need not stop to pay toll. The objective is to remove bottlenecks and capture all toll electronically.

How does FASTag work?

The device employs Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology for payments directly from the prepaid or savings account linked to it. It is affixed on the windscreen, so the vehicle can drive through plazas without stopping. RFID technology is similar to that used in transport access-control systems, like Metro smart card. If the tag is linked to a prepaid account like a wallet, or a debit/credit card, then owners need to recharge/top up the tag. If it is linked to a savings account, then money will get deducted automatically after the balance goes below a pre-defined threshold. Once a vehicle crosses the toll, the owner will get an SMS alert on the deduction. In that it is like a prepaid e-wallet. A FASTag is valid for five years, and can be recharged as and when required.

How can I buy it?

E-commerce portals like Amazon and PayTM sell these tags issued by various banks. They are available at 27,000 points of sale set up by 22 banks (see box) and the NHAI. At NHAI counters, mostly at toll plazas, the tag is free until December 1. Places where these counters are set up include Road Transport Authority offices, transport hubs, bank branches, and selected petrol pumps. A FASTag bought from NHAI comes with a one-time fee of Rs 100 besides a refundable security deposit of Rs 150. Apart from the currently free tags at NHAI booths, there is also a cashback of 2.5 per cent on FASTag transactions as an offer. In the tag taken from NHAI, the Rs 150 security deposit, which the government is bearing as a promotion, comes back to the user as wallet value if the FASTag is linked to the NHAI e-wallet in the "My FASTag app" mobile app. So in this particular scheme, the user gets Rs 150 back without even paying it.

What do I need to buy a FASTag, and what if I don't?

A copy of the vehicle registration certificate and a photo of the vehicle are enough to get a FASTag from NHAI, said officials. Banks may seek certain additional documents. Vehicles entering FASTag lanes without FASTag will be charged twice the toll amount. Will those living close to toll roads not end up paying more frequently? As per a government notification, users living within 10 km of a toll plaza can avail a concession on toll to be paid via FASTag. They need to submit proof of residence and nearest point-of-sale location to validate. Once the address is verified, the concession is ensured via FASTag affixed on the vehicle.

Is it working smoothly?

The tags sold by banks are not "bank-neutral". A FASTag bought from one bank can be recharged through that particular bank only and not through other banks. However, tags sold/distributed by NHAI are bank-neutral as one can use any bank account to



A banner promotes FASTag at Vashi in Mumbai. Security deposit is free at NHAI counters until December 1. Narendra Vaskar

INTERVIEW: NITIN GADKARI

'This will enable seamless movement, address fuel loss'

Why the December 1 deadline?

Well, we have been trying to popularise electronic toll collection through FASTags for years now but it was not really picking up. We had been behind targets in the past even though the number of tags issued was increasing. So we decided that in the interest of seamless movement of traffic on highways, let's do it. The ideal scenario is that you enter a toll road, when your vehicle number plate is electronically captured, and when you exit the road, the toll is automatically calculated and you pay through FASTag without having to stop.

There have been complaints on the technology, recharge and other issues...

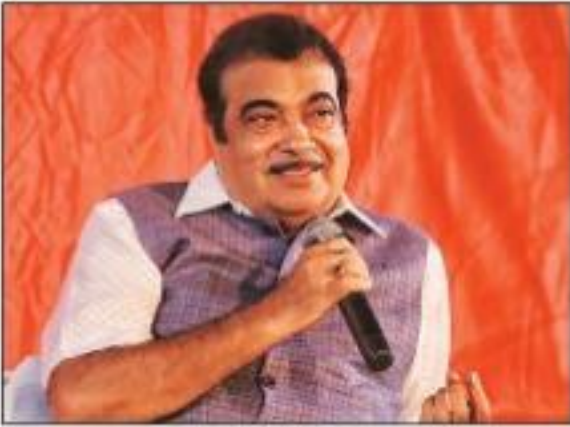
Yes, people are facing inconvenience, there are problems, I won't deny that. These are teething troubles associated with anything new. As and when new problems are arising, we are actively identifying them and resolving them. *Ek tareekh se pehle solve ho jayega.*

Is this idea an offshoot of demonetisation and subsequent push for Digital India?

We want seamless movement of vehicles and electronic toll collection, like it happens in many developed countries, like the US etc. As per a study by IIM Kolkata, the country loses fuel worth Rs 1.2 lakh crore every year thanks to vehicles standing in queue to pay toll at toll plazas. That's a waste. Even so much national time gets wasted. We want to address that.

When will state highways be on board?

See, all new cars and buses in the



country will have FASTags pre-installed. Now, we have decided that because of GST, some 21 types of various taxes stand withdrawn. As a result, state barriers on the roads conventionally for the collection of such taxes are not there anymore either. Therefore, there is no need for any vehicle, commercial or otherwise, to stop anywhere. We are working with states to implement this.

How are you working towards that?

In our endeavour to make "smart roads" we have told state governments to turn all their (cash toll points on) state highways into electronic toll collection points. For that we will help them in the conversion, free of charge.

How are you reviewing the implementation of this?

I am reviewing it very closely. I am getting feedback even from social media, where people are highlighting various issues. I am studying all of them. Even now, I am going for a meeting to review it with all officials.

Gadkari, Minister of Road Transport & Highways, spoke with Avishek G Dastidar

POINTS OF SALE

22 BANKS ISSUE FASTAGS

Axis Bank; ICICI; IDFC; SBI; HDFC; Karur Vysya Bank; Equitas Small Finance Bank; PayTM Payments Bank; Kotak Mahindra; Syndicate Bank; Federal Bank; South Indian Bank; PNB; Saraswat Bank; Fino Payments; City Union Bank; BoB; IndusInd; Yes Bank; Union Bank; Nagpur Nagarik Sahakari Bank; Airtel Payments Bank

WHERE TO BUY

Portals like Amazon and PayTM sell these tags. Available at 27,000 points of sale set up by 22 banks and National Highways Authority of India. Until December 1, free tag available at NHAI counters, mostly at the toll plazas.

has a customer-care link.

How did the idea come about?

A brainchild of Road Transport & Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari, the idea picked up after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for a "Digital India" post demonetisation. The government has been trying to make FASTag popular for years. Now, it has decided that the only way to bring vehicle owners on board was by making FASTag mandatory for toll payment. Sales have indeed picked up in the last few days. This has helped in no small measure by the announcement by Gadkari on November 21, that till December 1, the government will bear the security deposit of Rs 150, making the physical tag virtually free. The average daily sale of these tags grew 4 times from 8,000 in July to around 35,000 by the third week of November. On November 26, 1.35 lakh FASTags were issued, up from 1.05 lakh the day before. Average daily transactions processed through FASTag have grown from 8.8 lakh in July this year to 11.2 lakh in November, while the average daily electronic toll collection has grown from Rs 11.2 crore to Rs 19.5 crore for the same period. After the recent thrust, around 70 lakh FASTags have been issued so far and the number is growing.

What about state highways?

Under a new "One Nation One FASTag" scheme, the NHAI is trying to get states on board so that one tag can be used seamlessly across highways, irrespective of whether it is the state or the Centre that owns/manages it. Recently as part of a pilot, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Haryana signed MoUs with the Centre to accept FASTags in state highways also.

How climate change is reducing women's agency in Asian, African settings

YASHEE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 28

CLIMATE CHANGE is taking an especially high toll on women from weak socio-economic backgrounds, a new study published this week shows. Research led by the University of East Anglia in England used 25 case studies across three "climate change hotspots" in Africa and Asia to conclude that environmental degradation is reducing further the ability of women to make choices and take decisions that can impact their lives positively, including in adapting to climate change. The Asian "hotspots" were in India, Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Tajikistan, while the African ones were in Kenya, Ghana, Namibia, Mali, Ethiopia, and Senegal. The study, involving researchers from India, Nepal, Pakistan, South Africa, and the UK, was published in *Nature Climate Change* on November 25. ('A qualitative comparative

analysis of women's agency and adaptive capacity in climate change hotspots in Asia and Africa': Nitya Rao and others) Of the 25 case studies, 14 were in semi-arid regions, six in mountains and glacier-fed river basins, and five in deltas. These areas face a range of environmental risks such as droughts, floods, rainfall variability, land erosion and landslides, and glacial lake outburst floods. The predominant livelihoods include agriculture, livestock pastoralism, and fishing, supplemented by wage labour, petty trade, and income from remittances. 'Feminisation' of agriculture Climate change has led to erratic weather behaviour and altered the nature of soil and water, making occupations like farming less sustainable. As men migrate in search of better work, and since farming can't be totally abandoned, the women stay back, putting in extra labour into an activity that is no longer that productive economically. They do this in addition to their duties of



Membership of self-help groups often acts positively for women, but their gains are limited by the social context, says the study. Archive/For representation

looking after the household and their families, with no male partner to help them — at the cost of compromising with their health, nutrition, and leisure time, which adversely impacts various aspects of their well-being. And yet, the study says, the women have little control over how the money they earn is spent, or over what kind of crop is planted

on the farm. In semi-arid Kenya, for example, when men move away with livestock in search of better pastures, women lose "control over milk for consumption and sale, and have to work harder to provide nutritious food to their children". Earning, but it's not helping With the men gone, more women are entering the workforce. But their income is going into ensuring basic survival, and not helping their ability to take significant decisions, and to adapt to climate change. "Household poverty and environmental stress seem to combine to suppress women's agency even when favourable household norms are leading to improved participation of women in the workforce and voice in household decision-making," the study says. Kenyan women are working to supplement household income, but in risky jobs such as narcotics trade and sex work. In Mali and Ghana, women work on arid land that is often borrowed, without putting in invest-

ment that would make it sufficiently productive, and their labour more worthwhile. Institutions failing women While more women are working in farms, farmer associations and markets are controlled by men. In natural disasters, aid-distribution and local governance units are dominated by men, and women have to rely on male relatives. In India, the study says, several rural local body posts are reserved for women, but their decisions are largely driven by men. In Ghana, the researchers say, state interventions "seemed to impede both the traditional cohesion within communities and women's ability to diversify into more lucrative livelihoods. Focusing on cash crops, and providing formal extension services, typically controlled by men, they strengthened cultural norms that excluded women." In the Ganga-Brahmaputra delta in Bangladesh, state interventions in terms of planned relocation "negatively impacted women's agency", with available jobs, such

as those in export processing zones, being preferentially accessed by men. Women self-help groups (SHGs) "are often limited in number and lack the needed capacity, skills and opportunities to be effective and sustainable, especially where individual women and groups are dependent on natural resource systems for livelihood...", the researchers say. "Though membership of an SHG often acts positively for women's agency, it does not necessarily translate into decision-making authority outside the SHGs and within their homes. This (suggests)... that women's agency in one institutional site may not necessarily transfer uncontested to another — it is contextual and socially embedded." However, the study says some government measures, such as the public distribution system (PDS) for foodgrains in India, or pensions and social grants in Namibia, do grant women more agency, by taking care of basic survival and giving them more spending power.

TOPOF THE WORLD



CHINA

TikTok ‘sorry’ for taking down Xinjiang clip

Beijing: Chinese-owned app TikTok has admitted it briefly removed a viral video that condemned Beijing’s crackdown on Muslims in Xinjiang and apologised to the US teen who posted the clip. In a post that has been seen 1.6 million times, Feroza Aziz begins talking about eye-lash curling but quickly switches to decrying China’s mass detention of Uighurs and other minorities. Aziz said she had been blocked from posting on the app for a month after uploading the clip, then noted the video was taken down. As her posts on various platforms racked up millions of views, TikTok said it had not blocked her and her videos were still available. But later, the company admitted having removed the video “due to a human moderation error”.

ALBANIA

Death toll in earthquake goes up to 40

Duress: Rescue teams desperately sought survivors under rubble in Albania’s western town of Durres on Thursday hoping to pull out toddler twins alive, two days after a 6.4 magnitude quake killed at least 40 people. Spared by killer quakes since 1979, Albania lacks rescue know-how. Italy, Greece, Romania and others rushed teams in and they are searching for survivors as 530 after-shocks, some with a magnitude over 5, kept rocking buildings and scaring people. In the northern town of Thumane, where 22 people died, searches were halted after all victims were pulled out.

NEW ZEALAND

PM apologises for 1979 air disaster

Wellington: Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern offered an official apology Thursday on the 40th anniversary of New Zealand’s worst peacetime disaster, the Mount Erebus air crash in which 257 people died. An Air New Zealand DC-10 on a sightseeing flight over Antarctica slammed into remote Mount Erebus during “whiteout” conditions on the frozen continent on November 28, 1979, killing all on board. “That loss, in and of itself, was huge. It sent ripples across the country... but that loss and grief was compounded. It was undeniably worsened by the events that followed,” Ardern said.

KOREAN PENINSULA

N Korea fires 2 unidentified projectiles: Seoul

Seoul: North Korea fired two “unidentified projectiles” on Thursday — the Thanksgiving holiday in the US — Seoul said, as nuclear talks between Pyongyang and Washington remain deadlocked. The brief statement from the South’s Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said Pyongyang fired two projectiles eastwards from South Hamgyong province which came down in the Sea of Japan, also known as the East Sea.

ASIF SHAHZAD & ALASDAIR PAL

ISLAMABAD, NOVEMBER 28

PAKISTAN’S TOP court on Thursday gave the government six months to justify why it granted a controversial extension to the country’s Army Chief, in a rare case that pits the judiciary against the government and the military.

The Cabinet of Prime Minister Imran Khan approved a three-year extension for General Qamar Javed Bajwa in August, citing a worsening national security situation in the region over its rivalry with India.

But in a surprise ruling on Tuesday, the Supreme Court suspended the extension, citing a series of irregularities and ordering the government and the army to produce legal provisions and detailed arguments on the reasoning behind the move.

On Thursday the court granted a temporary six-month

British Sikh candidate slams election rival over remarks about his turban

ADITI KHANNA

LONDON, NOVEMBER 28

A BRITISH Sikh candidate contesting the December 12 UK general election for the Opposition Labour Party has accused his Conservative Party rival of insulting remarks that targeted his turban during an event in the West Midlands region of England.

Kuldip Sahota, contesting the Ludlow constituency in Shropshire, demanded a Conservative Party investigation after Philip Dunne said he was “speaking through his turban” during an exchange about the region’s education budgets, attracting gasps from the audience.

“I was shocked and deeply hurt that someone who was an MP for 14 years would make such a derogatory comment about the Sikh faith. This is extremely insulting to the Sikh community,” said Sahota.

“These are the kind of offensive comments I remember receiving in the 1970s. They have no place in modern Britain and they certainly have no place in our Parliament. I hope the Conservatives will investigate the matter immediately,” he said.

Dunne, a former minister, issued a statement apologising for the remarks after it attracted criticism on social media. “I apologised to Kuldip Sahota for my comments last night. I apologise again unreservedly for the offence caused,” said Dunne. PTI

Maldives ex-president sentenced to 5 yrs in jail

MOHAMED JUNAYD

MALE, NOVEMBER 28

FORMER MALDIVES president Abdulla Yameen was convicted and sentenced to five years in prison for money laundering on Thursday — as dozens of his supporters gathered outside the court



The Cabinet had approved a three-year extension for General Qamar Javed Bajwa in August, citing a worsening national security situation in the region. Reuters

extension to Bajwa’s tenure, due to end at midnight, but said the government must pass legislation through Parliament in that time to clarify the section of Pakistan’s constitution governing the armed forces.

“We are showing judicial restraint although there is no pro-

vision in law to grant an extension,” Chief Justice Asif Saeed Khosa told the court. “We leave this matter to Parliament to make law regarding this.”

Khan welcomed the verdict on Thursday.

“Today must be a great disappointment to those who ex-

pected the country to be destabilised by a clash of institutions,” he said in a tweet.

But despite giving a temporary reprieve over its handling of the extension, the episode could weaken the authority of the coalition government, led by Khan’s Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, that now has to pass what is likely to be complex legislation on the military through Parliament.

The civilian government has enjoyed good relations with the armed forces, in contrast to the previous government of Khan’s main rival Nawaz Sharif.

It has also led to questions about the future of Bajwa, who has led the military through a period of escalating tensions with India and western neighbour Afghanistan.

The abrupt decision of the court to suspend Bajwa’s extension, and the government’s reaction, has been branded “a comedy of errors” by Pakistan’s

media, which is rarely critical of the military.

“This is without a doubt the most shambolic episode in the PTI government’s tenure so far,” said an editorial in Dawn, the country’s leading English-language newspaper on Thursday.

“Surely there are other officers more than capable of leading the Army. General Bajwa’s next step will determine whether he is thinking of himself or his institution.”

Bajwa was commissioned as an Army officer in 1980. As a general, he has served as a field commander of units stationed in regions where India and Pakistan have fought two wars since both won independence from Britain in 1947.

Upon his appointment by Sharif in 2016, a government minister said Bajwa was picked because of his low-key style, and felt the general would be more willing to cede control of key areas to the government. REUTERS

27 IRAQI PROTESTERS KILLED AFTER IRAN MISSION TORCHED



The Iranian consulate in Najaf, Iraq, after Iraqi demonstrators stormed and set fire to it. Reuters

China warns US after Trump signs Bill backing HK protesters

JESSIE PANG

HONG KONG, BEIJING, NOVEMBER 28

CHINA WARNED the United States on Thursday that it would take “firm counter measures” in response to US legislation backing anti-government protesters in Hong Kong, and said attempts to interfere in the Chinese-ruled city were doomed to fail.

US President Donald Trump on Wednesday signed into law congressional legislation which supported the protesters, despite angry objections from Beijing,



Protesters in Hong Kong staged a ‘thanksgiving’ rally, with many holding US flags. Reuters

with which he is seeking a deal to end a damaging trade war.

Protesters in Hong Kong responded by staging a “thanksgiving” rally, with hundreds of people, some draped in US flags, gathering in the heart of the city.

The law requires the State Department to certify, at least annually, that Hong Kong is autonomous enough to justify favourable trading terms that have helped it become a financial centre. REUTERS

EU Parliament announces symbolic climate emergency ahead of Dec summit

JONAS EKBLOM

BRUSSELS, NOVEMBER 28

EUROPEAN UNION lawmakers declared a “climate emergency” on Thursday in a symbolic vote that heightens pressure for action against global warming at an upcoming summit.

With increasingly erratic weather patterns from wildfires in Australia to floods in Europe being linked to climate change, governments are under scrutiny to find urgent solutions at the UN summit in Spain on December 2-13.

After a debate on Monday night, the European Union (EU) legislature voted in favour of the declaration with 429 lawmakers for, 225 against and 19 abstaining.

“It is not about politics, it is a matter of our common responsibility,” said parliament’s environment committee chairman Pascal Canfin of the Renew Europe group. Dissenters objected to the word “emergency”, saying it was too drastic, and “urgency” would suffice. REUTERS

US: 90 more students, mostly Indians, held from fake university

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

WASHINGTON, NOVEMBER 28

FEDERAL LAW enforcement agencies have arrested 90 foreign students, mostly from India, enrolled in a fake university established by the US government to check immigration fraud, a media report has said.

The US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has so far arrested more than 250 students, who were lured to enroll in the now-closed University of Farmington in the Detroit metropolitan area by the Department of Homeland Security.

