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| S.No. | Name and Address of the Coaching Institute | Name of Competitive Examination | Contact Number |
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| 1 | Aastha IAS M-2, JyotiBhawan, Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi-09 | UPSC Civil Services Examination | 8800233080 9810664003 |
| 2 | Website: www.aasthaias.com AJAB'S Academy Pvt. Ltd. 202, 2 nd floor, Dr. Mukharjee nagar Delhi-09. Also having other centers at Mukharjee Nagar and Old Rajender nagar Delhi. | UPSC, Group A,B,C | 011- 45524887 011- 45527887 08447557386 08929994301 |
| 3 | Alternative Learning Systems Ltd (ALS) 1st and 2nd floor, Aggarwal Auto Mall, A Block, Plot-II, Shalimar Place, District Center, Delhi-88. also having centers at Mukharjee Nagar, Pusa Road Karol Bagh, Vardhman Central Mall Nehru Vihar Delhi. Website: www.alsias.net | UPSC Civil Services Examination & Law Judicial | 9999343999 9899975666 9891990011 |
| 4 | Bharti Concept 1st Floor, Batra Cinema Complex, Dr. Mukharjee Nagar, Delhi-09. also having centers at Uttam Nagar, Tajpur Badar pur Delhi. Website: www.bharticoncept.com | One day exam SSC, DSSSB, Railway etc. | 9250291082 9136335283 |
| 5 | Bhartiya Sarvodaya computer and management educational society. 1449/21A, Durgapuri, Delhi-93. Also having centers at Sangam Vihar, Uttam Nagar, Munkaka Delhi. | Group A, B, C exam of SSC etc. | 011- 22130322 8750295007 011- 22120322 |
| 5 | Bright Brain Academy RZ D-6, Palam Dabri Main Road, Mahavir Enclave, N.Delhi-45 Also having centers at Raj nagar palam, Najafgarh Delhi. Website: www.brightbrainacademy.co.in | SSC, Bank , Railway, CLAT, NDA, DSSSB, MBA etc. | 9868384354 8375919139 |
| 7 | BSC Academy Pvt. Ltd. C-37, 2nd Floor, Ganesh Nagar, Pandav Nagar Complex, Delhi-92 Also having center at Rohini Delhi. Website: www.bscacademy.com | Bank PO/Clerk, SSC, Insurance, MBA, CLAT, NDA/CDS, Medical/ Engineering | 011- 22484910-14 |
| 8 | Career Plus Educational Society. 301/A,-37,38,39 Ansal Building, Comm. Complex Dr. Mukherjee Nagar Delhi-09. | UPSC Civil Services, SSC, CLAT | 9891186435 9811069629 |
| 9 | Website: www.careerplusgroup.com Chanakya IAS Academy 124, 2nd Floor, SatyaNiketan, New Delhi-110021. Also having centers at Outram lines and Rajendra Park Delhi. Website: www.chanakyaiasacademy.com | UPSC Civil Services Examination | 18002745005 |
| 10 | Classic IAS Academy, UG 33-34, Ansal Chamber-1, BhikajiCama Place new delhi-66. Also having centers at Karol Bagh and Old Rajender Nagar Delhi. Website: www.classiciasacademy.com | UPSC Civil Services Examination | 9310034050 9310034060 011- 40563010 011- 40536473 |
| 11 | Cyber information technology society NIC Institute, BarejaSadan, Main Mathura Road, Badarpur, New delhi-44. Also having other center at badarpur and Shahdara Delhi. Website: www.nicinstitute.com | Entrance Exam for professional courses Engg., Medical, Management, Law etc., All Group-A,B, C, Exams. | 9582752030 8700844955 |
| 12 | Dhyeya IAS, 102, A-12-13, Ansal Building, Mukharjee Nagar, Delhi. Also having centers at Old Rajender nagar and Laxmi Nagar Delhi. Website: www.dhyeyaias.com | UPSC Civil Services Examination | 011- 49274400 9205274746 |
| 13 | Dr. Lakshmaiha IAS Study Circle 57/17, Above Kaventers, Bada Bazar Road, Old Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi-60. Also having center at Mukharjee Nagar Delhi. | UPSC, ENGINEERING/NEET | 9052265819, 8008497933 |
| 14 | Website: www.drpvlakshmaiah.com ELITE IAS A-1, Chandra House, Top Floor, Opp. ICICI Bank, Mukherjee Nagar Delhi-09. Also having center at Old Rajender Nagar Delhi. | UPSC Civil Services Examination | 8899999931/ 34 |
| 15 | Website: www.eliteias.in Evolution Educare Pvt. Ltd. B-11, first floor, commercial complex, Mukharjee Nagar, Delhi Website: www.evolution.co.in | UPSC Civil Services Examination | |
| 16 | GS Mentors 636, Ground Floor, Mukharjee Nagar, Delhi-09. Website: www.gsmentors.com | UPSC Civil Services Examination, SSC, Bank PO, Bank Clerk | 7840888666 7840888777 |
| 17 | GS World 629, Main Road Mukharjee Nagar, Delhi. Website: www.gsworldias.com | UPSC Civil Services Examination | 011- 27658013 7042772062/ 63 |
| 18 | Helping Hands Welfare Society Gali Number 13, Sona Sweets, second and third floor, sangamvihar, New Delhi. Also having centers at Shahdara, Begum pur, Budh vihar Delhi. Website: www.hhwsskills.in | | 8178675397 9811920711 |
| 19 | IES Academy PVT LTD 28 B/7,2nd Floor, Jia Sarai Near IIT HauzKhas, New Delhi-110016. Also having center at Muniraka Delhi. | IES, GATE, AE/JE. | 9810958290 011- 26537570 |
| 20 | Website: www.iesacademy.com Ignited Minds A-2, 1st floor commercial complex, Mukharjee Nagar Delhi-09. Also having centers at Old Rajender Nagar and JJ Colony Tigri Delhi. Website: www.ignitedmindsias.com | UPSC Civil Services Examination | 8744082373 011- 40109868 |
| 21 | Website: www.ignitedmindsias.com Jai Sri Ram Educational Society A-70, HardevPuri, Gali number 5, 100 feet road, shahdara, Delhi- 93. Also having centers at Dilshad Garden, Laxmi Nagar, Johri pur | Group B&C Exams by SSC, DSSSB, Railway, Banking, Police etc., CTET, | 8447476274 |
| 22 | extension, Yamuna Vihar and Mandoli Extension Delhi. K D Campus Pvt. Ltd. 1997, Outram Lines, GTB Nagar, New Delhi-09. Also having centers at Mukharjee Nagar, Gandhi Ashram Kingsway, Muniraka, Uttam Nagar, Badarpur, Laxmi Nagar, Website: www.kdcampus.org | teacher recruitment UPSC/ Engg./ Medical and Various Group A,B, C Exams conducted by SSC, Bank, Railway, DSSSB Etc. | 09555108888 9654346771 9821890425 |