The ICE had in March arrested 161 students from the fake university established by it. When it was closed in March, there were 600 students, mostly Indians, enrolled in it.

The latest news of arrest of additional 90 students in recent months, first reported by the Detroit Free Press, has resulted in outrage with #AbolishICE hashtag gaining ground social media platforms on Wednesday.

According to an ICE spokesperson of the 250 students arrested so far, “nearly 80 per cent were granted voluntary departure and departed the United States.”

Federal prosecutors claim that the students knew that this was a fake university and enrolled in it to continue living in the US.

Senator Elizabeth Warren, a leading Democratic presidential candidate, described the move as “cruel”. “This is cruel and appalling,” she said in a tweet. “These students simply dreamed of getting the high-quality higher edu-

At 17.5 million, Indian diaspora largest in the world : UN report

YOSHITA SINGH

UNITED NATIONS, NOVEMBER 28

INDIA CONTINUES to be the largest country of origin of international migrants with a 17.5 million-strong diaspora across the world, and the country received the highest remittance of \$78.6 billion from Indians living abroad, the UN migration agency said.

The International Organisation for Migration said in its ‘Global Migration Report 2020’ that the number of international migrants in 2019 is now estimated at 270 million and the top destination remains the US, at nearly 51 million.

In its latest global report, the IOM noted that the overall figure represents just a tiny fraction of the world’s population, although it is a 0.1 per cent increase on the level indicated in its last report, published two years ago.

“This figure remains a very small percentage of the world’s population (at 3.5 per cent), meaning that the vast majority of people globally (96.5 per cent) are estimated to be residing in the country in which they were born,” IOM’s Global Migration Report 2020 said.

According to the UN agency, more than half of all international migrants (141 million) live in Europe and North America. An estimated 52 per cent are male, and nearly two-thirds of all migrants are looking for work; that’s around 164 million people.

EXPLAINED A fake university set up by the govt

THE WEBSITE of the University of Farmington displayed pictures of “students” on its lawns and in its library. It was on a US Department of Homeland Security list of certified colleges for students from abroad. But more than 250 students were arrested for enrolling in it on valid student visas. This is because the university was a fake one set up by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). ICE says the students knowingly enrolled in a fake university to stay and work in the US on a student visa. However, critics of ICE say the government entrapped the students with a seemingly legitimate university. They also argue this was an inefficient way to detect visa fraud as the university enrolled only 600 students, just a fraction of the more than 300,000 student visas the US issues annually.

cation America can offer. ICE deceived and entrapped them, just to deport them,” Warren said.

Eight recruiters have been indicted for conspiracy to commit visa fraud and harbouring “aliens” for profit by the US Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan.

63% HIKE IN UK STUDENT VISAS ISSUED TO INDIANS

London: The UK government on Thursday hailed as “remarkable” a 63 per cent hike in the number of Indian students being granted visas to study at British universities over the past year. The latest statistics released by the UK’s Office for National Statistics reveal that 30,550 Indian students received a Tier 4 Study Visa for the year ending September 2019, up from nearly 18,730 the previous year. The ONS data overall indicates that over the last decade, around 270,000 Indian students have chosen the UK as a higher education destination. PTI

India continued to be the largest country of origin of international migrants. It is followed by Mexico (11.8 million) and China (10.7 million). The top destination country remained the US (50.7 million international migrants).

The report also noted that international remittances increased to \$689 billion in 2018. The top three remittance recipients were India (\$78.6 billion), China (\$67.4 billion) and Mexico (\$35.7 billion). PTI

AFTER THE RAJAPAKSAS RETURNED TO POWER

Sri Lankan critics fear a crackdown is underway, and some flee

MARIA ABI-HABIB

& SAMEER YASIR

NOVEMBER 28

FEARS OF a potential crackdown on critics of the newly returned Rajapaksa political dynasty in Sri Lanka are rising just days after the election, as officials and journalists who investigated the Rajapaksas for human rights abuses and corruption began trying to flee the country, officials said.

In a case that raised particular alarm, a Sri Lankan employee of the Swiss Embassy in Colombo was abducted Monday by

unidentified men and forced to hand over sensitive embassy information, Switzerland’s foreign ministry said. Officials in Colombo said the men forced her to unlock her cellphone data, which contained information about Sri Lankans who have recently sought asylum in Switzerland and the names of Sri Lankans who aided them as they fled the country because they feared for their safety after Gotabaya Rajapaksa won the presidency in elections this month.

On the same day, Rajapaksa imposed a blanket travel ban on more than 700 members of the



Gotabaya Rajapaksa won the presidency earlier this month

Sri Lankan police unit that had been investigating the family. And other police officers raided a news

outlet critical of the Rajapaksas and forced several journalists to hand their computers over for

analysis, in what the police said was an investigation into accusations of hate speech.

On Wednesday, a spokesman for Rajapaksa at first denied the abduction of the Swiss Embassy employee, and then hours later said that “defence authorities have decided to look into those allegations to ascertain the truth”. More broadly, government officials said there was no intent to quash investigations of the Rajapaksas.

In the abduction case, the diplomatic officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of security concerns, said the men held the embassy em-

ployee for several hours and then, before releasing her, threatened to kill her if she told anyone.

The officials said the men appeared to be focused on finding information about a Sri Lankan detective who had been investigating Rajapaksa. The detective fled to Switzerland with his family Sunday. It was not clear whether the men were connected to Rajapaksa or were acting on their own as supporters of the popular leader and his political dynasty.

A spokesman for the Swiss Foreign Ministry, Pierre-Alain Eltschinger, told The New York Times, “We can confirm that a lo-

cal employee of the embassy was detained against her will on the street and threatened at length by unidentified men in order to force her to disclose embassy-related information.”

“Switzerland regards this incident as a very serious and unacceptable attack,” he said, adding that the Swiss government was “demanding an immediate and complete investigation into the circumstances surrounding the incident.”

The Rajapaksa family had held power for a decade until 2015, when they were voted out of office. NYT

Classifieds

PERSONAL

This is to inform that I, Shabina Aijaz W/o Aijaz Jilani R/o-232-C, Express View-Apartment, Sector-93, Noida-201305, Distt- Gautam BudhNagar, U.P, have changed my name to Shabina Jilani for all purposes.

0040522268-8

I, Vinay Kumar S/o Shyam Sunder Prasad R/o- 1187-B,UGF, Street No.13, Govind Puri, Kalkaji, Delhi-110019, have changed my Name to Vinay Jaiswal.

0040522244-1

I, Vikas Kumar Sharma S/o- Balwan Singh, R/o-B-74, Yadav Nagar, Samai Pur, North West Delhi, Delhi-110042, have changed my name to Vikas Kumar for all future Purposes.If anything happens in future, I will be responsible for it.

0040522244-4

I, Sheela Pathak W/o Chander Prakash Bhargava, R/o-E-80, DTC Colony, Hari Nagar, New Delhi-110064, Have Changed my name to Sheela Bhargava for all Future purposes.

0040522244-2

I, Rashmi Bhanot W/o- Parmod Kumar Bhanot, R/o-4B/50, First-Floor Old Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi-60, have changed my name to Vijay Lakshmi Bhanot for, all Purposes

0040522128-3

I, Jugal Kishore Uppal, S/o- Late Suresh Kumar Uppal, R/o-125-126, Double Storey, New- Rajinder, Nagar, New Delhi-60, have inform, that Jugal Kishore Uppal, and Jugal Uppal is one, and the Same. Person.

0040522128-4

I, hitherto known as Monika Sharma D/O Gurbax Rai Sharma W/O Sanjay Kumar Bhanot R/O- C4D/81C, JanakPuri, New Delhi-110058. Have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Monika Bhanot.

0040522277-6

I, Zeenat Aman W/o Maaz Uddin Ansari D/o Abdul Salam R/o Flat No.906, Tower-B, Jamia Apartment, Sector-Pi-1, Greater Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, UP-201306 have changed my name to Zeenat Ansari for all purposes.

0040522225-2

I, Vimla Sharma W/O Sahdev Sharma R/O-A-2/345, Second Floor, Sector-8, Rohini, Delhi Changed Name To Bimla Sharma.

0040522277-1

I, Vimal Prasad Uniyal S/o Rewat Uniyal R/O-T-106, Punjabi Basti, Baljeet Nagar, New Delhi-110008. Have changed my name to Vimal Prasad Uniyal for all future purposes.

0040522215-1

I, Ved Smrita D/o Subhash Khari R/o- H.No.273-C, Kumhar Wali-Gali, Rampura, Onkarnagar, Delhi-110035, that my father's name is mentioned in my adhaar card as Subhash. But my father's actual name is Subhash Khari.

0040522285-5

I, Tarun Tyagi S/o Sh. Swaraj Singh Tyagi, R/O-H.No-866A, NyayKhand-1, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad, UP, Pin Code-201014, have changed my name Tarun Kumar Tyagi to Tarun Tyagi for all purposes in future.

0040522223-1

I, Chandra Parkash Bhargava, S/o-Jagan Nath Bhargava, R/o-E-80, DTC Colony, Hari Nagar, New Delhi-110064, Have Changed my name to Chander Prakash Bhargava for all Future purposes.

0040522244-3

I, Taranjit Kaur Reen W/O Taranmeet Singh Gujral R/O-S-2/218, Old Mahavir Nagar, Tilak Nagar, New Delhi-110018, have changed my name to Taranjit Kaur.

0040522289-2

I, Sunita DIALANI W/o Sachin Motwani residing B-7/19, Second Floor, Mianwali Nagar, Delhi-110087, have changed my name to Akshara Motwani for all purposes.

0040522213-1

I, Summat Devi spouse of no. 14420744W BHM Satish Kumar resi. at VPO Sangta Teh.& Distt. Bhiwani, Haryana-127309. My name is Sammat Devi is wrongly publish in army record but my correct name is Summat Devi vide affi.no 282/101 Dated 20.11.2019.

0040522205-1

I, Sufi Khatoon Akhtar W/o Hamid Akhtar R/o-C-216.S.F. Avantika Sector-1 Rohini, Delhi-85. Changed my name to Sufi Khatoon.

0040522248-5

I, Simran Sehgal S/o Sh. Harvinder Singh Sehgal R/o F-2/29 Ground Floor, Sector-15, Rohini, Delhi-110089, have changed my name to Samar Singh Sehgal for all purposes.

0040522209-1

I, Shelika Duggal W/O Puneet Pal Singh R/O-KD-239, Pitampura, Delhi-110034. Changed my name to Shelika Luthra.

0040522248-7

I, Sehdev Sharma S/O Dharmpal Sharma R/O A-2/345, Second Floor, Sector-8 Rohini, Delhi Changed Name To Sahdev Sharma.

0040522268-10

I, Sarita Uniyal W/o Vimal Prasad Uniyal R/o-T-106, Punjabi Basti, Baljeet Nagar, New Delhi-110008. Have changed my name to Sarita Uniyal for all future purposes.

0040522217-1

I, Sachin Kumar S/o Late Prakash Chand R/o-78/5635, Regarpura, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005 have changed my name to Sachin Kumar Jalutharia.

0040522285-2

I, Maaz Uddin S/o Mohd Yasin Ansari R/O Flat No.906, Tower-B, Jamia Apartment, Sector-Pi-1, Greater Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, UP-201306 have changed my name to Maaz Uddin Ansari for all purposes.

0040522225-1

I, Km Renu D/O Raj Bahadur R/O- Kh.No.98/11, 3rd-Floor, Block-B, Sukhbir-Nagar, Karala, Delhi-81. Have Changed My Name To Renu Singh.

0040522248-10

I, Khurshid Jahan W/o Riyazuddin R/o 9676, Islam Ganj Library Road, Azad Market, Delhi-110006, have changed my name to Khurshid Begum for all purposes.

0040522297-1

I, Kanta W/o Sachin Kumar R/o 78/5635, Regarpura, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005 have changed my name to Kanta Devi.

0040522285-1

I, Rai Pawan Ajit S/o Ajit Rai R/o H.No. 501, Sector 16, Faridabad have changed my name to Pawan Rai.

0040522268-1

I, Kamaldeep Singh Bagga S/O Bachitter Singh R/O 17, Priyadarshni Vihar, Part-1, Delhi-110009. Have Changed My Name To Kamaldeep Singh.

0040522290-11

I, Istiak Khan S/O Ashfaq Khan., R/O-B-14/B-Block-B Abdul Fazal Enclave -1, Jamianagar Okhla Delhi-110025, Changed My Name To Ishtiyaq Khan.

0040522290-9

I, Iqbal Ahamad Khan S/O Shafiq Ahmad Faizi R/o-H.No.803, Rajeev-Nagar, Khora-Colony, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201001 have changed my name to Iqbal Ahmad.

0040522289-5

I, Hayat Singh Bohra, S/o Dalip Singh, R/o P.O. Chalthi, Deური, Champawat, Uttarakhand 262523. DOB: 01 Jan. 1950, have changed my name from Hayat Singh Bohra to Hayat Singh for all purposes.

0070685781-1

I, Hassan Abbass S/o Rahmatullah R/O-K-1/18C/47, Gali.No.18, Sangam Vihar, New Delhi-110080, have changed my name to Hasan Abbas.

0040522289-3

I, Harmesh Kumari W/o Sh. Madan Lal Puniani R/o 235-G, MIG Flats, Rajouri Garden, New Delhi-110027 have changed my name after marriage Harmesh Kumari to Madhu Puniani for all legal purposes.

0040522199-1

I, Guninder Kaur W/O Sarvpreet Singh R/o WZ-132 Street No.12 Krishna Puri Delhi-110018 have changed my name to Gina Sawhney.

0040522290-3

I, Gourav Gulati S/O Ved Parkash Gulati H.No-309/12, Arjun Nagar Gurugram, Haryana, Have Changed My Name To Gaurav Gulati.

0040522289-7

I, Ginni Kharbanda W/O Gaurav Gulati H.No-309/12 Arjun Nagar Gurugram Haryana Have Changed My Name To Ginni Gulati.

0040522289-6

I, Eashani D/o Debabrata Guha Roy R/O-A-204, Sector-5, Plot-10, Shreekrishna Apts., Dwarka, N.Delhi-75 have changed my name to Eashani Guha Roy.

0040522285-3

I, Dev Vrat S/o Sanjay Chaudhary R/o Flat No-57 Nagin Lake Apartment Paschim Vihar Delhi-87, have changed my name to Devvrat for all purposes.

0040522277-2

I, Chaudhary Pawan and Neeraj respectively S/o Suresh Singh, R/o Barauli, Bulandshahar, UP-202395, declare that name of mine and my Wife has been wrongly written as Pawan Choudhary and Neeraj Devi respectively in my minor Daughter Teena Choudhary aged 15 years in her School Records. The actual name of mine and my Wife is Chaudhary Pawan and Neeraj respectively.

0070685749-1

I, CHANDERKANTA w/o Ankit Arya, Residing at-H.no. E-343, Street no.20/2, east-gokalpur Delhi-110094, informs that name of mine has been wrongly-written as Divya in my pan card(FDPFD1612E).The actual name of mine is Chanderkanta Respectively Which may be amended accordingly.

0040522277-3

I, Birdi Chand S/O Mala Ram R/O B-71, Janta-Flats, Manglapuri, Phase-2, Palam, New-Delhi-110045. Have Changed my Name to Virdi Chand.

0040522289-1

I, Ashish Singhal F/O Avni R/O plot no.-108, flat no.-203, sector-4, vaishali, ghaziabad , pin code-201010, U.P have changed my minor daughter's name from Avni to Avni Singhal for all future purposes

0040522299-1

I, Anbu Lamba w/o Sh.Dhanpal Lamba R/O-10-C, SFS DDA flats Motiakhan, Paharganj New Delhi-110055, have changed my name to Sunita Lamba.

0040522248-8

I, Anoop Kumar S/O Joginder Goyal R/O E-1/275, Shiv Ram Park, Nangloi, New Delhi-110041 have changed my name to Anoop Kumar Goyal for all purposes.

0040522222-1

I, Anjum Fatima W/O Ishtiyaq Khan., R/O-B-14/B, Block-B, Abdul Fazal Enclave-1, Jamia Nagar, Delhi 110025. Changed My Name To Anjum Khanam.

0040522290-8

I, Anil Kumar S/o Shri Balwant Singh R/o 708, CGHS, Plot No.-42, Sec-10, Dwarka, New Delhi 75, have changed my name Anil Kumar Yadav for all purposes.

0050159133-1

I, Aleykutty T.J. D/O Joseph Thottunkal R/O-Holy Child Auxilium School, R.K. Puram, Sector-XII, New Delhi-110022, Have Changed My Name To Aleykutty Joseph.

0040522289-8

I, Aaditya Kumar Ahooja S/O Dileep Kumar R/O-Plot.No.559 Flat No.F-3, Second-floor, Nitikhand-1, Indrapuram Ghaziabad-UP have changed my name to Aaditya Ahooja.

0040522268-7

Ihitherto known as Avtokit Kaushik D/o Bal Raj Verma Residing at H.No.-1847, Sector-23, HUDA, Gurugram, Haryana-120001, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Aashvi Verma.

0040522277-7

Ihitherto known as Ashlish Juneja - S/o Shri Amar Nath Juneja residing at B-11/ 8012, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Asheesh Juneja. It is certified that i have complied with other legal requirement in this connection.

0050159092-1

TsuryaBhan Singh S/o Ram Niranjan Yadav R/O 46-A 2nd Floor Single Storey Ramesh Nagar New Delhi-110015, have changed my name to Suraj Bhan Yadav.

0040522290-5

Tsuresh Maggu W/o Shri Krishan Gopal Magu R/o 104, Bhera Enclave, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-110087 have changed my name to Suresh Mago for all purposes.

0040522200-2

Tshatrughan Singh S/o Suraj Bhan Yadav R/o 46-A 2nd Floor Single Storey Ramesh Nagar New Delhi-110015, have changed my name to Shatrughan Yadav.

0040522290-6

TNibedita Rout W/O Priyabrata Majhi Address- Taktikijharan Badapathara Taktijharan Badapathar, Khunta, Mayurbhanj Odisha-757074., changed my name to Nibedita majhi.

0040522268-3

TKrishan Gopal Maggu S/o Late Sh. Kasturi Lal Mago R/o 104, Bhera Enclave, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-110087 have changed my name to Krishan Gopal Maggu for all purposes.

0040522200-3

Tjoginder Kumar Chugh S/O Late Sh.Ram Kishan Chugh R/O C-49, Kallol Apartment, Plot No.35, Patparganj, I.P.Extension, East Delhi, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092 have changed the name of my minor son from Saiyam Chugh to Kiyansh Chugh for all purposes.

0040522201-1

Tcharanjit Singh S/O Amrik Singh R/o 2989/6, Gali No-14, Ranjeet Nagar Delhi-8 have changed my name to Charanjeet Singh.

0040522290-4

Tbilal Ahmed S/O Mohd Yahya R/O 1323, Gali Karkhane Wali, TilakBazar Delhi North Delhi Delhi 110006, Changed My Name To Mohd Bilal.

0040522290-10

Tbhulli Khatun W/O Mohammad Rizwan Add-Flat No-C-604, Shri.Ganinath Cghs-Ltd, Plot.No-01, Sec-5, Dwarka, N.Delhi-110075. Changed My Name To Gulshan Khatun.