| S.No. | Name and Address of the Coaching Institute | Name of Competitive Examination | Contact Number |
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| 23 | Khan Study Group | UPSC Civil Services | 011- |
| | 2521, Hudson Lane, Near GTB Metro Station, Delhi-09. Also having center at old rajender Nagar Delhi. Website: www.ksgindia.com | Examination | 45552607 981129374 |
| 24 | Kiran Institute of Career Achievement. 3rd floor, A-4 hemkund building, opp. Chawla Restaurant, Mukharjee nagar, Delhi-09. | Various Group B and C Exams conducted by SSC, Bank, | 999981644 750321312 |
| 25 | Website: www.kicaonline.com | Railway, DSSSB Etc. | 000000534 |
| 25 | KRM Foundation (Dr. Ramaswamy IAS Academy) Flat Number 22, Rajinder Park, Rajindra Place Metro, Delhi. Also having centers at Rajender nagar and Mukharjee Nagar Delhi. | UPSC, Judiciary, Group A,B,C, CLAT | 999960534 935093314 |
| 26 | Website: www.ramaswamyiasacademy.org My Mission IAS Academy N-1, Dr. Mukharjee Nagar, Delhi-110009. Website: www.missioninstitute.co.in | UPSC Civil Services Examination | 981133442 |
| 27 | NIRMAN IAS a. 996, 1st floor, Mukherjee Nagar, Near Gandhi ViharBandh, Delhi-09. UPSC Civ | | 011- 47058219, 971776779 |
| 28 | Website: www.nirmanias.com Pahuja Law Academy Pvt. Ltd. 211-212, D-1, Second Floor, ViratBhawan, Dr. Mukharjee Nagar, Delhi-09. | Judiciary and Law Entrance (CLAT etc.) | 982159322 982159322 |
| 29 | Website: www.pahujalawacademy.com Parinam Coaching center PVt. Ltd. 207, 2nd floor, Satija House (A-23-24), Commercial complex, Mukharjee Nagar, Delhi. | UPSC, Judicial, Clat, NDA/CDS | 881024473 836833786 |
| 30 | Website: www.theparinam.com Photon IAS Academy. Chamber number 3, 2nd floor, South Portion, Batra Cinema UPSC, SSC (JE) | | 995848970 |
| 31 | Complex, Mukharjee Nagar, Delhi-09. Website: www.photonsias.com Ravindra Institute of Indian Civil Services (OPC) PVT. LTD. 102, Second Floor,8-9, Ansal Building, Chawla, Restaurant Lane, Mukherji Nagar, Delhi-110009 Website: www.ravindrasinstitute.com | UPSC Civil Services Examination, Other Group B and C Exams conducted by SSC, Railway, DSSSB | 995310117 870017048 |
| 32 | Sachdeva Colleges Ltd | etc. | 011- |
| 32 | Sachdeva Colleges Ltd. 29, South Patel Nagar, New Delhi. Also having centers at Uttam Nagar, Jasola Delhi. Website: www.sachdevagroup.co.in | SSC, Engineering, Medical, NDA/CDS | 45063080 011- 25848070 |
| 33 | Sagar | Civil Services, NDA, | 706590001 |
| | 83, basement, ground and 3rd floor, Mall Road, Kingsway Camp | CDS, CAPF, SSC | 706590002 |
| 34 | Delhi. Website: www.sagarindia.org Samarpan for Education and Welfare Society, Shar Study Circle, 28 Jia Sarai, Near IIT Gate New Delhi-110016. Also having center at Kondali Delhi. | DSSSB, CTET, Police. UPSC Civil Services, SSC, Bank, CLAT | 806045067 920515813 |
| 1700 | Website: www.samarpanngo.in | | |
| 35 | Saraswati IAS A-20,102, Indraprasth Tower, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi-09 Website: www.saraswatiias.com | UPSC Civil Services Examination | 989915649 011- 27651250 |
| 36 | Sihanta IAS Academy B-14, First Floor, Dr. Mukharjee Nagar, Delhi-09 011-42071098. Website: www.sihantaias.com | UPSC Civil Services Examination | 011- 42875012 874304548 |
| 37 | SIMTECH Education and Welfare Society Adarsh Building, 1449/9A, Durgapuri Chowk, Shahdara, Delhi- 93. Also having center at Chajjupur, Shahadara Delhi. | UPSC, Group A,B,C | 931565097 721787561 |
| | Website: www.simtech.in | | II. |
| 38 | Sri Chaitanya Educational Institute (Managed by varsity Education Management Pvt. Ltd.) 63/3, Ghumman' House, Kalusarai, Sarvapriya Vihar, New Delhi- 16. Also having centers at Vikas Puri and Punjabi Bagh Delhi. | | 989133725 955551499 954076331 995392678 |
| 39 | Website: www.srichaitanyadelhi.com St. Joan's Education Society, Lodhi Road Complex, Near new Barat Ghar, New Delhi-03. Website: www.stjoanscoaching.com | Engineering/Medical Entrance Examination | 011- 24610155 011- |
| 40 | Sunrise Education and Welfare Society. 1/3716, Ram Nagar, Loni Road, Shahdara, Delhi. UPSC, Group A,B,C | | 24610133 925010918 |
| 41 | Also having centers at Kirti Nagar and Mundka Delhi. Takshila Academy Pvt. Ltd. D-11/154, Sec-8, (Opp. Metro Pillar No.389), Rohini, Delhi-85 Also having centers at Janak puri, Kalusarai, Nirman Vihar, Preet Vihar, Punjabi Bagh, Burari Delhi. Website: www.takshilainstitute.in | Engineering/Medical Entrance Examination | 981047730 8882-145-1 |
| 42 | The Cavalier C-73, shardapuri, Marbel Mkt. Ramesh Nagar, N.D15. Also having centers at Mukharjee Nagar Delhi. Website: www.cavalier.in | NDA, CDS, AF, Navy etc. | 844844335 011- 41446601 011- 41446602 |
| 43 | The Success IAS 110, 2nd floor, Jaina extension, Mukharjee Nagar, Delhi-09 Website: www.thesuccessias.com | UPSC Civil Services Examination | 997125099 997125093 |
| 44 | Think & Learn Pvt. Ltd.(Byju's Classes) 1-B, 3 rd Floor, Near Karol Bagh Metro Station Gate No. 8, Pusa Road Karol Bagh Delhi-110060 Also having center at Vardhman Mall Nehru Vihar Delhi. | UPSC Civil Services Examination, SSC | 987364348 |
| 45 | Website: www.byjus.com Vajirao and Reddy Institute PVT Ltd. 19/1A, Shakati Nagar, Nangia Park, New Delhi-07. Also having center at Roop Nagar DU Campus Delhi. Website: www.vajiraoinstitute.com | UPSC Civil Services Examination | |
| 46 | Vajirao IAS Academy Pvt. Ltd. B-365, second floor, Nirman Vihar Metro Gate number 4, opp. V3S Mall, Delhi-092. Also having center at Bhalswa dairy area. Website: www.vajiraoiasacademy.com | UPSC Civil Services, NDA/CDS/DEFENCE, Group B&C exams by SSC, DSSSB, | 880030744 880030122 |