0040522268-6

Tatul Kumar Jindal S/O Sushil Kumar Jindal R/O-Flat No-502, Mahesh Apartments Sector-21c, Part 3 Faridabad Haryana 121001. Have Changed My Name To Atul Jindal.

00405222304-1

Tneeraj S/O Mahavir Singh R/O- 124 A Begumpur Village Malviya Nagar-110017., have Changed My Name To Neeraj Gulia.

0040522304-2

Tashok Kumar S/O Mahavir Prashad R/O-A2/227 1st Floor, Janak Puri West Delhi-110058., HAVE Changed My Name To Ashok Kumar Aggarwal.

0040522304-3

Ianita Sharma D/O Late Sh.Mahinder Singh W/o Prashant Kumar R/O BL-7, L-Block, Anand Vihar, Jail Road, Hari Nagar, Delhi have changed my name to Anita Sharma Kumar for all purposes.

0040522201-2

Ianchal D/o Sh. Rajesh Kumar R/O 2C, Block-4, Sector-2, DIZ Area, Peshwa Road, Gole Market, Delhi-110001 have changed my name to Anchal Kumari for all purposes.

0040522200-1

I, Mahindhar Sharma S/o Raviddt Sharma R/O F-1005, Fortune Residency, Raj Nagar Extension, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201017, have changed my name to Mahidhar Sharma.

0040522285-8

I, Piyush Choudhary S/o Sachey Singh R/O-C-3/130 Yamuna-Vihar Delhi-110053, have lost my original-certificate class-10(2014) rollno-8127455 class-12(2016) rollno-9124127 CBSE-Delhi.

0040522277-8

I, Vipin Kumar Sharma, S/o-Dharamveer Sharma, R/O-C-2/146, New.Ashok-Nager, Delhi-96, have.Lost my Original-Certificates of,Class-10th(2014)R.No.8607184,Class-12th(2016)R.No.9605501.CBSE-Delhi, and Aadhar-Card, Pan-Card, Bank Debit-Card etc.If found please,contact.

0040522271-1

I Bharat Bhushan Chhabra S/o LT.Sh.Mulakh Raj Chhabra R/o 275 Bhai Parmanand Colony, Delhi-9, have lost my Share Certificate Sandeep co-op Group Housing Society Ltd. Plot.No.35, Sector-13, Rohini Delhi-110085, Membership No.197.

0040522248-1

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is hereby informed through this general public that my client Shri. Jai Pal Garg S/o Shri Mangla Ram and Mr. Parveen Rani W/o Shri. Jai Pal Garg, R/o Flat no. 05, White House Apartment, Plot No. 34, Sector-13, Rohini, New-Delhi-110019, have debarred and disowned his son namely Mr. Rohit Garg s/o Shri. Jai Pal Garg, and his wife Ms. Aditi Garg & Ashi Agarwal W/o Shri. Rohit Garg from their movable and immovable properties as they have severed all relations with him. Due to their disrespectful and unethical behavior towards my client, my client has also severed all relations with them and if anybody deals with them in any manner, he/she shall do so at his/her own risk, cost and consequences. My client shall not be responsible in any manner, whatsoever for the same.

MANDEEP BANSAL (Advocate)
D-1186, Sector-7, G.F. Rohini, Delhi-110085

PUBLIC NOTICE
Be it known to all concerned that my client Arminder Singh S/o Shri Raghubir Singh and his wife Smt Harpreet Kaur R/o B-6/9, 1st Floor, Old Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi-110064, have severed all their relations with their son Angad Singh @ Manny and his wife Parveen Deep Kaur @ Komal from their movable and immovable properties as they have become disobedient, disloyal and disrespectful to my clients and have been acting against their interest. Anybody dealing with said Angad Singh @ Manny and his wife Parveen Deep Kaur @ Komal shall be doing so at his/her own risk, cost and responsibility and my clients shall not held responsible in any manner whatsoever for any of their acts.

Sd/-
(RISHI TEWARI)
ADVOCATE
394-395 CIVIL WING
TIS HAZARI COURTS, DELHI-110054

PUBLIC NOTICE
[This is to bring to public notice that my client Mrs. Uditya Saini W/o Mr. Pankaj Khanna, R/o B-5/396, Yamuna Vihar, Delhi-110053, intends to purchase a DDA MIG flat with the address :- Flat number 108, Pocket-6, Sector-23, Rohini, Delhi-110085 (with Scooter Garage) from the owner of the flat viz. Mrs. Bharati Banerjee and Mr. Nirjhar Banerjee, R/O D-657, Chittaranjan Park, Delhi-110019. Any person who claims to be legal heir of this property and/or has an objection to the deal, may contact me i.e. Rajesh Yadav Advocate, Ch. No.461, Western Wing, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi. M.C.B.-9971480425, 9910046244, within seven days, failing which it will be assumed that Mrs. And Mr. Banerjee are the undisputed owners of the property and my client Mrs. Saini is free to enter into a sale deed with them.]

Rajesh Yadav (Advocate)
Ch. No.461, Western Wing, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054
M-9911245076

PUBLIC NOTICE
Be it known to all that my client Sh. Trilok Chand Gupta S/o Late Kishan Chand Gupta R/o H.No-1510, Huda Sector-2, Palwal Haryana-121012 and wife Smt. Gaytri Devi W/o Sh. Trilok Chand Gupta R/oH No-1510, Huda Sector-2, Palwal Haryana-121012, have disowned and de-stititied Movable & Immovable property and served off all relation for their son Sh. Chanchal Gupta R/o C-1927/28, Flat No-155, Sushant Lok, C-Block, Gurugram, Haryana-122022 for ever and for all purposes.

Sd/ (Shashank Ahuja) Adv.
289-A, Western Wing Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054
M-9911245076

PUBLIC NOTICE
सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि मेरे मुकदमे अधिकारित सारवजन पुत्र स्वामी श्री अरर सिंह सारवजन निवासि गांव दे डाकरवर उन्वा, नई दिल्ली- 73 ने अपने समस्त सत्त व अस्सल सम्पत्ति से अपने पुत्र किशोर सारवजन को विसर्ज कर दिया है क्योंकि मेरे मुकदमे का कसम नहीं करने है, अपने मरम्मा कराने के सत्त सत्त वाल- वजन भी खराब है। जो भी व्यक्ति इससे (किशोर सारवजन) कोई संबंध रखने है या कोई लेन-देन करता है तो वह स्वयं निम्मेवार होगा।

RAJESH MANCHANDA
Enrol No. D/183/77 Advocate

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is hereby informed to the general public that my client namely Sh. Jasvinder Singh S/o Late Gurbachan Singh and his wife Smt. Rajni Rao A-2/124, Rajoun Garden, New Delhi-110027, have discovered their son namely Sh. SAHIB SINGH from their moveable and immovable properties and severed all their relations with them. If anyone deals with the above said person of any manner, he/she/they will do so at his /her/their own risks and responsibilities and my client shall not be responsible for the same in any manner.

Ram Kishan, Advocate
70/1, Lawyer's Block Saket District Courts, New Delhi-110017
PH. 9313485112

COURT NOTICE

**PROCLAMATION
REQUIRING
ATTENDANCE OF
DEFENDANT**
(Order 5, Rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure) IN THE COURT OF SH. MUNESHB GARG, ACJ Cum CCJ Cum ARC ROHINI COURT, DELHI, AT ... 10.00 AM..... SCC No. 30/18 Prashant Kaushik (Plaintiff) VERSUS State (Defendant)
Defendant:- Neeraj Kaushik S/o Lt. Sh. Vijay Kaushik F-24/128, Sector-7, Rohini.
WHEREAS you are intentionally evading service of summons it is hereby notified that if you shall not defend the case on the .30 November, 2019 the day fixed for the final disposal, it will be heard and determined ex-parte. Given under my hand and the seal of the court, this.....

Sd/-
Judge

LOST & FOUND

One Page No.7, of Sale Deed in respect of Property No.C-140, Gali No.12, Kantinagar Extn., New Delhi has been lost. Founder contact Mr.Ranjit (Current owner) Mobile- No.9210383241.

I, Piyush

POLICY WATCH
COMPANY DATABASE

After NCLT nudge, MCA starts updating master data; focus on firms under insolvency

AASHISHARYAN
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 28

FOLLOWING AN order by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has initiated the process of updating the master data of companies undergoing corporate insolvency or facing liquidation under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).

The Ministry is also working on a framework that would enable the Interim Resolution Professional (IRP) or the Resolution Professional (RP) to upload necessary regulatory filings for compliance of Companies Act, the ministry said in an emailed reply to *The Indian Express*.

The NCLT had, in an order on October 22, directed that apart from updating the data of the companies undergoing insolvency resolution, the Secretary, MCA, as well as the Central government should be made a respondent party in all insolvency cases filed across the country. “We further direct that in all cases of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code and Company Petition, the Union of India, Ministry of Corporate Affairs through the secretary be impleaded as a party respondent so that the authentic record is made available by the officers,” said a two-member Principal Bench headed by NCLT President (Retd) Justice MM Kumar.

The order will be applicable on all benches of NCLT across the country, the two-member bench had said. Though the NCLT order is likely to increase the workload for MCA, the ministry has not yet made up its mind on whether it would challenge the order in the National

EXPLAINED
For some firms, no updated data in last two years

AT PRESENT, the MCA-21 database lacks updated data of most companies. Furthermore, the data on companies which are undergoing insolvency or liquidation has not been updated in some cases for the last two years.

The data is likely to be updated following the NCLT order. It also puts additional burden as the government will now have to be made a party in all insolvency and company cases filed in the tribunal.

Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) or the Supreme Court, sources close to the development told *The Indian Express*.

In its order, the NCLT had also pulled up the Registrar of Companies (RoC) for failing to update the data, so that “public at large” is kept informed of status of the company. The tribunal had then directed that MCA should comply with the order and file an affidavit detailing the same by November 29, Friday.

At present, the master data of companies does not have updated data of new directors or other details of firms which are either undergoing Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) or have undergone liquidation under the IBC.

WITHIN CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR

Divestment of THDCIL & NEEPCO, land sales may fetch govt ₹30K cr

SUNNY VERMA
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 28

EVEN AS privatisation plans of BPCL and CONCOR may stretch into the next year, the Centre expects to raise around Rs 30,000 crore via stake sale in THDC India Ltd and NEEPCO to state-owned NTPC, and land asset monetisation programme, sources said. Stake sale in THDC India Ltd and NEEPCO is expected to be completed by the end of the fiscal year.

“We are working on sale of certain land parcels held by government across the country, and the stake sale in THDCIL and NEEPCO to be completed within this year. While the exact valuation is to be worked out, roughly these transactions are expected to generate around Rs 30,000 crore,” a source familiar with the matter said. While the government is working to complete privatisation of BPCL, CONCOR and SCI within this year, it may take some more

11 CONSULTANTS FOR LAND SALE

■ The government has hired 11 consultancy firms for sale of land parcels held by it across the country

■ Complete privatisation of BPCL, CONCOR and SCI within this year may take more time, sources said

time, the source added.

Sale of stake in THDC India Ltd and NEEPCO would help the Centre in compensating the likely shortfall on spectrum-related payments that were budgeted for this year, sources said. The government last week deferred spectrum related payments by two years to provide relief to telecom companies. In the 2019-20 Budget

Estimates, the government has pegged receipts from other communication services at Rs 50,519.81 crore, up from Rs 39,245 crore in 2018-19, as per Budget documents. Other communication services mainly account for license fees from telecom operators and receipts on account of spectrum usage charges.

Sources said the Finance Ministry is speeding up the process to sell identified land parcels held by government departments and companies across the country. The government has already hired 11 consultancy firms for the process: RITES Ltd, JLL Property Consultants (India), KPMG Advisory Services, CBRE South Asia Private Ltd and Boston Consulting Group, among others.

Stake sale in five state-owned companies could help government raise about Rs 1 lakh crore. In the Budget for the current year, the government has set a disinvestment receipt target of Rs 1,05,000 crore, as against Rs 80,000 crore

in 2018-19. Last Wednesday, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs had approved plans to privatise three big PSUs — downstream oil major BPCL (excluding Assam-based Numaligarh Refinery Ltd), cargo mover Container Corporation of India Ltd (CONCOR) and Shipping Corporation of India Ltd (SCI) — through strategic sale and transfer of management control.

It also gave a go ahead to offload its entire stake in power companies THDC India Ltd (74.23 per cent) and NEEPCO (100 per cent) and transfer management control to state-owned power producer NTPC Ltd. In BPCL, the government will sell its 53.29 per cent holding and in SCI, the stake sale will be 63.75 per cent. In CONCOR, the government will sell 30.8 per cent out of its total stake of 54.8 per cent. The Centre wants to retain 24 per cent stake in CONCOR given its importance in the railway sector, but will transfer the management control.

‘Challenges ahead for most Indian non-financial firms in 2020’

Driven by sluggish economic growth and slowing earnings, credit conditions will weaken for most Indian non-financial companies in 2020, Moody’s Investors Service said

Rated companies’ credit profiles are unlikely to improve significantly over 2020-2021 due to elevated debt levels, weakening profitability and the continued economic slowdown, which is pressuring both investment and consumption, said Kaustubh Chaubal, Moody’s vice-president and senior credit officer

Continued depreciation of the rupee against the US dollar, meanwhile, has limited negative credit implications for rated companies, as most have natural hedges in place

Refinancing risk for long-



GDP OUTLOOK

Moody’s expects India’s GDP growth to slow to 6.6 per cent in 2020, weaker than in previous years, with limited prospects for government stimulus measures to improve credit conditions in the near term

term debt maturities remains manageable for most rated companies, although they are reliant on continued annual rollovers

of short-term working-capital financing

Upside factors for Moody’s outlook on India’s NBFCs

include a ramp up of government’s stimulus measures aimed at reviving consumption demand, and better funding and market liquidity conditions whereby domestic demand and consumer funding both get a boost, it said

Funding conditions remain tight, slowing demand for consumer goods and leaving banks selective in extending loans to companies

Silver lining: The agency said infrastructure firms’ strong market position will position them to weather the weakening economy

Source: PTI

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS CODE BILL, 2019 INTRODUCED IN LOK SABHA

Third of four proposed labour codes tabled in Parliament

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 28

LABOUR AND Employment Minister Santosh Kumar Gangwar introduced the Industrial Relations Code Bill, 2019 in Lok Sabha Thursday which proposes to amalgamate The Trade Unions Act, 1926, The Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946, and The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. The Bill, which provides some degree of flexibility on government permission for retrenchment and accords a legal framework for fixed-term employment, is the third Code in the Centre’s proposed codification of central labour laws into four Codes.

The Parliament has already approved The Code on Wages, 2019. The Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code was introduced in Lok Sabha in July, and is now with the Standing Committee on Labour, which has invited public comments on it. The draft of the Social Security Code has been circulated for comments.

NEW CONDITIONS FOR TRADE UNIONS

■ Laying down the conditions for recognition of trade unions, the Bill proposes that a union will be recognised as the sole negotiating union only if it has the support of 75 per cent or more of the workers on the muster roll in an establishment, as against 66 per cent threshold in the earlier version of the Bill

■ The Bill has retained the threshold required for government permission for retrenchment at 100 employees, as against the proposal for 300 employees in an earlier draft of the Bill; furthermore, the government has now provided flexibility for changing the threshold through notification

The Bill has retained the threshold required for government permission for retrenchment at 100 employees, as against the proposal for 300 employees in an earlier draft of the Bill, which was opposed by trade unions. The Centre has now provided flexibility for changing the threshold through notification, which some experts say will make the law ambiguous and offer uncertainty.

Compensation to retrenched workers has been proposed to reduce to 15 days of average pay for

every year of completed continuous service or more than six months, as against 45 days of average pay for every year of completed service proposed earlier.

In case of closing down of undertakings on account of unavoidable circumstances beyond the control of the employer, the compensation to be paid to the worker shall not exceed his average pay for three months. An industrial establishment, however, which is closed down by reason merely due to financial difficulties includ-

ing financial losses or accumulation of undisposed stocks shall not be deemed to be closed down on account of unavoidable circumstances beyond the control of the employer, the Bill stated.

Laying down the conditions for recognition of trade unions, the Bill proposes that a union will be recognised as the sole negotiating union only if it has the support of 75 per cent or more of the workers on the muster roll in an establishment, as against 66 per cent threshold in the earlier version of the Bill. The Bill also requires workers to give a 14-day notice for strikes and lockouts in any industrial establishment.

The Bill provides for setting up of a re-skilling fund for training of retrenched employees, having contribution of 15 day wages by employers or other number of days as may be notified by the central government. “The fund shall be utilised by crediting fifteen days wages last drawn by the worker, who is retrenched, within forty-five days of such retrenchment,” the Bill stated. Termination of service of a fixed term em-

ployee, who will get all statutory benefits like social security, wages, at par with the regular employee as per the Bill, will not be considered as retrenchment.

It also proposes an Industrial Tribunal having powers to award a decree of a civil court and to decide appeals in place of multiple adjudicating bodies like Court of Inquiry, Board of Conciliation and Labour Courts.

“The amalgamation of said laws will facilitate implementation and also remove multiplicity of definitions and authorities without compromising on the basic concepts of welfare and benefits to workers. The proposed legislation, namely, the Industrial Relations Code, 2019 would bring use of technology in its enforcement. All these measures would bring transparency and accountability which would lead to more effective enforcement. The facilitation for ease of compliance of labour laws will promote in setting up of more enterprises thus catalysing the creation of employment opportunities,” the statement of object and reasons of the Bill said.

Shopping rivals urge EU to act against Google for ‘favouring own service’

FOO YUNCHEE
BRUSSELS, NOVEMBER 28

FORTY-ONE EUROPEAN price-comparison shopping services on Thursday urged EU antitrust regulators to act against Alphabet Inc’s Google for allegedly flouting an order to allow rivals to compete on equal terms, which they said is endangering their existence.

This is the first time that such a big group of companies has teamed up to call on European Competition Commissioner Margrethe Vestager to take further action against Google.

The companies, in a joint letter to Vestager seen by Reuters, said that Google, the world’s most popular internet search engine, has yet to comply with a 2017 order to stop favouring its own price comparison shopping service. Google was also fined 2.4 billion euros at the time.

The signatories to the letter are from 21 EU countries, including Idealo, Europe’s second largest price comparison shopping service and part of publishing group Axel Springer, Polish No. 1 Ceneo, Britain’s Kelkoo, and Foundem and Heureka in the Czech Republic. **REUTERS**

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 28

THE LOANS given by Indiabulls Housing Finance to DLF, Anil Dhirubhai Ambani Group (ADAG), and Amricorp have been repaid in full by all the respective companies, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) told the Delhi High Court. It also said that the loan accounts of two other companies, namely Vatika group and the Chordia group, has been reported as “standard account”.

The details are part of an affidavit filed by the MCA with the high court in an ongoing case which seeks probe into Indiabulls Housing Finance, Indiabulls Ventures and Indiabulls Real Estate for alleged money laundering and siphoning off of public funds.

A PIL moved by Citizen Whistle Blowers Forum alleges that the group companies of Indiabulls had, through its promoters, “been advancing dubious loans to companies owned by large corporate groups which in turn have been

IBH stock surges 25% on BSE

New Delhi: Following the development in the Delhi High Court, shares of Indiabulls Housing Finance (IBH) on BSE jumped as much as 29.7 per cent during intra-day trading, to close the day at Rs 334.20 — 24.65 per cent higher than the previous close. **ENS**

routing the money back to the accounts of companies owned by the promoters of Indiabulls, so as to increase their personal wealth”.

The PIL also alleged that while Anil Ambani-led ADAG had received as much as Rs 1,580 crore in loans and invested Rs 570 crore back in the company and its group firms, DLF had received Rs 1,705.54 crore as loan and invested Rs 66 crore back. Gautam Bhalla-owned Vatika group was loaned as much as Rs 4,600 crore

by Indiabulls Housing Finance, the PIL further alleged.

The MCA received reports for two investigations ordered against Indiabulls Ventures and Indiabulls Housing Finance on November 15 and 19, respectively, while another report probing alleged irregularities in Indiabulls Real Estate is yet to be submitted, the affidavit to the HC said. The government had in July last ordered an investigation into the dealings of Indiabulls group.

In September this year, the HC had agreed to hear the case, and issued notices to Indiabulls, its promoters, as well as the MCA. Indiabulls has maintained that the PIL was a part of a motivated attack on the firm, aimed at causing loss to the company and hampering its day-to-day operations.

The PIL, the company had then told the Delhi HC, was “malicious” and “mala fide” and that the “averments made in the petition are a pack of lies motivated by vested interest and has been filed without any research even on publicly available records of the company”.

and last-minute online shopping, causing millions of packages to be late for Christmas. Since then, the online shopping giant has been building its own delivery network to give it more control over when and how its packages are delivered. It has leased jets, built package-sorting hubs at airports and launched a program that lets contractors start businesses delivering packages in vans.

Others are feeling the pressure to keep up with Amazon. When the company introduced two-day shipping about 14 years ago, shoppers expected the same from other stores. That appears



Packages on a conveyor system at an Amazon fulfillment center in Baltimore, US. AP file photo

to be happening again. “Customers love two-day de-

livery,” said Mark Cohen, a retail studies professor at New York’s

Columbia Business School. “But they like one day better.”

Smaller retailers, however, will probably be hurt trying to pay for quicker shipping, said Cohen, who used to be an executive at Sears Canada.

The push for even speedier delivery comes after Amazon announced in April that it would cut its delivery for Prime members to one day from two. Walmart and Best Buy followed with their own announcements.

Many smaller retailers are also trying to deliver quicker, according to UPS, which said it will have 11 more jets flying this year to keep up. **AP**

EXTRA VEHICLES, WORKERS, REAMS OF DATA HELP RETAILERS PREPARE AND PREDICT WHAT PEOPLE MAY BUY

Holiday stress: Online retailers await one-day delivery challenge

JOSEPH PISANI
NEW YORK, NOVEMBER 28

THIS YEAR, holiday stress may take on a whole new meaning for online retailers. Amazon, Walmart and others have promised to deliver more of their orders within 24 hours of customers clicking on “Buy.”

The coming weeks will be the first test of whether they can make that happen during the busy holiday shopping season, when onslaughts of orders and bad weather can lay waste to even the best delivery plans.

It’s an expensive feat that re-

quires not just additional planes and vehicles, but more workers and reams of data to help retailers prepare and predict what shoppers may buy.

And the stakes to deliver on time are high. A late package can damage a retailer’s reputation, since shoppers tend to blame them, even if the late arrival is the fault of the delivery company.

“The store made the promise,” said Suketu Gandhi, partner in the digital transformation practice at consulting firm A.T. Kearney.

Amazon learned that six years ago, when UPS and FedEx were crippled by bad weather

‘Malicious 3rd party apps leak personal data from FB, Twitter’

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 28

MALICIOUS APPLICATIONS have leaked personal data of Facebook and Twitter users to third party, according to an advisory issued by cyber security watchdog Cert-In without disclosing the impact on Indian subscribers.

India is among the largest markets for Facebook and Twitter. The apps violated Facebook platform policy by installing software in their apps by sending information to two companies — OneAudience and Mobium, the advisory said.

Twitter shared that a software development kit (SDK) developed by OneAudience contains privacy-violating component which may have passed some of its users' personal information like email, username, tweet to OneAudience servers, it added.

"It has been reported that personal data of Facebook and Twitter users were improperly accessed by a pair of malicious SDKs used in certain third-party apps," Cert-in said in the advisory note on November 27.

RIL becomes first Indian firm to hit ₹10 lakh cr m-cap

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 28

RELIANCE INDUSTRIES (RIL) has become the first Indian listed company to hit the Rs 10 lakh crore market capitalisation mark on exchanges, after its m-cap rose to Rs 10,01,555 crore (\$ 140.7 billion) and the stock gained 0.65 per cent to close at Rs 1,579.95 on the BSE on Thursday.

Market capitalisation is the total market value of the company's listed shares held by shareholders. As the promoters — Mukesh Ambani — hold over 50 per cent in the company, the value of the promoter group's holding is over Rs 500,000 crore, or \$70.27 billion.

During the day, RIL shares jumped 0.90 per cent to an all-time high of Rs 1,584. "It was only a matter of time for Mukesh Ambani's company to test this milestone, considering the past investments made in consumer-facing sectors like telecom and retail. These investments have yielded fruitful results for the company and has been consistently increasing their share in the overall profits," said Ajit Mishra,

During the day, RIL shares jumped 0.90 per cent to an all-time high of Rs 1,584 on the BSE

VP—Research, Religare Broking. TCS is India's second most valued firm, with a market valuation of Rs 779,501 crore, followed by HDFC Bank with a market capitalisation of Rs 692,853 crore, Hindustan Unilever (Rs 451,482 crore) and HDFC (Rs 398,994 crore).

RIL's market valuation has been moving a shade below the Rs 10 lakh crore mark in the last a few sessions. The company is still ahead of British energy major BP Plc in terms of market valuation. BP's m-cap was at \$ 127.86 billion at close of trade on the NYSE.

"We will put two important factors that should be seen as a catalyst for this share. Firstly, the Jio disruption. Second, the stake sale to Aramco has further made its valuation going forward attractive since their aim to achieve the debt-free balance sheet is likely to be seen in FY2021," said Mustafa Nadeem, CEO, Epic Research.

INDEX GAINS OVER 2,500 POINTS SINCE BUDGET

Nifty scales record high; broader markets remain under pressure

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 28

THE ECONOMY may be slowing, loan growth may be at its most sluggish and earnings growth subdued, but powered by a handful of stocks, the benchmark stock indices are soaring.

On Thursday, the Nifty closed at a record high of 12,151.15 even as Reliance Industries became the first Indian company to be valued at Rs 10 lakh crore. Since July 5, 2017, Nifty has gained 2,513 points but the rally has been fuelled by just 10 companies which have gained 2,623 points together. After touching its lifetime high of 41,163.79 during the day, the 30-share Sensex rose by 109.56 points or 0.27 per cent to end at a fresh closing peak of 41,130.17.

The broader markets remain weak as most companies reported lacklustre results in Q2FY20 compelling analysts to downgrade earnings forecasts. For a sample of 1,714 companies (excluding banks and financials), net profits in Q2FY20 fell 11.5 per

Rupee falls 27p to week's low on US-China trade concerns

Mumbai: The rupee dropped by 27 paise to close at 71.62 against the US dollar on Thursday, ending its two-day rally due to month-end dollar demand from oil importers and growth concerns ahead of release of GDP data on Friday.

Fresh trade concerns after China said it was ready to take firm counter-measures against the US which passed a law supporting Hong Kong protestors also weighed on

the domestic currency.

Foreign fund inflows, weak crude prices and losses in the dollar against global currencies capped the rupee losses.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened on a positive note at 71.33 but lost ground during the day to touch a low of 71.67. It finally settled at 71.62, lower by 27 paise against its previous close. PTI

cent year-on-year even after disregarding the exceptional losses of Airtel and Vodafone Idea. For the first time in many years, revenues fell by 2.4 per cent y-o-y.

Operating profit margins contracted nearly 300 bps y-o-y. Analysts at Jefferies noted, earnings estimates have come off by 3 per cent in the last month alone even though the

corporate tax rate has been lowered.

Moody's said on Thursday the credit profiles of 'rated companies' are unlikely to improve significantly over 2020-2021, due to elevated debt levels, weakening profitability and the continued economic slowdown, which is pressuring both investment and consumption.

T-bill yield drops below repo rate for first time in over two years

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 28

IN AN indication of how risk-averse banks are, the yield on the 364-day T-bill auctioned on Wednesday came in at 5.1389 per cent, below that of the repo rate of 5.15 per cent. Bloomberg data show this last happened in April 2017 or more than over two and a half years ago.

A Balasubramanian, managing director and chief executive officer at Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC, said though banks are sitting on cash, they are opting to play it safe and invest in government securities rather than the industry.

"Apart from expectations of a rate cut next week, banks are reluctant to lend," Balasubramanian said.

Experts said though banks are sitting on cash, they are opting to play it safe and invest in government securities rather than the industry

State Bank of India's one-year MCLR rate is 8 per cent and the surplus SLR (statutory liquidity ratio) in the system — or the ratio of government securities that banks need to hold — is now over 5 per cent. However, banks are preferring to buy G-secs.

The system is awash in liquidity with the surplus averaging close to Rs 2 lakh crore for several months now, dipping only slightly during the festive month of October. But banks are

BRIEFLY

₹4,685 crore loss for Air India in FY19: Govt

New Delhi: Rise in fuel costs and impact of foreign exchange rate variation were two major reasons for Air India's operating loss of Rs 4,685 crore in 2018-19, Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said on Thursday in a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha. PTI

LG replaces CEO after reporting losses

Seoul: South Korean appliance giant LG Electronics replaced its chief executive officer and a raft of other top leaders Thursday after net profits slumped more than 30 per cent in the third quarter and its smartphone division struggles. AFP

BSE to sell 4% stake in CDSL through OFS

New Delhi: BSE, the promoter of Central Depository Services Ltd (CDSL), will offload 4 per cent stake in the company. The exchange will sell 41.8 lakh equity shares, or 4 per cent, of its stake in CDSL through offer for sale route (OFS), as per information available with the NSE.

Future Coupons buy: Amazon gets CCI nod

New Delhi: The Competition Commission of India (CCI) on Thursday said it has approved Amazon.com NV Investment Holdings' proposal to acquire about 49 per cent share in Future Coupons. "The proposed combination pertains to the acquisition by the acquirer (Amazon) of approximately 49 per cent of the voting and non-voting equity shares of the target (Future Coupons Ltd)," a statement said.

'No cancelling of spectrum, licence for Aircel'

Mumbai: The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) on Thursday directed the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) not to cancel the telecom licence and spectrum issued to Aircel, which has shut operations many years now.

ABFL first NBFC to list CPs on bourses

Mumbai: Aditya Birla Finance (ABFL) Thursday became the first non-banking finance company (NBFC) to list its commercial papers (CPs) borrowing of Rs 100 crore on bourses. PTI

ZEEL directors' resignations: 'Submit copies'

Mumbai: Bourses Thursday asked Zee Entertainment Enterprises (ZEEL) to submit copies of resignation letters of all three resigning directors. Meanwhile, OFI Global China Fund has increased its stake in ZEEL to 10.99 per cent from 8.7 per cent earlier. FE

HDFC Bank appoints committee to pick MD Puri's successor

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 28

HDFC BANK has appointed a six-member committee to identify a successor to Aditya Puri, the current managing director of the bank. Puri has been the MD of the private lender since its inception in 1994.

"The board of the bank has constituted a search committee to identify a successor to Aditya Puri, the current MD of the bank, whose tenure ends on October 26, 2020," the bank said in a filing.

The committee comprises Shyamala Gopinath, Sanjiv Sachar, MD Ranganath, Sandeep Parekh, Srikanth Nadhamuni and Keki Mistry (representative of Housing Development Finance Corporation). Gopinath is the current Chairperson of the bank. Once the bank identifies a suitable person, it will forward the name to the RBI. The appointment will need the approval of the RBI.

The regulator had rejected the names of CEOs identified by some private banks in the last three years. Puri, who will turn 70 next year, will have to retire in October

"The search committee, over the next few months, will evaluate internal and external candidates to ensure smooth transition"

HDFC BANK

2020 as per the RBI's norms. In 2014, the RBI raised the upper age limit for bank managing directors and CEOs to 70 years from 65, in line with the Companies Act, 2013. Aditya Puri, who is credited with making the bank as the most valued bank in the stock markets, will act as an advisor to the search committee. "The search committee, over the next few months, will evaluate internal and external candidates to ensure smooth transition," it said.

Before HDFC Bank, Puri was CEO of Citi Bank, Malaysia. He was with Citibank NA for almost 20 years where he handled several functions across many countries. In Hong Kong, he was responsible for Credit & Market Risk for North Asia and also included positioning Citibank for the take-over of Hong Kong by China.

'Govt wants RBI to set up fund to buy out stressed assets of shadow banks'

REUTERS
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 28

THE CENTRAL government wants the Reserve Bank of India to set up a fund to buy out stressed assets of the country's top 25 shadow lenders and revive the financial sector, a government source told reporters on Thursday.

The shadow banking sector has been battling a credit crunch ever since one of the sector's biggest firms Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services collapsed in late 2018 amid fraud

allegations.

The Finance Ministry has proposed a bailout plan on the lines of the US Troubled Asset Relief Programme following the 2008 financial crisis to pull India's financial sector out of a deep slump and get credit flowing back into a weak economy, the source told a group of reporters.

"Talks are on and various rounds of discussions have happened with the central bank on a mini TARP-like programme," the source who is involved in the discussions told reporters.

"RBI could be the buyer of last

resort"," the source, who cannot be named in line with his service rules, said.

In 2008, United States Treasury Department had worked out a \$700 billion bailout plan to address the financial crisis. The government official said that the RBI has been reluctant to open its balance sheet for a large bail out programme for the shadow banks as it feels the step is too drastic and more discussions are required.

The RBI declined to comment on the government source's remarks.

Icra downgrades ₹23,500-crore facilities of Shapoorji Pallonji

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 28

RATINGS FIRM Icra has downgraded Rs 23,500 crore of fund and non-fund based limits and commercial paper of Shapoorji Pallonji and Company (SPCPL).

Negative outlook takes into account the slower-than-anticipated progress achieved by SPCPL in terms of its deleveraging plans

through equity infusion and asset monetisation.

Icra said the long-term rating of non-fund based limits of Rs 15,000 crore is downgraded to A+ from AA- and short-term to A1 from A1+. The long-term rating on fund based limits of Rs 6,000 crore downgraded to A+ from AA- and short-term rating downgraded to A1 from A1+. The commercial paper of Rs 2,500 crore was downgraded to A1 from A1+.

ORDERS REACH \$10.2 BILLION, LEAD MANAGER SAMBA CAPITAL SAID

'Saudi Aramco IPO's retail tranche oversubscribed'

REUTERS
RIYADH, NOVEMBER 28

THE RETAIL portion of Aramco's initial public offering (IPO) has been oversubscribed, with orders reaching 38.1 billion Saudi riyals (\$10.2 billion), lead manager Samba Capital said Thursday.

The state oil giant plans to sell a 1.5 per cent stake, or about 3 billion shares, and has said at least one-third of the sale is expected to be covered by retail investors, who have until Thursday to sign up. With an indicative price of 30-



A sign of Saudi Aramco's IPO during a news conference in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, on November 3. The oil giant plans to sell 1.5 per cent or about 3 billion shares. Reuters file photo

32 riyals, the IPO is valued at as much as 96 billion riyals (\$25.6 billion) and gives the firm a market value of \$1.6-\$1.7 trillion.

It will be the world's biggest IPO if it tops the \$25 billion set by China's Alibaba in 2014.

Around 4.17 million retail investors had subscribed to 1.19 billion shares by 12 p.m. on Thursday, injecting 6.13 billion riyals above the amount needed for full coverage, Samba said.

Subscription will continue until midnight on Thursday and final results will be announced on Friday, it said in a statement.

The IPO is the centrepiece of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's plans to diversify the Saudi economy away from its reliance on oil. Aramco is the crown jewel of the economy and the world's most profitable company.

It is relying on local and regional demand to pull off the deal, after cancelling marketing roadshows outside the Gulf region due to a lack of interest from foreign institutional investors.

Sources told Reuters this week that the sovereign wealth funds of Abu Dhabi and Kuwait plan to invest. Saudis have been eager to

buy shares, with many seeking to invest on behalf of their dependents to increase the number of shares they can buy.

The government has encouraged rich Saudis to invest, with many viewing it as an opportunity to show their patriotism after a September attack on Aramco facilities that struck at the heart of the kingdom's energy industry.

Washington and Riyadh blamed regional rival Iran for the attacks, which temporarily cut more than 5 per cent of global oil supply. Tehran denied any involvement.

'Paytm in talks to raise another \$1 bn funding'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 28

DIGITAL PAYMENTS major Paytm is looking at raising another round of funding of \$1 billion, and is in discussion with multiple investors, including former UK Prime Minister David Cameron, according to sources.

Sources said the discussions are on and might take a few weeks to get finalised.

They added that the funds will be used to expand the merchant offerings across India to equip them with technology and various other services.

Paytm declined to comment, while a response from Cameron could not be elicited immediately.

Paytm, earlier this week, announced a \$1 billion (around Rs 7,173 crore) fund raise led by T Rowe Price. Existing investors Alibaba, Softbank and Discovery Capital had also participated in the funding round.

Paytm founder-CEO Vijay Shekhar Sharma tweeted a photograph of him and Cameron on Thursday. "With so inspiring and savvy @David_Cameron in Singapore! Thanks Sir for your lesson on giving back to society and creating social impact with business," he added.

FIGHTING CORRUPTION

The dirty mop

America’s losing battle against corruption in eastern Europe



Anti-corruption activists in former communist countries have relied on the White House’s support ever since the end of the cold war. Reuters

THE DIPLOMATS who have testified to Congress over the past two weeks have underlined a fundamental point about the impeachment investigation into Donald Trump: it grows out of America’s fight against corruption in eastern Europe. First George Kent, a State Department official, explained that since Ukraine’s revolution in 2014 America had come to see corruption as a vital tool of Russian influence. Promoting the rule of law, Mr Kent said, was not just a human-rights concern but at the heart of American security policy.

Then Marie Yovanovitch, a former ambassador to Ukraine, recounted how figures linked to Ukrainian oligarchs had convinced President Trump to have her removed. The prize Mr Trump sought, an announcement that Ukraine was investigating the son of his electoral rival, former Vice-President Joe Biden, was rooted in Mr Biden’s role as point man for rule-of-law concerns in eastern Europe. America had tried to fight corruption in Ukraine, and corruption in Ukraine was fighting back.

America’s effort to combat graft in central and eastern Europe is now in trouble. The Trump administration has given it only intermittent support. Meanwhile, the impeachment investigation is highlighting behaviour in America that resembles the practices it condemns elsewhere.

A senior State Department diplomat

(and life-long Republican). “It will take decades to rebuild our credibility. What other countries are seeing in this White House is everything we’ve preached against.”