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—VOLTAIRE

The Indian EXPRESS

∽ FOUNDED BY ∽ RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

IF THE GENERAL GOES

After court intervention, Gen Bajwa's position as army chief is undermined. Battle lines in Pakistan are actually within army

WELVE YEARS AFTER Pakistan's Supreme Court took on an army ruler for ousting its chief justice, the country's higher judiciary has taken on another army chief, this time questioning the three-year extension given to him by the civilian government of Imran Khan. The bench, headed by Chief Justice Asif Saeed Khosa, cut the extension granted to General Qamar Javed Bajwa, whose term expired on November 28, to a bare six months while ordering the government to bring in constitutional changes to lay down the tenure of the army chief and other terms and conditions of his appointment. In the process, the government, which had announced the extension back in August, was exposed for its ineptness and inability to get the paperwork right in a matter as important as this. Bajwa continues as COAS at the pleasure of the court. Is this a rare civilian moment in the affairs of military-dominated Pakistan? Not really. Although the court has thrust into the public domain the issue of extensions to the army chief, a matter that has haunted many previous governments and jeopardised their continuance, the reality is that Prime Minister Imran Khan, who cheerfully admits to being on the "same page" as the army, sees no risk from Bajwa, and in fact, wants him to continue.

In the last two decades, there have been two other instances of a Pakistan Army Chief on extended stay. General Pervez Musharraf granted himself an indefinite extension as COAS in 2001. Musharraf's 10-year stay at the top, and his successor, Ashfaq Parvez Kayani's, six years (including one extension) held up the careers of scores of officers in the Pakistan Army. In the present instance, it was a member of the public who went to court against the extension to Bajwa, The chief justice, then, took it on as a matter of national interest. At least 11 three-star generals would have retired by the time Bajwa's three-year extension ended. The promotions of many others would have been held up.