This is a pity. Anti-corruption activists in former communist countries have relied on American support ever since the end of the cold war. American aid has backed independent investigative media, trained judges and prosecutors and helped set up transparent registers for government procurement. The State Department budget for Europe and Eurasia (\$615m last year) is a lifeline for civil-society organisations. In Ukraine, Romania and Moldova, America has supported reformist politicians when they came under attack from oligarchs. In Poland and Hungary it has backed independent judges when ruling parties tried to subvert the courts.

As relations with Russia soured early this decade, American intelligence agencies grew concerned about Russian money-laundering flows. “Corruption was being used as a tool of coercion by outside actors, but it was also rotting NATO and EU members from inside,” says Victoria Nuland, an architect of policy under the Obama administration. Mr Biden began visiting central and eastern Europe to stress that America now saw corruption as a national-security issue.

“We always felt we had the support

of the United States embassy,” says Cristian Ghinea, a Romanian anti-corruption activist and member of the European Parliament. America and the EU defended Romania’s tough anti-corruption prosecutor when she came under attack. In Bulgaria American pressure repeatedly helped to protect civil-society groups from government reprisals.

America’s emphasis on fighting corruption began to waver in 2017, when A. Wess Mitchell took over responsibility for State Department policy in eastern Europe. He believed America’s sharp criticism of corruption was hurting it diplomatically, pushing countries like Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria closer to Russia. Mr Mitchell resigned early this year. But while many ambassadors still pursue anti-corruption policies, they can no longer be sure the White House is behind them.

Instead of backing anti-corruption stances by its embassies, the Trump administration has sometimes undercut them. Mr Trump’s withdrawal of Ms

Yovanovitch (and the failure of Mike Pompeo, the secretary of state, to defend her) had a chilling effect on diplomats. Bill Taylor, who replaced Ms Yovanovitch as ambassador, has testified to a “second track” of diplomacy, in which those with personal connections to Mr Trump (such as his lawyer, Rudy Giuliani) sidelined the government’s official policymaking process.

Asimilar split has emerged in Hungary, where Mr Trump’s politically appointed ambassador (a big campaign donor) arranged a visit to the White House by Viktor Orban, the prime minister. That circumvented officials who wanted to keep Mr Orban’s corrupt and Russia-friendly government at arm’s length.

In Ukraine, the anti-corruption reformers whom America supported for years have become collateral damage in the impeachment drama. Defenders of Mr Trump have revived baseless allegations against AntAC, a renowned rule-of-law group, that were originally concocted by Ukrainian officials the group accused

of corruption. Pro-Trump social-media botnets have spread conspiracy theories about Daria Kaleniuk, the group’s director. “It is the first time we have been hit with such a well-organised smear campaign from America. We are used to that coming from kleptocrats here in Ukraine,” says Ms Kaleniuk.

The impeachment conflict may also hurt independent anti-corruption prosecutors, such as those in Romania, who depend for information on co-operation with American intelligence agencies. Those agencies will be less eager to share information if they do not think the White House cares about the issue. Anti-corruption activists say it does not; they have learned to phrase their appeals as efforts to protect American investors. “Words like ‘rule of law’, we understand now, don’t open any doors with this administration,” says Melissa Hooper, of Human Rights First, an American advocacy group.

Under Mr Obama, budget messages to Congress described foreign aid for “strengthen[ing] rule-of-law and anti-corruption measures” in Europe as part of America’s strategy for countering Russian aggression. In Mr Trump’s latest budget message the word “corruption” does not appear in connection with Russia. USAID still offers grants for rule-of-law programmes, but the administration has tried to slash their budgets each year. For 2020 it asked that non-military aid to Ukraine be

cut from \$250m to \$145m, and to Moldova from \$52m to \$18m. So far Congress has kept aid at the higher level, and anti-corruption activists in the region say American embassies still support them.

In other places America is simply a less significant part of the story. In Slovakia, where a huge anti-corruption movement over the past year has upended the political establishment, the Americans “haven’t been that important”, says Miroslav Beblavy, an mp from an anti-corruption party. Relations have been dominated by Slovakia’s decision in August to buy American F-16 fighter jets. Indeed, many countries in the region are buying American hardware. Romania and Bulgaria have both recently bought F-16s. They would be happy to see relations go back to a more transactional basis with fewer pesky questions. “They’re all buying our planes because that’s how they get influence,” says Ms Hooper.

Yet the security provided by such deals will be illusory if formerly communist countries do not battle corruption. On the American side, the political will is dwindling. Many frustrated anti-corruption experts have left the State Department, Treasury and other agencies; others are considering it. “They can survive another year,” says a former State Department official. “Four would be hard.”

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CROCODILE FEARS

Pet peeves

A former president’s crocodiles are terrorising Ivory Coast’s capital

THE FIRST president of Ivory Coast, Félix Houphouët-Boigny, liked to build monuments to himself. After independence he erected a new political capital on top of his remote home village, Yamoussoukro. No expense was spared. He equipped the city with a Concorde runway, West Africa’s first ice-skating rink, the largest basilica in the world and a grand palace, surrounded by an artificial lake filled with crocodiles.

Since the president’s death in 1993 officials have preferred to work in the commercial capital, Abidjan, leaving the political capital to fall into disrepair. But potholed roads and broken streetlights are not the only problems locals face. The president’s pets have escaped into the city’s waterways, and reproduced. “There has been no policy for the crocodiles. If you go near the water, they will eat you,” frets Souaga Gérard, a

The first president of Ivory Coast, Félix Houphouët-Boigny, built a grand palace, surrounded by an artificial lake filled with crocodiles, which were gifts from Moussa Traoré, the brutal dictator of Mali.

teacher.

The crocodiles were gifts from Moussa Traoré, the brutal dictator of next-door Mali. “It was a sort of ‘This is how I deal with my enemies’ gesture,” says a Western diplomat. For more than three decades they were looked after by a wiry keeper, Dicko Toki.

He gave them names like “Capitaine” and “Chef de Cabinet” and kept them in check with a blunt machete. In 2012, however, Mr Toki was allegedly dragged out into the lake by Chef de Cabinet, never to be seen again.

In the wild, crocodiles can get by with only the occasional meal. The oxen that the presidency buys to feed them every month ought to be enough to satisfy even the hungriest of them. Alas, irresponsible tourists have developed the habit of paying locals good money (around \$5 a chomp) to see them gobble down live chickens. This rich diet has allowed the animals to grow and multiply. There were about 20 originally, but no one knows how many there are now—or how many people they have killed. “It is particularly dangerous in the rainy season when there are floods,” says Mr Gérard.

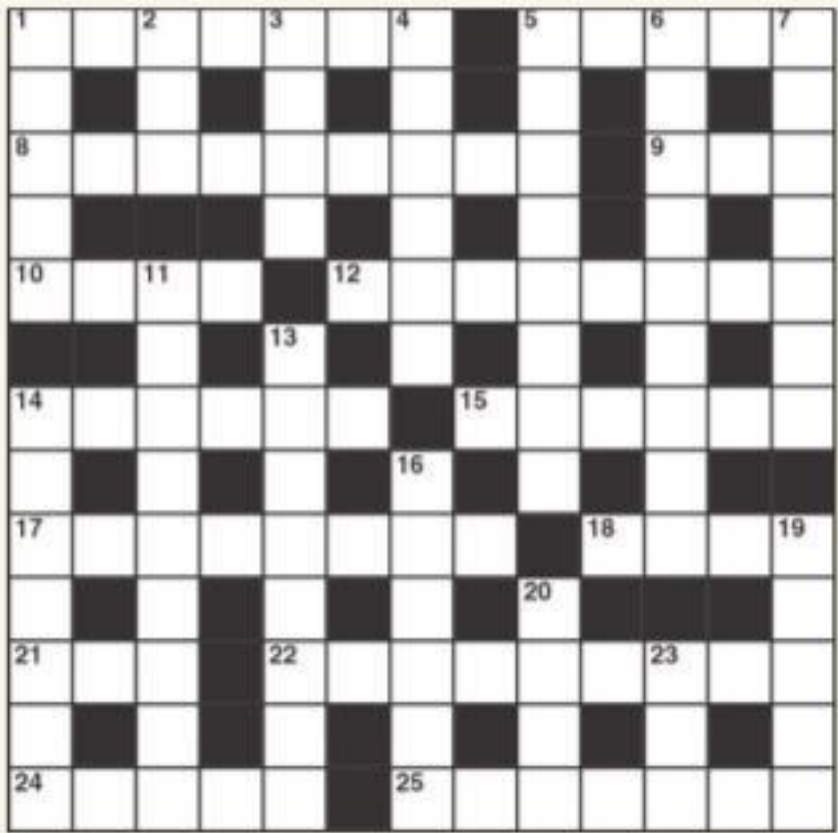
In most cities in Africa hardly anyone would shed a tear at the removal of cold-blooded killers, or their conversion into stylish handbags. But Yamoussoukro’s crocs have a sacred aura, thanks to the big man to whom they once belonged. Some say anyone who does them harm will be cursed. So when they come out of the water looking for a snack, the palace guards do not shoot them. Instead, firemen are called to put them gingerly back.



The crocodiles have escaped into the waterways of Ivory Coast’s capital, and reproduced. Reuters/For representative use

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CROSSWORD 3975



- ACROSS**
- 1 I wish a number could translate this language (7)
 - 5 A question of choice (5)
 - 8 The first man to fly an aeroplane (4,5)
 - 9 Short tailed dog (3)
 - 10 A cut from shaving? The devil it is! (4)
 - 12 Such a net may become loose (8)
 - 14 Too inexperienced to express pain (6)
 - 15 Sarah's new worry (6)
 - 17 Propose that the main difference should be in money (8)
 - 18 In a high position at work (4)
 - 21 It's frequently poetical (3)
 - 22 Hold back the power or increase it (9)
 - 24 Brought down, strange though it may sound (5)
 - 25 Fate results in a troop's downfall (7)
- DOWN**
- 1 It's an unusual material (5)
 - 2 A ship, possibly a carrier (3)
 - 3 One politician's naughty children (4)
 - 4 Properly dressed soldiers are (2,4)
 - 5 He's paid to mind someone else's business (8)
 - 6 An insect's uninterrupted development (9)
 - 7 Gear to make use of horsepower (7)
 - 11 They are forced to share their time together (9)
 - 13 Rounded up but not rounded off (8)
 - 14 Study excursion outline (7)
 - 16 He attacked the Romans, but turned tail at first (6)
 - 19 A crowd of journalists (5)
 - 20 A rise for flying men, now well off (4)
 - 23 Blame taken by a scapegoat causes a strike (3)

Solutions Crossword 3974: Across: 1 Moroccan, 5 Hand, 9 Totem, 10 Grouches, 11 Intelligence, 13 Precis, 14 Adopts, 17 Growing pains, 20 Antenna, 21 Oriya, 22 Sink, 23 Students. Down: 1 Mute, 2 Retinue, 3 Competitions, 4 Angels, 6 Arson, 7 Dispense, 8 Rough diamond, 12 Spyglass, 15 Pension, 16 Aghast, 18 Often, 19 Ears.

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 clue.

Share our similarities, _____ our differences. - M. Scott Peck (9)

RVEEE AENLYT

DLYAR DEEKBC

SOLUTION: REVEE, LARDEY, NEATLY, BEDDECK

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

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

SUDOKU 4044

2			5	9		8		
3			6				4	
		7		4				
					6		9	
9	2		9	8	1			
		7			1			
1				3			2	
7		1	4				5	

SOLUTION SUDOKU 4043

2	6	3	1	5	7	8	4	9
4	8	5	6	3	9	2	1	7
7	9	1	8	4	2	5	6	3
9	1	2	7	8	6	4	3	5
3	7	6	4	2	5	1	9	8
5	4	8	9	1	3	6	7	2
8	2	4	3	9	1	7	5	6
1	3	7	5	6	8	9	2	4
6	5	9	2	7	4	3	8	1

PUNJAB SCHOOL EDUCATION BOARD
TENDER NOTICE
Vidya Bhawan Phase VIII, Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar (Mohali)-160062
Ph. 0172-5227184, Fax: 0172-5227185
e-Tender Notice No. : PSEB/AB-01/2019
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
eproc.punjab.gov.in

Punjab School Education Board invites bids through e-tendering system for Manufacturing, Printing & Supplying of Answer Book With OMR Sheet along with paper from the reputed and experienced Printers to Board in Punjab:

For participating in the above e-tendering process, the Firms shall have to get themselves registered with eproc.punjab.gov.in and get user id and password. Class-3 Digital Signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering process.

Detailed notice inviting tenders and other terms and conditions are available on website <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in>.

For any clarification/difficulty regarding e-tendering process, please contact us on 0172-2970263, 0172-2970284.

Sd/-
Secretary
Punjab School Education Board

D-7665/Pb

No. 9226 Date: 27.11.2019
PUNJAB WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE BOARD
e-TENDER NOTICE No. 69/PWSSD-2/BT1 DATE: 27.11.2019

On the behalf of Chief Executive Officer, Punjab Water Supply & Sewerage Board, Chandigarh. The Executive Engineer, Punjab Water Supply & Sewerage Board Division-2, Bathinda re-invites Bids from Eligible Bidders for the Project/Work detailed in the following Table. The Bidder may submit Bids for any or all the following Project/Works.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Earnest Money (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of Document/Tendering/Processing Fee (Rs.)	Period Completion	Approx. Value of the Project/Work (In Lacs)
1.	Augmentation of Water Supply Scheme of Balance Distribution System and Rising Main Works at Bathinda Town (Under AMRUT)	16.29	1000/- Processing Fees 5000/- + Taxes	12 Months	1629.45 Lacs

Important Dates:-

1. Period of Availability of Tender Online 27.11.2019 at 05.00 P.M. shall be
2. Last Date and Time for Online Submission of Bid shall be 11.12.2019 at 05.00 P.M.
3. Date and Time of Opening of Technical Bid 12.12.2019 at 11.00 A.M.

*For terms and conditions refer to website: <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>.
Note:- Corrigendum if any will be issued on website only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Pb. W/S & Sew. Division No. 2, Bathinda.

D-7663/Pb.

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

e-Tender Notice

Sr. No.	Name & Complete Address of Office Inviting Tender	Office of EIC/DS, Central Zone, Power Colony No. 1, Opp. PAU Gate No. 1, Ferozepur Road, PSPCL, Ludhiana
1.	Name & Complete Address of Office Inviting Tender	Office of EIC/DS, Central Zone, Power Colony No. 1, Opp. PAU Gate No. 1, Ferozepur Road, PSPCL, Ludhiana
2.	Tender Enquiry No.	03/CSIT/2019-20
3.	Scope of Work	Setting upto of 60 Seater Call Centre for PSPCL in outsourced model
4.	Start Date for Downloading of Specification/Tender Documents	29.11.2019
5.	Last Date and Time for Downloading of Specifications/Tender Documents	30.12.2019 upto 13.00 hrs.
6.	Last Date and Time of Bid Submission	30.12.2019, 14.00 hrs.
7.	Date & Time of Opening of Tenders	30.12.2019, 14.30 hrs.
8.	Cost of Tender Specifications (in Rs.) & mode of its payment	Rs. 2950/- (through DD in favour of PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED)

Tender specification can only be downloaded from website <https://pspcl.nprocure.com>. All the prospective bidders are requested to get their Digital Signatures, register themselves on the website <https://pspcl.nprocure.com> and get conversant with the process of on-line submission of tenders well in time so as to submit the tender by the due dead line. No request for extension in the due date of tender opening on the above grounds shall be entertained.

Note: It is informed that in case tender process is not completed as per time schedule given in NIT due to any reason, no corrigendum will be published in Newspaper. Details regarding corrigendum will be seen on official PSPCL website www.pspcl.in

Sd/-
Sr. Xen,
CS & IT Imp. Div., PSPCL, Ludhiana.

C-480/19
C-7995/Pb

Dakshin Gujarat Vij Co. Ltd.
CIN U40102GJ2003SGC042909
Regd. & Corp. Office: "Urja Sadan", Nana Varachha Road, Kapodara Char Rasta, Surat - 395 006 GUJARAT

DGVCL Toll Free No. 19123 OR 1800 233 3003

Tender Notice

Details are put up on www.dgvcl.com (for view and download tender documents) and www.dgvcl.nprocure.com (for view, download and online tender submission).

Sr. No.	Tender No.
1	DGVCL/SP/20004/ Kit-Kat Fuse
2	DGVCL/SP/20012/ G I Bolt for LT Shackle Insulator
3	DGVCL/SP/20013/ LT Shackle & HT and LT Stay Insulator
4	DGVCL/SP/20014/ HD PVC Rigid Pipe
5	DGVCL/SP/20017/ 3 Ph. Composite LT CT Operated Meter 40-200 Amp Cat- C2
6	DGVCL/SP/20033/ 11KV CTPT Unit

Note: Bidders may visit our website for regular updates till opening of the tender. **ACE (P), DGVCL, Surat.**

Install MCB/ELCB/RCCB & Prevent Electric Shocks/Electrical Accidents

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU CENTRE FOR ADVANCED SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH
Jakkur, Bengaluru 560 064

Adv. No./JNC/AO/R.0903/2019-2 Date: 28.11.2019

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), Bengaluru, a premier research institute, under the aegis of Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, invites Tender for the following from reputed, experienced and financially sound Companies/Firms/Agencies/Contractors.

1. Housekeeping Services
2. Horticulture & Gardening Services

The detailed Tender document is available on the Centre's website: [http://www.jncasr.ac.in/main_page.php/Tenders\(Active\)/36/1/165/](http://www.jncasr.ac.in/main_page.php/Tenders(Active)/36/1/165/)

For any clarifications you may send an email to tender@jncasr.ac.in

Sd/-
Administrative Officer

NEW OKHLA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida G.B. Nagar, (U.P.)
Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.com

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited from firms/contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com & <http://etender.up.nic.in>.

Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/ amendments & corrigendum etc.

S.No.	Job No.	Name of Work	Amount in Lac	
A	1	28/GM(R)/SM (WC-1) /2019-20	M/o Admn. Building (Fire Fighting works proposed Noida Authority Office in Sec.-6), Noida	₹ 36.23
B	2	36/GM(R)/SM (WC-2) /2019-20	M/o Road (C/o Footpath patri dressing & C/o Culvert in front of Sector-33, MP-2 Road), Noida	₹ 31.03

Which can be uploaded by date **12.12.2019 upto 5.00 PM**. Pre-qualification shall be opened / downloaded on date **13.12.2019 at 11.00 AM**.

General Manager (R),
Noida

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

NATIONAL BANK FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
C-24, 'G' Block, Bandra - Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400 051

Roll out of Enterprise Content Management solution to Regional Offices and Training Establishments of NABARD

Offers are invited from qualified and experienced vendors for the above requirements. Detailed information is available on the website www.nabard.org. The last date for submission of bids is 03rd January 2020, 02:30 pm. The proposals should be submitted in the prescribed format to the Chief General Manager, Department of Information Technology, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, 5th Floor, C-Wing, C-24, G Block, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai - 400 051.

www.nabard.org Taking Rural India >>> Forward

HSCC (INDIA) LIMITED
(A Subsidiary of NBCC (India) Limited)
(A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ENTERPRISE)
E-6A, Sector-01, Noida-201301

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

NIT No. HSCC/AIIMS-surgical Block/Fur/2019 Dated: 28.11.2019

Online item rate bids are invited on behalf of All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Ansari Nagar, (New Delhi) through e-tendering from eligible applicants who fulfill qualification criteria as stipulated in Vol-I (NIT/PO document) for the work "Supply, installation, testing & commissioning of office Furniture and their maintenance during defect liability period for Surgical Block, AIIMS, Ansari Nagar, New Delhi" Estimated project cost is Rs. 85 Lakh Completion period is 02 Months & other details available on detailed NIT Tender available online from 02/12/2019 and Last Date of submission of Bids: 17/12/2019 at 15.00 hrs.

The detailed NIT will be available on websites www.tenderwizard.com & HSCC, <http://www.hsccltd.co.in> and CPP Portal. Corrigendum to this publication, if any, would appear only on said websites and not be published

Sr. Mgr. (C), HSCC (I) Ltd

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
DIRECTORATE OF PURCHASE AND STORES
HEAVY WATER PLANT, TALCHER

CORRIGENDUM to e-Tender ID: 46741

With reference to our NIT No.: DPS/HWP/TAL/DISPOSAL/MP/2M-49 (e-Tender ID: 46741) for Dismantling and Disposal of Heavy Water Main Plant at HWP Talcher, Odisha, certain amendments have been made to **Payment Terms**. This is incorporated at **Para-7 as Special Payment Terms in Revised Annexure-H**. Bidders are requested to submit Revised Annexures with their bids. **Due Date is 09.12.2019 (02.30 pm)**. For further details please visit the website at <https://etenders.dpsdae.gov.in> Assistant Stores Officer

Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd.
(A Govt. of India Undertaking, Ministry of Defence)
Regd. Office: 43/46, Garden Reach Road, Kolkata 700 024

E-TENDER NOTICE FOR ONLINE BIDDING

NIT NO.: PRESS/PUR/SKNAL.ALLOY SHEET & STRUCTURALS/ ASW SWC/RA-040

Sub: Supply of AL.Alloy Sheet & Structural

Due Date: 21 Days from date of Publication

1. Details will be available in e-procurement portal <https://eprocuregrse.co.in> and websites <http://www.grse.in> & <https://eprocure.gov.in/cppp/>

2. Any addendum/corrigendum to this tender enquiry will be published in above websites only.

"In pursuit of Excellence and Quality in Shipbuilding"
Visit us at : www.grse.nic.in

POLICE HEADQUARTERS JAMMU & KASHMIR, JAMMU
Phone/Fax No.: 01943631/243032 (SR) (Provision Section) WEBSITE: WWW.APOLICE.GOV.IN
0191-2459029/2459255 (JMU) E-MAIL: PHQJ&K@JPOLICE.GOV.IN

e-NIT No. 82 OF 2019
DATED: 26.11.2019

Online e-Tenders in Two Cover System (Technical & Financial Bid) are hereby invited from Original Manufacturers/ Authorized Dealers (Having Specific Authorization from their Original Manufacturer to quote against this e-Tender Supply of "Traffic Bull Nose" as detailed in Annexure A to this NIT. The download of NIT shall Start on **26.11.2019 at 1300 hrs**. Tenders shall be submitted Online on J&K e-Procurement Portal www.jktenders.gov.in before **16.12.2019 upto 1600 hours**. The samples shall be deposited at Police Central Store, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu before Closing Date of Submission of e-Tender. Samples received after the prescribed Date or Time shall not be accepted.

The Tenders (Technical Bids only) will be Opened Online on **18.12.2019 at 1100 hours** at Police Headquarters J&K, Jammu. In case of unforeseen circumstances, the Date of Opening will be next working day.

Detailed Tender Documents (SBD) with terms and conditions are available on J&K e-Procurement Portal: www.jktenders.gov.in.

No. Prov./IT/C-16/2018-19/68985-95 Sd/- (Mubassir Latifi) JKPS
Dated: 26.11.2019 AIG (Provision Transport)
DIPJ-9887 For Director General of Police, J&K-Jammu.

DAY TODAY BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
Sometimes going on that is difficult to pin down, but which may be prolonging financial difficulties which could be left over from the past. In fact, it might be nothing more than a half-understood memory which is causing you to act in a rather negative, unproductive and, perhaps costly, manner.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)
Today's main planetary aspect is undoubtedly emotional and volatile, but it will be quite easy to defuse other people's hysteria by calmly and sympathetically explaining the facts as you see them. You may also have to make up someone's mind for them.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
The full impact of current celestial alignments is bound to be difficult to understand. You may have one of those strange feelings that all is not quite right. That aside, if you want to do something for yourself, sort out chronic health irritations.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
Passions are running high. You may prefer the company of friends with whom you have little emotional connection, but if you go in for intimate one-to-one encounters, then you must be prepared for long-buried feelings to erupt from the unconscious depths.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)
You are in a very strong position, and not for the first time, but that may not shield you from a few items of flying emotional shrapnel. The possibility of tearful scenes increases as the hours pass, but so does your ability to make the peace and turn chaos into order.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)
You may well receive some sort of a revelation today. You might hear a welcome item of news, and the feeling that you finally know what is going on will make it all worthwhile. You can expect a display of emotion at work, perhaps late in the day.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)
Sometimes you need to know when not to get involved, so let sleeping dogs lie unless you want to land yourself with a rather large bill at some time in the next week. What comes to light in an unusual way will suggest that other people are better at handling money than you.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)
The first step in the right direction now appears to be to recognise that someone else was absolutely right all along. However, while that might be the case as far as actions and behaviour are concerned, your beliefs and imagination are still spot-on.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)
You should feel positive but, if you let your suspicions run riot, you may end up feeling rather gloomy. However, there is no need to be gloomy. Press ahead with daily matters; you may gain an immense amount of satisfaction from concentrating on immediate and routine necessities.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)
Friends you hardly know, casual acquaintances in other words, are likely to give you a hard time. Why they feel they have the right to do this is a complete mystery. You're far better off mixing with lovers, children and people who are young at heart — and who you know you can trust.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)
You are usually very alert. If your sixth sense is functioning to the full, you may discover that an employer or another authority figure is behaving irrationally. You may decide to keep out of the way, and that might be the best thing you can do.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
Travel seems to be very much on your mind. If there's no chance of a journey, at least you should dabble in some distant fantasy. If you can't go on an adventure today, is there some way you can spice up your life? Take the initiative and get in touch with people in foreign parts.

MAHARASHTRA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
(A Government of Maharashtra Undertaking)

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed bids in the prescribed format are invited for "Selection of Consultant for providing Manpower on Man Month Basis for Investment Promotion, Trade Strategy Recommendation, Investment Climate Reform Strategy, Implementation Assistance and Organising Investors Conference" as per the specification laid down in the tender document. The detailed terms and condition of the bid are available in tender document. Tender documents are available on web site of MIDC : www.midcindia.org from 29/11/2019 to 16/12/2019. For further details, please email General Manager (Marketing) on gmmarketing@midcindia.org

- Last Date of Submission is 16/12/2019 till 4.00 pm
- Date of Technical proposal Opening 17/12/2019 at 12.00 pm

(Vijay Patil)
General Manager (Marketing)
MIDC HQ, Mumbai - 93

उत्तर प्रदेश गन्ना शोध परिषद, शाहजहापुर।
ई-टेंडरिंग निविदा सूचना

पत्रांक 4432/सात-17/सरसा/2019-20 दिनांक 27 नव., 2019

उ.प्र. गन्ना शोध परिषद, शाहजहापुर द्वारा पंजीकृत फर्मों से निम्न कार्य हेतु ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा प्रपत्र उ.प्र. की ई-प्रक्रायेसमेंट की वेबसाईट <https://etender.up.nic.in> से प्राप्त एवं देखे जा सकते हैं। निविदा के साथ Earnest money की धनराशि 2% व निविदा मूल्य रु. 500/- FDR/BANK DRAFT/NEFT/RTGS के माध्यम से निदेशक, उ.प्र. गन्ना शोध परिषद, शाहजहापुर के पक्ष में देय होना अनिवार्य है। NEFT/RTGS द्वारा परिषद के बैंक, बड़ौदा उ.प्र. ग्रामीण बैंक ब्रान्च-लोधीपुर, शाहजहापुर के खाता सं.-56800100001699 IFSC Code- BARB0UPGBX (Fifth character zero) में जमा किया जा सकता है। जिसकी स्कैन कॉपी अपलोड करना अनिवार्य है। टेंडरदाता को फर्म का निर्माता/अधिकृत डीलर प्रमाण पत्र/पंजीकरण प्रमाण पत्र, आयकर का नैन नं., जी.एस.टी., के प्रमाण की स्कैन कॉपी ई-टेंडर के साथ, अपलोड करना अनिवार्य होगी।

कार्य का नाम- सरिसा फार्म, बरेली पर ऑफ ग्रिड सोलर पैनेल सिस्टम 1000 वाट की आपूर्ति एवं स्थापना।

कार्य की अवधि- 15-20 दिन।

ई-निविदा प्राप्त तथा वेबसाइट पर अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय-07.12.2019 12.00 बजे तक

हस्ता/-
निदेशक
उ.प्र. गन्ना शोध परिषद
शाहजहापुर

UJVNL LTD.
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
(Telephones: 0135-2763598 & Fax- 0135-2763507)
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC02586 Website : www.uttarakhandajalvidyut.com

RO No.:688/UJVNL Tender Notice Date: 28.11.2019

Office of the EE(E&M), Asan Barrage, Dhalipur, Dehradun invites sealed tenders from interested firms for following work:

NIT No. 02/EE(E&M)/Asan Barrage/2019-20: Upgradation of CCTV system and AMC of existing CCTV and EPABX system.

NIT No. 03/EE(E&M)/Asan Barrage/2019-20: Leakage sealing of Barrage gates.

NIT No. 04/EE(E&M)/Asan Barrage/2019-20: Fencing & strengthening of railing, transformers, gauge well.

NIT No. 5/EE(E&M)/Asan Barrage/2019-20: Painting of steel structure.

NIT No. 6/EE(E&M)/Asan Barrage/2019-20: Hiring of One No. Non-AC Diesel Vehicle for a period of One year.

Approximate value (without GST): Rs. 7,92,410/-, Rs. 2,68,884/-, Rs. 7,58,895/-, Rs. 9,52,490/- and Rs. 3,42,720/- respectively.

Tender Fee: Rs. 590/-, Rs. 295/-, Rs. 590/- and Rs. 295/- respectively

Earnest Money: Rs. 23,800/-, Rs. 10,800/-, Rs. 22,800/-, Rs. 28,600/-, and Rs. 13,800/- respectively

Last date of downloading tender documents: 19/12/2019 Upto 17:00 Hrs

Last date for receipt of Tenders: 20/12/2019 Upto 13:00 Hrs

Date of opening of tender: 23/12/2019 at 11:30 Hrs

For eligibility criteria and fuller & further details kindly visit our website www.ujvnl.com Bidders are advised to regularly visit our website for latest tender notices. The tenders can only be downloaded from our website and their cost has to be paid at the time of submission of the tender.

Executive Engineer

"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

23 TALK

ART, MUSIC, STYLE, FOOD



NEW DIRECTION

Literary consultant Mita Kapur of Siyahi has been appointed the new literary director of the Rs 25 lakh JCB Prize for literature. Kapur will take charge from January 2020. She replaces writer Rana Dasgupta, whose two-year tenure ended earlier this month.

And the Award Goes To

The IFFI closing ceremony saw worthy winners take away coveted prizes



At the closing ceremony of the 50th International Film Festival of India in Goa, the 'Best Film' award went to *Particles*, directed by Blaise Harrison

EXPRESS FEATURES SERVICE

AN AMBITIOUS yet modest film about the mysteries of being a teenager", Blaise Harrison's debut French-Swiss feature film *Particles*, produced by Estelle Fialon, has won the coveted Golden Peacock Award at the 50th International Film Festival of India (IFFI), which concluded in Goa Thursday. The award that carries a cash prize of Rs 40 lakh will be shared equally between the director and producer. Malayalam filmmaker Lijo Jose Pellissery was conferred the Best Director Award for *Jallikattu*, which is a portrait of a remote village where a buffalo escapes and causes a frenzy of ecstatic violence.

The valedictory ceremony for the golden jubilee edition of the festival was held at the Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium with Goa Governor Satya Pal Malik, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest & Climate Change Babul Supriyo gracing the event. IFFI 2020 and 2021 will be a tribute to veteran filmmaker Satyajit Ray, whose centenary celebrations will be observed from next year, announced Amit Khare, Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.



The Best Actor (Male) Award was given to Seu Jorge for his portrayal of Carlos Marighella in the Brazilian film *Marighella*, for his "powerful and charismatic portrayal of a revolutionary, very relevant in our increasingly authoritarian times". And Usha Jadhav received the Best Actor (Female) Award for her portrayal of Prabha Mai in the Marathi film *Mai Ghatt: Crime No 103/2005*. Pema Tsenden walked away with the Special Jury Award for his film *Balloon*, which is set in the Tibetan grasslands. It was "the beauty of the film language and the authenticity of the actors" that got the jury's eye.

The Centenary Award for Best Debut Feature Film of a Director is being shared because a twin Algerian scriptwriter and film director Amin Sidi Boumediene for *Abou Leila* and Romanian writer-director Marius Olteanu for *Monsters*.

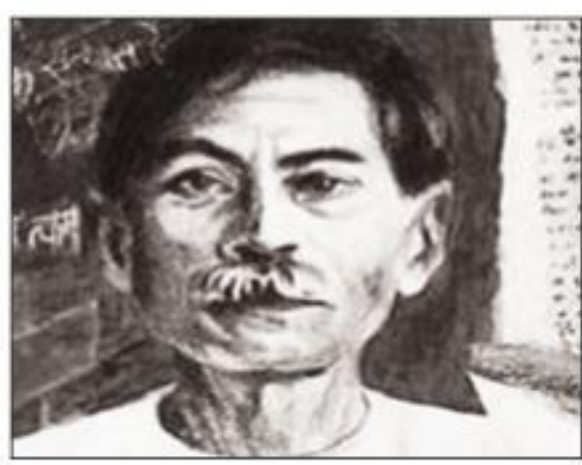
Gujarati film *Hellaro*, directed by Abhishek Shah, earned special mention from the jury for the "incredible music, colour and graceful choreography". And Italian film *Rwanda*, directed by Riccardo Salvetti, has won The ICFT-UNESCO Gandhi Medal, and Sanjay P Singh Chauhan's *Bahattar Hoarain* earned the special mention under ICFT-UNESCO Gandhi medal category.

AROUND TOWN



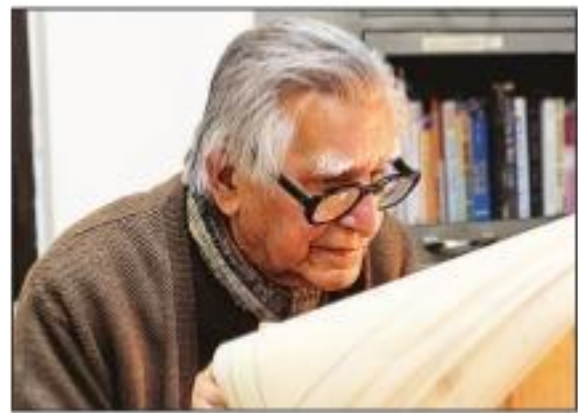
Books and More

EVER WONDERED what goes into the making of a picture book? Do the words come first or the art? See how Ruth Neal, from New Zealand, makes a picture book from start. Australian writer Ken Spillman will teach you how to do away with writer's block forever. Bjorn Ingvaldsen will bring tales from Norway about animals, kings and mythical creatures. More than 85 speakers, from 11 cities in India and countries including Australia, France, New Zealand, Portugal, will conduct more than 100 sessions at the children's literature festival, Bookaroo, which returns with its 12th edition. There will be dramatised readings and storytelling, art and illustration workshops, music and puppet shows. This year will also see special sessions for parents, teachers and guardians and a tree walk, conducted by Kavita Prakash, around the venue. On November 30 and December 1, at Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts. Open for all.



Stories that Enrich

IN THE last 100 years, Hindi literature has been singularly enriched by Munshi Premchand, whose stories have spread over a wide canvas. In an effort to rekindle the interest in Indian stories, four of the writer's short stories — *Kafan*, *Idgah*, *Panch Parameshwar* and *Namak Ka Daroga* — will be dramatically read out, as part of Kahani Konkerti series. On November 29, 6-7 pm, at Oxford Bookstore, Connaught Place.



Tall Life

STRUCTURING FORM — The Innovative Rigour of Mahendra Raj', conceptualised by Rohit Raj Mehndiratta and Vandini Mehta, showcases the extraordinary practice and workings of structural engineer Mahendra Raj. The show presents his extraordinary public projects with leading Indian and international architects. A curatorial walk will be held on November 30, at 11.30 am, Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, Saket.



Step Out

SOAK IN the winter sun on the Australian High Commission lawns at their annual Oz Haat Mela. Besides NGO stalls that have tribal art, textiles, homeware, jewellery, and Christmas decorations, there will be food, music, and theatre. On November 30, 11 am-5 pm. Entry from Gate 5, Australian High Commission.

Play at 60

ONE OF Delhi's oldest cultural clubs, Karol Bagh Bangiya Samsad, which completes 60 years, is bringing plays by eight Delhi cultural groups, including Chittaranjan Park Bangiya Samaj and People's Theatre, for the club's diamond jubilee celebrations "Natakter Utsab" at LTG Auditorium in Nanda House, from November 29 to December 1, 5-10 pm. Besides the club's play *Parash Pathar*, others include *Naxalbari*, *Mahesh*, *Indurkal*, *Grahajati*, and *Mritiyusangeet*. Jatindra Nath Moitra (fondly called Botukda) was associated with the club long ago.

Music in the Time of War

Grammy winner and trumpet legend Arturo Sandoval on his mentor and friend Dizzy Gillespie and perfecting the horn after all these years

(Above) Arturo Sandoval will headline the festival in celebration of NCPA's golden jubilee *Lonnie Timmons III/JazzPhoto.com*; the interiors of Tata Theatre

SUANSHU KHURANA

IN THE '60s, when the war of ideologies between American capitalism and Cuban communist revolution supported by the Soviet Union was at its peak, Fidel Castro, the then Prime Minister of Cuba declared American music as "music of the enemy", and banned it. However, the 145 km schism between the borders was inapplicable when the radio waves crossed sides. Trumpeter Arturo Sandoval, then in his 20s, serving in the Cuban military, would tune into shortwave radio, as Willis Conover's politics-free broadcasts came on the famed *Voice of America Jazz Hour*. With no knowledge of English, he heard the music, and would wait for American jazz trumpeter virtuoso Dizzy Gillespie's name to be announced alongside iconic trumpeter Clifford Brown and legendary saxophonist Charlie Parker. Gillespie's world was far away from that of regular traditional and swing bands. His musicianship and extrovert chord progressions had Sandoval hooked. Soon enough he was caught listening to the "banned music" and put in jail. But it didn't deter Sandoval. Years later, when he found out that Gillespie would be in Havana, he waited outside the ship hoping to meet his hero. "Meeting Dizzy changed my life," says 70-year-old Sandoval, in an email interview.

Over the years, he toured with Gillespie and the two performed together on many occasions. "It's a truly marvelous thing to meet your hero, and then form a bond with him. He was my mentor, my friend, my teacher and is still an inspiration to me every day," says Sandoval. Gillespie had visited India in 1985. More than three decades later, Sandoval, considered one of the most worthy successors of the bebop legend, will headline the three-day multi-genre "NCPA ADD Art Festival" this weekend in Mumbai, as an ode to 50 years of the National Centre for Performing Art (NCPA).

After a solo session, Sandoval's set will feature keyboardists Louiz Banks and Merlin D'Souza, percussionist Taufiq Qureshi, bassists Sheldon D'Silva and Dee Wood, saxophonist Rhys D'Souza, flautist Rajeev Raja, tabla player Aditya Kalyanpur

and drummer Gino Banks.

Sandoval found music when he was 10. Son of an auto mechanic, his family was neither interested in music nor keen that their child learn it. "Also, in Cuba, it was practically impossible to get hold of an instrument, so when I was young, my aunt brought me a small horn and I never stopped striving to get better. That continues even now," he says.

When a trumpet teacher refused to teach him, he came back home crying, and decided to learn it anyway. He began performing with street musicians and also enrolled in Cuban National School of the Arts, where he was taught by a Russian trumpeter. He performed all over the world with his rock-influenced band Irakere before moving to Florida in 1981. Gillespie, whom Sandoval had met in 1977, helped him after repeated attempts at getting citizenship. "It was with his help that I was able to get political asylum and move to the US with my family. He afforded me the greatest freedom as well as more personal and professional opportunities that I could have ever wished for," says Sandoval, whose life was also the subject for the 2000 film *For Love or Country*. "It's tiring, I'm getting old. But no matter how old I get, I feed off the energy of the people I play for, and that keeps me energised and excited for the next show."

The NCPA festival will also feature other artists such as Hindustani classical vocalist Ut Rashid Khan, santoor and flute legend Pt Shiv Kumar Sharma and Pt Hariprasad Chaurasia respectively. There will also be a tribute to Ut Allarakha in his centenary year by Ut Zakir Hussain, Kala Rammath, Shikhar Naad Qureshi and students of Ut Allarakha Institute of Music. The festival will also feature classical dance performances including Kathak by Aditi Mangaldas and Odissi by the students of Nrityagram. There will be Bharatanatyam recitals by two of the finest Bharatanatyam dancers in the country — Alarmal Valli and Malavika Sarukkai. The former will team up with poet Arundhati Subramaniam for a performance. The concluding session will witness a music and dance duet in a "Maestros Meet" with Birju Maharaj and Ajoy Chakrabarty.



Many Shades of Art

NCPA turns 50 with a three-day programme that celebrates togetherness and artistic excellence

ALAKA SAHANI

LOCATED AT the southern most tip of Mumbai is the sprawling National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA). With its gardens, gallery and five specially-built theatres, this sea-facing cultural centre turns 50 this month.

On its premises are photographs of maestros and artists who have been associated and performed at NCPA over the years. There is also a chic Beer and Wine Garden, with wooden chairs and tables beautiful laid out. Meanwhile, the Piralma Art Gallery is hosting an exhibition of over 100 photographs that trace its 50-year journey. On display are photos of MS Subbulakshmi, Ut Bismillah Khan, Girija Devi, Girish Karnad and many others.

Starting from November 29, the NCPA is rolling out a specially-curated three-days celebration of art, music and theatre, titled "NCPA ADD Art Festival". Khushroo N Sunkot, NCPA Chairman and SOI Founder, says: "This is a very thoughtfully curated festival that brings several Indian cultural traditions as well as artists to NCPA." This range of artists that the festival promises is exciting. Theatre director Roysten Abel, who returns to Mumbai with The Manganiyar Seduction, is looking forward to be back at NCPA's Jamshed Bhabha Theatre, which he believes is the best indoor venue.

The opening act was on Thursday evening with a 90-minute gala concert by Symphony Orchestra of India (SOI). "We wanted to offer an evening of favourites that are well-loved by our audience and also to have an inclusive show. Our first season had ballet in it and we have invited the same ballet group (Abay Kazakh State Academic Theatre of Opera and Ballet) back. We got a mixed choir of more than

100 artistes from all over India," says Zane Dalal, associate music director, SOI, and added that "the idea is to celebrate the togetherness that this hub for artistic excellence represents".

The NCPA, initially conceived by Jamshed Bhabha, was built to further the cause of art and culture in India. Speaking at the opening of NCPA's Working Programme in 1969, at its temporary premises at Bhulabhai Desai Road, industrialist JRD Tata had expressed the desire "to build a prosperous society". "We do not want it to be merely a materialistic, a consumer, society. Apart from that, a nation like ours with its ancient civilisation cannot afford to neglect the cultural heritage handed down to it over the centuries." He found support in the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, who was present at the inauguration. Gandhi said: "We have no doubt that our classical and folk music and art are some of the things which we simply must preserve in order to keep our individuality."

During the last 50 years, NCPA has added performance spaces and tweaked them to meet the cultural requirement. In fact, its theatre spaces have remains one of its kind in the city, especially Jamshed Bhabha Theatre (JBT) and Tata Theatre.

However, the NCPA has its challenges to deal with. It has been a struggle to draw the audience from the suburban areas. High rentals of its theatres is another issue. Sunkot says: "One of the biggest challenges has been to reach out to the audiences. We have the best musicians but there should be more enthusiasm around it. However, most of the audience looks for a big name rather than quality. We have been reaching out through digital medium to draw the youngsters even as we offer membership (there are 4000 members) at a reasonable price." For now, he hopes this festival will pull in more crowds.



The Gig that Grew

Festival director Supreet Kaur talks about how NH7 Weekender has grown in 10 years

DIPTI NAGPAUL

IT WAS the second edition of NH7 Weekender and Supreet Kaur was in Pune with the organising team. Only Much Louder (OML), making sure every department had

what they needed to operate smoothly. She was just out of college and it was her first job, in which there was a stage that had a giant ferris wheel. However, as the festival began, each day went past and there was little or no activity on this stage. "It came alive with the finale. The all-star performance that included

Imogen Heap, Vishal Dadlani and many others, had the audience going crazy over the music. That is when I realised the grand vision the organisers had for the festival," says Kaur, "I was so struck by the visual that I wanted be a part of this, that connects both audience and artists through music."

Today, as NH7 celebrates its 10th edition, festival director Kaur says, "We want to be the festival that impacts popular culture and that is the reason we are constantly evolving in small ways. For instance, we understand that our audience should not be categorised into gender binaries and so, this year we have changed how people will enter the festival and use the washrooms. We are also working towards waste segregation and making the festival plastic-free," says Kaur. However, a big change has been the exit of OML founder Vijay Nair, also Kaur's mentor, following allegations of abusive behaviour. While she admits that things aren't the same without him, Kaur says the team is empowered to work as they did with Nair around.

In the last couple of years, the festival has also travelled to Delhi, Bengaluru and Kolkata.



Supreet Kaur (above); a previous edition of the NH7

The Meghalaya edition concluded earlier this month. This year, there is a wider mix of sounds with the mainstay of rock and metal as well as afro beats and newer electronic sounds. They are celebrating hip-hop in a bigger way this year. "There is so much home-grown talent in this genre that we decided a lot of the lesser-known acts had to be showcased at a festival," she says.

While Australian artist Nick Murphy aka Chet Faker is headlining the festival, other international artistes such as Opethe, KOKOROKO, and Kodakline will also perform at the three-day event. However, the focus of NH7, says Kaur, will always be Indian indie acts, which include Lifafa, Parvaaz and Cut A Vibe.

They have also gone on to include stand-up comedy, art showcases and other cultural facets. About the criticism regarding the hike in the ticket prices, Kaur says, "It's Rs 5,500 this year. In India, we need to get used to paying this kind of price for a quality music festival. We invest heavily in the artistes, the visuals and creatives involved. And if we are unwilling to pay for the creativity that NH7 stands for, we may need to stop having this festival in the future."

KPL: Bookie claims he was acting on instructions of BCCI anti-corruption sleuth

JOHNSON TA
BENGALURU, NOVEMBER 28

A MAN arrested for allegedly inducing a cricketer to under-perform and facilitating spot-fixing in the 2019 Karnataka Premier League has claimed that he was functioning as an informer of the BCCI Anti-Corruption Unit.

Sanyam Gulati from Haryana, held by the crime branch on November 9 on charges of influencing KPL player Bhavesh Gulecha to indulge in spot-fixing, has written to judicial officers in Karnataka and police officers investigating the scandal that he paid Gulecha Rs 75,000 only to collect evidence for the ACU.

Gulati, alleged to be involved in betting across the world including in the Caribbean Premier League and Tamil Nadu Premier League, claimed to have kept BCCI

manager for anti-corruption Anshuman Upadhyay in the loop about his approaches to KPL players.

However, a senior police officer has rubbished these claims.

“International bookie Sanyam has been arrested. He is a resident of Haryana. He was absconding in the West Indies. An LoC (Look Out Circular) was issued. He is arrested in the case of match-fixing by (celebrity drummer) Bhavesh Bafna,” Bengaluru Crime Branch said.

According to the statement provided to police by Gulecha, a Ballary Tuskers player, he was offered the prospect of playing in the IPL and Rs two lakh cash by Gulati as inducement.

But In a letter dated November 8, Gulati has claimed that he held meetings with players at Upadhyay’s behest.

“I state that Mr Anshuman Upadhyay, the manager of anti-corruption unit, BCCI, India, having office at Mumbai, asked/re-

Gulati, alleged to be involved in betting across the world including in the Caribbean Premier League and Tamil Nadu Premier League, claimed to have kept BCCI manager for anti-corruption Anshuman Upadhyay in the loop about his approaches to Karnataka Premier League players

quested me to pass on information about the corrupt practice of match/spot-fixing in cricket matches. Only on the request of the above person I entertained the complainant of this case Bhavesh Gulecha and

secured information and forwarded it to Anshuman Upadhyay,” Gulati wrote.

Gulati, who describes himself as a businessman, has claimed to have met the BCCI’s anti-corruption manager in 2018 at Dindigul in Tamil Nadu during the 2018 TNPL. He claims to have alerted Tamil Nadu police about large-scale gambling on TNPL matches during that season.

“In the month of July 2018, I had come to Chennai to see TNPL matches. During the matches, I found that online gambling is going on and from the ground information was being forwarded to bookies. I lodged a complaint through mail to ADGP of police in Tamil Nadu and requested action,” the letter states.

“During my visit to Dindigul to see a match, I met Mr Anshuman Upadhyay, the manager of anti-corruption unit, BCCI, India. I apprised him of my information about bookies and mode of gambling in the

ground. He assured me of action if it comes to his notice in respect to corrupt practice by the players or anybody else.”

Gulati claims to have met Bafna during the 2018 TNPL and the latter is alleged to have roped in Gulecha for fixing in 2019 KPL. In May this year, Bafna approached him saying his friend who is in the KPL “wants to do something in matches to make money,” Gulati stated. According to him, he arranged for Bafna and Gulecha to meet him in Delhi where an offer was allegedly made to Gulecha.

In July, when he travelled to South India for the TNPL, Gulati claims to have met Gulecha again. “I paid him Rs 75,000 in cash only to collect evidence against him,” he wrote.

“I was convinced that corruption was likely to take place in KPL matches hence I forwarded this information to Mr Anshuman Upadhyay, the manager of anti-

corruption unit of BCCI India. Mr Anshuman Upadhyay asked me to continue my contacts with Mr Bhavesh Gulecha and in the event of Mr Bhavesh Gulecha conducting as promised by him he would take action against him under anti-corruption regulation of BCCI and other acts such as police complaints etc.”

“If I had intended to make money, would not have forwarded each and every development to Mr Anshuman Upadhyay and I would not have worked as a source to the BCCI anti-corruption unit,” Gulati added.

He claims to have screenshots of messages forwarded to Upadhyay informing him about the plans for fixing in KPL matches.

But a senior Bengaluru police officer described Gulati’s claims as false.

“Gulati used to meet players saying he was linked to the anti-corruption unit of the BCCI. People tended to believe him because no one verified his credentials.”

A pink-ball oddball

Conventional wisdom says day-night Tests are pacers’ domain. Aussie off-spinner Nathan Lyon is a notable exception

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NOVEMBER 28

THE FIRST pink-ball Test in India could be (mis) construed as a vindication of the spinners’ redundancy in this genre of the game. For the first time ever in the history of Indian cricket, their spinners went wicketless. It also had to do with the fact that they barely bowled: seven overs across both innings. Among the 29 wickets to have fallen in the match, only one went to the spinner (Tajjul Islam dismissing Ajinkya Rahane on Day 2), reiterating the perception that pink-ball cricket is overwhelmingly skewed in favour of the faster men. While it’s true that seamers get better purchase, the spinners, especially those using their fingers, aren’t a peripheral force. Ask Nathan Lyon.

Superb Lyon

In fact, the Australian off-spinner, who will be in action against Pakistan in the day-night Test beginning in Adelaide on Friday, average better with the pink ball than the red cherry. In five Tests, he has nabbed 17 wickets at 28, and including Sheffield games, he has bargained 29 scalps in nine games, at 27.55. It has not been a case of him slicing through a softened-up lower order after the pacemen had slit the top and middle orders, as is often assumed. Rather a bulk of those wickets have been specialists batsmen (13 off the 17, though it’s not a coincidence that ten of them were lefties). It includes some of the better players of spin, such as Alastair Cook (twice in the same Test in 2017-18), Dimuth Karunaratne, Babar Azam, Younis Khan, Temba Bavuma and Jean-Paul Duminy. And, on most instances, he has bowled as many overs as the seamers, superbly blending the strike-stock bowling duties. He ties up one end and picks wickets as well — under natural lights as well as floodlights.

Seam advantage

Theoretically, the pink ball is designed to make life difficult for the finger spinners, a reason wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav’s name was doing the rounds for the Kolkata Test. The ball is heavier, tends to get softer quite rapidly, making it difficult to grip. Naturally, it becomes difficult to purchase over-spin, a finger-spinner’s chief weapon in Australia. Consequently, less bounce too. But Lyon spots a blessing in disguise. “It’s hard to detect the seam under the lights. So it works for me, and I could experiment more with the seam positions,” he had said after the Ashes Test against England two seasons ago.

Subtle adjustments

Though he swears by the usual sporting truism of practice-for-perfection, he has incorporated subtle tweaks into his methods. For instance, he tends to flight the pink-ball more, gets more inward drift (and it has helped that most of the day-night games are played in Adelaide where the cross-wind is as permanent a feature as the Cathedral and the River Torrens), is slower through the air and imparts more revs on the ball. He gets more shoulder into the action, and hence he manages more turn than with the red Kookaburra. That he has been massively successful with the pink-ball is a testimony to his adaptability, as much as the utter mas-



Australian off-spinner Nathan Lyon i s among the top-four wicket takers in pink-ball cricket. *File*

tery of his craft.

Neither a friend nor an enemy

The pink ball isn’t a spinner’s best friend. Neither is it a sworn enemy. Those shrewd enough have found means to bargain wickets. In their first day-night Test, Sri Lanka’s finger spinners, Rangana Herath and Dilruwan Perera, bowled beautifully — picking six wickets among them — to disarray Pakistan in Abu Dhabi and fashion a famous win. Discarded Australian left-arm spinner Steve O’Keefe has evolved into the most feared pink-ball destroyer in the domestic circuit (18 wickets at 18.22). And for all their deep pockets of fast-bowling wickets, Pakistan’s most successful pink-ball bowler has been leg-spinner Yasir Shah (17 wickets and two five-fors, though bleeding 37 runs for each). Shah, after his first experience of the pink ball, had said that he could grip the ball better and purchase more bounce. So fundamentally, it’s more about the quality of a bowler than the type of bowler he is. So amidst a raft of thrilling pacemen from either side, Lyon and Shah wouldn’t be merely making up the numbers.

Daryl Mitchell, son of England’s rugby coach, set to make New Zealand debut

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
HAMILTON, NOVEMBER 28

JUST WEEKS after cheering England’s win over New Zealand at the Rugby World Cup, Daryl Mitchell has been named to make his cricket debut for New Zealand in the second Test against England on Friday. The all-rounder is the son of John Mitchell, the former All Blacks coach who is now an assistant under Eddie Jones with England, who beat New Zealand in the Rugby World Cup semis.

He will replace the injured Colin de Grandhomme in Hamilton, but New Zealand have delayed a decision on whether Matt Henry or Lockie Ferguson will come in for injured bowling spearhead Trent Boult. With New Zealand looking for a clean sweep after winning the first Test by an innings and 65 runs, senior batsman Ross Taylor said the weather and pitch conditions before the second and final Test will determine the bowling line-up.

Taylor also had no doubt that Mitchell, who has previously played Twenty20 internationals for New Zealand, would slot successfully into the Test team. New Zealand’s player depth “is definitely the best it’s every been in my career”, Taylor said. “When I first started out, when we had a guy on debut we hoped the player would do well but now I think we expect the player to do well.”

With a Test cap to his name Mitchell will go a step further than his father, who played six mid-week tour matches but no Tests for the All Blacks before turning to coaching and taking New Zealand to third at the 2003 Rugby World Cup.

Daryl Mitchell has admitted he had mixed feelings when England beat New Zealand in the World Cup semi-finals in Japan. They lost to South Africa in the final.

“It’s a strange watch, to be fair. Your whole



Mitchell, who is an all-rounder, will replace the injured Colin de Grandhomme in the second Test at Seddon Park in Hamilton.

With a Test cap to his name Mitchell will go a step further than his father, John Mitchell, who played six mid-week tour matches but no Tests for the All Blacks before turning to coaching and taking New Zealand to third at the 2003 Rugby World Cup.

life you grow up supporting the All Blacks, but at the same time you want your old man to do well,” the 28-year-old Daryl told Stuff.co.nz after England won 19-7. “At the end of the day, I wanted the old man to do well. To get a chance to win a World Cup final is pretty cool. The whole family is supporting him.”

Mitchell has played nine Twenty20 internationals for New Zealand. In first-class cricket at domestic level, the right-hand batsman and medium-fast bowler averages 35.6 with the bat and 33.5 with the ball.

LIVE ON HOTSTAR — 3:30 AM ONWARDS



Off-spinner Rahkeem Cornwall snared a 10-wicket haul.

Pollard to lead, Hope & Pooran his deputies

St John’s (Antigua): The West Indies on Thursday announced their ODI and T20 squads for the upcoming series of India, beginning next month. Kieron Pollard will continue to lead both the ODI and T20 squads with Nicholas Pooran as his deputy in the shorter format and Shai Hope taking over the role of vice-captain in the ODIs. The selectors decided to keep faith with the players who recently played against Afghanistan in Lucknow. **ODI Squad:** Sunil Ambris, Shai Hope, Khary Pierre, Rostan Chase, Alzarri Joseph, Kieron Pollard (C), Sheldon Cottrell, Brandon King, Nicholas Pooran, Shimron Hetmyer, Evin Lewis, Romario Shepherd, Jason Holder, Keemo Paul, Hayden Walsh Jr. **T20 squad:** Fabian Allen, Brandon King, Denesh Ramdin, Sheldon Cottrell, Evin Lewis, Shferane Rutherford, Shimron Hetmyer, Khary Pierre, Lendl Simmons, Jason Holder, Kieron Pollard (C), Hayden Walsh Jr, Keemo Paul, Nicholas Pooran, Kesrick Williams.

Dravid for more Indians in coaching roles in IPL

Lucknow: Rahul Dravid is disappointed at the lack of opportunities for Indian coaches in the IPL and feels the franchises are “missing a trick” by not involving them in their support staff. According to the former captain and current National Cricket Academy (NCA) director, most Indian coaches were as good as any in the world. “I believe we’ve got some very good coaches, a lot of good people, I’m fully confident (in their ability). Just as we have a lot of talent in the cricket department, we have a lot of talent in the coaching department,” Dravid told ‘ESP’ncricinfo’. “We need to give them confidence and time to flourish. It does sometimes disappoint me when a lot of our boys don’t get opportunities as assistant coaches in IPL. Honestly, there are so many Indian players in the IPL, there’s so much of local knowledge. I feel a lot of teams could actually benefit from using a lot of our Indian coaches in the IPL. They know the Indian players better, they understand them better.” **PTI**



India and Pakistan players at the draw ceremony. The Pakistan side features three rookies--Muhammad Shoaib, Huzaifa Abdul Rehman and Yousaf Khalil.

A dramatic tie with an undramatic script

SHAHID JUDGE
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 28

"IT'S NOT about winning or losing," begins Rehman Gul, the coach and manager of the Pakistan Davis Cup team. "We have already won the game of tennis just by coming here and showing our sportsman spirit..." It's a loaded statement for a tie that is likely to be 'oh so tame'.

It's a tie that once promised a whole lot of drama for the right reasons, a tie that delivered drama for all that is bad, and a tie that is now taking place in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan, and not Islamabad, Pakistan. The Indians were always going to be the favourites, no matter the venue or the surface, just because of the depth of the team and the gulf in class between the two sides. Given the stature of the youngsters the Pakistan federation has been forced to send for this tie – the three players neither have a great presence on the ITF or ATP websites, nor much experience of playing tennis at a high level – the result is a foregone conclusion.

As expected, India has put their best team forward. Sumit Nagal and Ramkumar Ramanathan would play the four singles rubbers, and Davis Cup debutant Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan would team up with 18-time Grand Slam champion Leander Paes for the sole doubles match. Saketh Myneni is the fifth member in the team, while Sidharth Rawat will be the reserve.

Pakistan, meanwhile, chose to send only three freshers—Muhammad Shoaib, Huzaifa Abdul Rehman and Yousaf Khalil—to Kazakhstan. According to the draw on Thursday, world no 176 Ramkumar will play Shoaib in the opening rubber, followed by India's most improved player of 2019, the world no 131 Nagal taking on Rehman. The two Pakistanists will then pair up on Saturday to play doubles against Paes and Jeevan before playing their reverse singles ties.

Last week, when the International Tennis Federation (ITF) declared that this tie would be shifted out of Islamabad and to neutral Kazakhstan, Pakistan's two stalwarts Aisam-Ul-Haq Qureshi and Aqeel Khan—whose presence may have arguably given their team half a chance—decided to boycott the tie in protest. In their stead, Davis Cup debutants Muhammad Shoaib (aged 17), Huzaifa Abdul Rehman (also 17), and 20-year-old Yousaf Khalil make up the four-member contingent that includes Gul.

To be fair, Shoaib and Rehman are considered among the brightest tennis prospects from Pakistan in their age group. But that's not to say that their standing is of much significance in the world junior stage.

Shoaib, who comes from the family of legendary six-time squash world champion Jahangir Khan, has a combined junior ranking of 1005. A student at a university in Peshawar with a two-handed forehand, he's played most of his tournaments in Pakistan.

When the International Tennis Federation declared that the tie would be shifted out of Islamabad, Pakistan's two stalwarts Aisam-Ul-Haq Qureshi and Aqeel Khan decided to boycott the tie in protest.

His compatriot Rehman though comes to this Davis Cup tie having recently reached the final of a junior ITF event in Fujairah, UAE. He has travelled for events in the last two years, playing in the UAE, Turkey, Kenya, Jordan and Qatar, and has a combined junior ranking of 447.

The team's senior most player, Khalil meanwhile, does have an ATP ranking—tied at 1680—but last played an event, a Futures tournament, in December last year.

So depleted is the Pakistani squad that Shoaib has been listed as playing 'captain' for this tie. In comparison, India has taken along a sizeable entourage of 12, which includes a non-playing captain, coach, physiotherapists, and a manager.

Yet the situation might have been different had the tie not been shifted to a neutral venue. Nagal and Ramkumar made it clear that they would not compete should the tie be played in Pakistan owing to security concerns. The Indian team may too have been depleted if they were to play in Islamabad, on grass courts, where Qureshi and Khan are known to be rather proficient. But that remains one of those 'what-could-have-been' moments for Pakistan.

And so on Friday, one of the world's greatest rivalries will get another chapter, but it may just be one of the most mismatched competitions ever played.

PTI adds: Bhupathi cannot get over the hurt

Mumbai: India's former Davis Cup skipper Mahesh Bhupathi on Thursday said he cannot get over the 'hurt' caused by the national federation's manner of sacking him but it was hardly a surprise given how the body has dealt with players in the last two decades. Bhupathi was removed from the captain's position by the All India Tennis Association (AITA) for refusing to travel to Pakistan for a Davis Cup tie on security grounds. The tie is now being held in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan starting Friday.

"I am still in touch with the boys on a daily basis. I was disappointed with the way the Federation dealt with it. When they wanted me to become captain, they flew down to Hyderabad, had a meeting with me," Bhupathi recalled. "I don't mind if they think that it is time for me to step out, but a courtesy phone call saying 'listen we think it is time to put someone new in the system' and I would have respected that," he added.

Mumbai gets a Manchester touch

City's stakes in the ISL club could benefit the latter immensely in terms of footballing expertise

MIHIR VASAVDA
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 28

LAST YEAR, Simon Chadwick, a sports business expert, compared the franchising policy of City Football Group - English champions Manchester City's parent company - to McDonald's. Bigger the group, he explained to the *Sydney Morning Herald*, "the more the individual parts can help each other with co-branding opportunities and intelligence sharing."

On Thursday, as CFG added Mumbai City to its chain by purchasing 65 percent stake (actor Ranbir Kapoor and film producer Bimal Parekh will together hold the remaining 35 percent), it is this 'intelligence sharing' that the Indian Super League side will hope to benefit from.

European clubs foraying into the Indian market is not new. But intentions of most have been doubted as none have made any tangible difference to Indian football. Earlier this year, Basel did something no foreign club had done earlier in India when they purchased a minority stake (26 percent) in I-League champions Chennai City.

But City Football Group's deal trumps that. It is for the first time a foreign entity has bought a controlling stake in an Indian club. "This is one big difference and shows their seriousness. They have spent a lot of time and effort in understanding the market before taking the jump," Mumbai City's CEO Indranil Das Blah said.

Mumbai is the eighth club in CFG's bouquet. Apart from Manchester City, the group – controlled by Abu Dhabi United Group – also owns New York City FC, Melbourne FC, Uruguayan side Atletico Torque, China's Sichuan Jiuniu while holds stakes in Japanese side Yokohama Marinos and Spain's Girona. At most of these clubs, the City brand was swiftly introduced – name and colours brought in sync, dressing rooms at some turned into a replica of the one at Etihad and training grounds refurbished.

In New York, the CFG is also in the process of constructing a new stadium. From Mumbai's point of view, the last three points might be tough to execute.

Mumbai, who finished third in the last ISL season, right now play at the 8,000-seater Andheri Sports Complex, a tiny piece of real estate in the middle of a congested Western suburb, with very little scope for expansion.

"The chances of us getting our own training facility are more with CFG than without them," Blah said. "We need to see what's feasible. Mumbai is a unique market because real estate is at a premium. I'm not saying it's an immediate plan but it is something we will evaluate."

CFG's more significant contribution to the clubs they own is sharing technical expertise. It's something the group's chief executive Ferran Soriano touched upon on Thursday. Instead of making tall claims of pre-season friendlies and such, Soriano



Mumbai City FC are currently lying seventh on the table, having won just one of their five matches this season. ISL

spoke about 'sharing experiences and sharing technology.'

Instead of the high-profile club officials and players, the pattern at the CFG clubs is the staff from various departments routinely visiting each centre to advise. Each training session—be it in Melbourne, in New York or in Sichuan—is recorded using the same camera system that exists at Manchester City. These videos are uploaded to a central system from where CFG's technical department analyses and provides feedback.

Intelligence sharing

In an interview to Reuters earlier this year, New York city coach Claudio Reyna spoke about how the insight obtained by 'tapping into the network that Manchester City has' helped the team improve drastically. The intention, he said, was to allow coaches, and analysts move seamlessly between teams.

Indian teams have been light years behind Asia's elite, let alone rest of the world, in such technical aspects. The team's current coaching staff, led by Portuguese Champions League winner Jorge Costa, will hope to take advantage of the CFG's technical expertise. "Even something like the software they use for analysis and scouting," Blah said.

Soriano added: "The coach will have a relationship with (Manchester City manager

Pep) Guardiola. All the Mumbai games are going to be watched by a lot of people, in our systems."

Both parties have so far refrained from making big promises, perhaps realistic about the task that stares them in the face. In a city that is spoilt for choices in terms of entertainment options, and cricket occupying the sporting space, football clubs have struggled to exist. Poor attendances and lack of sponsors have forced clubs like Mahindra United, Mumbai FC and Air India to shut shop.

Mumbai City, too, have had their share of struggles in establishing themselves as a brand in the city. Like other ISL clubs, they too have been suffering losses in the range of Rs 30 crore annually since entering the fray in 2014. Damian Willoughby, who was named CFG India's CEO, said they hope to generate revenues by exploiting the group's global partnerships – the 'co-branding opportunities' that Chadwick referred to. "We have enjoyed significant success across our organisation by bringing in leading blue chip brands. We have seen the power of having a globally connected family of football clubs," Willoughby said.

Neither Manchester nor Mumbai, however, are expecting overnight changes. "We know this is the path and this is what the future holds," Blah said. "Both parties have gotten into this relationship with our eyes open."

EXPLAINED

E.

Why CFG deal bodes well for Mumbai City FC

UNLIKE OTHER instances of European clubs entering the Indian market, City Football Group's track record at the clubs they have bought stakes in should bode well for Mumbai. The Group buying a majority stake in the ISL side shows their seriousness. Mumbai, like other clubs in CFG's portfolio, can benefit from the technical expertise, which can ultimately help improve the quality of coaches and players. In the long term, Mumbai can also expect an improvement in training and stadium facilities, as seen at CFG's other acquisitions.

Deepika strikes gold in Asian c'ship; seals Olympic quota

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BANGKOK, NOVEMBER 28

THE SEASONED Deepika Kumari struck gold, while Ankita Bhakat bagged a silver after securing India an Olympic quota place at the Continental Qualification Tournament held on the sidelines of the 21st Asian Championships here on Thursday.

Three individual places were up for grabs from the qualifications and Indian archers, who are competing without a flag due to the national federation's suspension, made a big statement with top seed Deepika and sixth seed Ankita's stellar show. Entering the brackets as the number one ranked woman, Deepika put up a flawless show to defeat Nur Afisa Abdul Halil of Malaysia 7-2, Zahra Nemati (Iran) 6-4 and local girl Narisara Khunhiranchaiyo 6-2 to



Deepika hit two perfect 10s and one nine to seal gold in Bangkok.

make the last four, thereby securing an Olympic quota. "We were a little bit nervous earlier in the day... There was too much wind also. I just concentrated on my

breathing and told myself 'just do it'. I'm feeling good right now," Deepika said.

It was before the final round against the local challenger Narisara. Deepika promised her fiancé and teammate Atanu to shoot a 28 but Deepika did one better by hitting two perfect 10s and one nine to seal the issue. "We wanted to give our best. Also I promised (mixed team partner and fiancé) Atanu that I will shoot 28. He told me go and shoot. He understands my mind too and it turned out nicely," she said. "Now we hope to qualify a team berth from the Berlin stage of the World Cup next year," she added.

Later in the day, Deepika stormed into the final with another one-sided 6-2 win over Nguyet. Ankita, on the other hand, defeated Lam Shuk Ching Ada of Hong Kong 7-1, Nguyen Thi Phuong of Vietnam 6-0 and Anastassiya Bannova (Kazakhstan) 6-4 and Karma of Bhutan 6-2 to make it an all-Indian fi-

nal. The Indian trio of Deepika, Ankita and Laishram Bombayala Devi competed under a neutral flag due to the current suspension of the Archery Association of India (AAI), which is in administrative turmoil right now.

India now have a team qualification in the men's section and an individual quota in the women's event of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Deepika, Ankita and Laishram Bombayala Devi competed under a neutral flag. It is India's second Olympic quota place in archery after the men's recurve team of Tarundeep Rai, Atanu Das and Pravin Jadhav had secured the first in the World Championships earlier this year.

The Berlin stage of the 2020 World Cup is the last qualifying event in archery. "The whole team is very happy at least we won one quota. This tournament has been very good show for us," she said, referring to their rich medal haul of one gold, two silver and four bronze medals in the Asian Archery Championships.

[SPORTS BAR]



Syed Modi: Srikanth, Sourabh enter QFs

Former champion Kidambi Srikanth and Sourabh Verma advanced to the quarterfinals but young Lakshya Sen bowed out of the men's singles contest at the Syed Modi International Badminton tournament here on Thursday. Third seed Srikanth, who had lifted the title in 2016, eked out a thrilling 18-21 22-20 21-16 win over compatriot Parupalli Kashyap, who is also a former two-time champion here. The world no 12 Indian will next square off against seventh seed Son Wan Ho of Korea in the Super 300 tournament.

Committee to review Sports Code

Olympic bronze-medallist shooter Gagan Narang, former football captain Bhaichung Bhutia and national badminton coach Pullella Gopichand have been named in a 13-member expert committee formed by the Sports Ministry to review the controversial Draft National Sports Code 2017. Besides the trio, the committee will also have World Championships bronze-medallist long jumper Anju Bobby George. The expert committee will be headed by Supreme Court judge Justice (Retd) Mukundam Sharma as its chairman. The panel will also feature a representative from the IOA, which has rejected the document in current form as it seeks to put an age and tenure cap on sports administrators.



Gayle was picked by the Challengers to play in BPL from December 11.

Franchise demands action if Gayle fails to show up

Bangladesh Twenty20 team Chattogram Challengers Thursday called for action against West Indies star Chris Gayle if he fails to show for an upcoming tournament, after he said he was taking a break from cricket. Gayle was picked by the Challengers to play in the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) from December 11. But he said after departing South Africa's Mzansi Super League on Monday – following a pitiful campaign for Jozi Stars – that he was surprised his name had been included in the squad, adding that he planned to "take a break" from the sport. "I am not going to the Big Bash (Australia's T20 league). I'm not sure what cricket will come up, I don't even know how my name reached the BPL, but I have been drafted in a team and I don't even know how that happened," he told *ESPNCricinfo*. Challengers team director Jalal Yunus said his team had held negotiations with Gayle's agent after the former West Indies captain was picked.

SAG: Indian men beat Bangladesh in volleyball

India made a fine start to their campaign at the 13th South Asian Games with the men's and women's volleyball teams registering wins over Bangladesh and Nepal respectively in their opening matches here on Thursday. The Indian men's team beat Bangladesh 25-18 25-14 25-15, while the women's side defeated hosts Nepal 26-24, 25-12, 25-16. Now in their last group A matches, Indian women's team will take on Bangladesh, while the men side will clash with Nepal on Friday. Though formal opening ceremony of the 13th South Asian Games will take place on Sunday, some sports events have already begun. Over 2700 athletes will compete for 1119 medals, including 319 gold, in 26 game categories.

Chapecoense relegated three years after crash

Brazilian football club Chapecoense has been relegated from the country's top division three years after losing most of its players in a plane crash. After losing to Botafogo 1-0, Chapecoense described the relegation on Twitter as a "difficult time" but says "all sorts of things happen, Chape remains!" Nineteen of Chapecoense's players were killed en route to the club's first South American tournament final. The plane went down outside Medellin, Colombia, after running out of fuel. Three players survived the accident.



Bajrang conferred with the Khel Ratna

Ace Indian wrestler Bajrang Punia received the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award on Thursday from sports minister Kiren Rijiju at the Sports Authority of India headquarters. Bajrang was not available to collect the award at the Rashtrapati Bhavan from President Ram Nath Kovind earlier this year on National Sports Day. Bajrang, who has already secured a Tokyo 2020 Olympics berth in the 65kg freestyle wrestling category, was felicitated with a cash prize of Rs 32 lakh and 70 thousand. "Any sports person feels good after receiving an award and it is the biggest sports award anyone can ask for," Bajrang said after receiving the award. "My sole focus is on the Olympics now. And the responsibility has increased."



Three-way battle goes down to the wire

REUTERS/AP
LIVERPOOL, NOVEMBER 28

Klopp was certainly losing his cool and, on the stroke of halftime, he was booked for protesting, shortly after Liverpool had appealed in vain for a penalty after Sadio Mane




Zenit 2-0 Lyon
Valencia 2-2 Chelsea
Barcelona 3-1 Dortmund
Slavia Praha 1-3 Inter Milan
Lille 0-2 Ajax
Genk 1-4 Red Bull
Liverpool 1-1 Napoli
RB Leipzig 2-2 Benfica

Mohamed Salah shot straight at Napoli keeper Alex Meret after good work from Andy Robertson and then Firmino headed wide from a promising position.

Messi shines in milestone game

Lionel Messi celebrated his 700th appearance for Barcelona by putting on another dominant performance as the Spanish club won its Champions League group for a 13th consecutive season. Messi led Barcelona to a 3-1 victory against Borussia Dortmund on Wednesday by scoring one goal and setting up two more for strike partners Luis Suarez and Antoine Griezmann.

Barcelona has 11 points in Group F and secured the top spot with one game remaining. Dortmund has seven, but is behind Inter Milan on goal difference after the Italian team won 3-1 at Slavia Prague.



Valencia players celebrate the opening goal during the Champions League Group H match against Chelsea. AP

"Parts of our performance I'm not mad on. We gave away too many chances. We missed a lot as well," said Lampard. "They were arriving in our box too much. Credit to the players for their work-rate and hanging on in there, but sometimes you have to be more secure than that." Valencia defender Ezequiel Garay added: "We had a lot of chances and we deserved to win but we have to believe we can win and go through in Amsterdam."

GROUP H


	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
Ajax	5	3	1	1	7	10
Valencia	5	2	2	1	1	8
Chelsea	5	2	2	1	1	8
Lille	5	0	1	4	-9	1

Incredible India

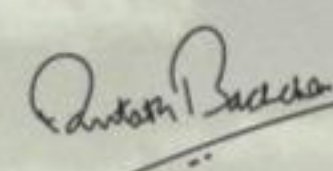
The sand is exactly as white as shown in this picture.
 The ocean of white sand stands out stark and pristine in its
 colourlessness, interrupted only by passing herds of camels.
 On moonlit nights, the desert reveals another colour.
 Something that can hardly be described in words.

Which colour of Kutch will catch your eye?


Maybe one that I couldn't find!




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