The dissent within the army over this is perhaps not unconnected to the growing unease among officers that the institution and its leadership are seen on "the same page" as an increasingly unpopular civilian government. The sentiment was most apparent during the recent "long march" by a veteran Pakistani politician from a right wing religious party, who questioned the government's silence on Kashmir and contrasted this with its enthusiasm over the Kartarpur corridor. After the court's intervention, Bajwa's position as COAS is much undermined. It is possible that the Parliament may not be able to agree on amendments to Article 243 of the Constitution that deals with the army chief's appointment, as demanded by the court. An extension for Bajwa beyond the court-granted six months seems iffy. The battle lines are actually within the army, and the civilian politicians will only choose their side. It is not difficult to see which side those in the Opposition will pick. The next question, then, is: If Bajwa goes, can Imran Khan be far behind?

TIME IS NOW

Success of CoP 25 hinges on how urgently countries resolve discord over climate finance, carbon markets

N SUNDAY, A day before the UN's Framework Convention on Climate Change's (UNFCCC) 25th Conference of Parties got under way in Madrid, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, issued a stern warning. "The point of no return is no longer over the horizon. It is in sight and hurtling towards us," he said. Over the next two weeks, as delegates from almost 200 countries attempt to firm up the commitments made in Paris in 2015, establish new rules for emissions trading, and create systems to compensate countries already affected by global warming, they would do well to keep this warning in mind.

Signatories to the Paris Pact will have to update their commitments to the landmark treaty — Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) — in 2020. Given that several studies have shown the inadequacy of these targets in combating the climate crisis, CoP 25 will be keenly watched for the signals given by countries in upscaling their NDCs. India and China have consistently resisted demands to enhance targets. The two countries have argued that their NDCs are way beyond their historical culpability for global warming and the developed countries, mainly responsible for the climate problem, should be doing more — especially when it comes to helping the poorer countries with funds and technology. In this context, a study by the US think-tank Climate Policy Initiative, which shows that global climate financing fell by about 11 per cent in 2018, compared to 2017, should be sobering to the delegates assembled at Madrid.

Carbon markets could be another thorny issue at CoP 25. The Paris Pact's predecessor, the Kyoto Protocol, allowed countries, or industries, to earn carbon credits for emission reductions they made in excess of what was required of them. These credits could be traded to the highest bidder, who could then show the emission reductions as their own. India, China and Brazil have accumulated huge amounts of carbon credits and want them to be incorporated in the Paris Pact's market-related clause — Article 6. But developed countries have been resisting such claims on the grounds that the Kyoto Protocol's weak verification procedures allowed dubious projects to obtain carbon credits. At the last CoP in Katowice, when the rulebook for the Paris Pact was drawn up, Article 6 was one of the unresolved issues. Resolution of the impasse will hold the key to the success of CoP 25.

THE RIGHT STUFF

Bottlenose dolphins have more in common with humans than we imagined. They even share our directional bias

OLPHINS, PRESUMED TO be the most intelligent and empathetic creatures of the deep, have shared a deep bond with humans. There are innumerable heart-warming stories about dolphins helping to save doomed swimmers, heading off sharks, retrieving dropped tools for divers, and so on. But a paper on dolphin behaviour in the Royal Society's journal, *Open Science*, finds more common ground — like humans, dolphins are predominantly right-handed, and they are even more fundamentalist about their preference than humans. The authors observed that over 99 per cent of observations showed them favouring the right side.

Right-handedness appears to be intrinsic to cetaceans, which include whales and dolphins, the only creatures other than primates who are presumed to have some humanlike qualities. This is bad news for the left-handed, who are oppressed quite enough already by the primacy of right-handedness among humans. The very words we speak are directionally weighed. Dexterity is from the Latin dexter (right), and sinister is Latin for "left". The modern meanings are derived via convoluted routes, including but not limited to myth and augury, but the association of the terms with cleverness and vileness are now permanently set. In politics, too, left and right originally signified your place in the pecking order. The world is deeply divided into nations which drive on the right and on the left, each side believing that the other is plain wrong. The list is endless.

The most egregiously handed word is hiding in plain sight. It's even in the headline above: "Right". A wily, duplicitous word signifying both a direction and rectitude, and thereby conflating the ideas. With that, the victory of the right in human affairs is complete. But fortunately, barring humans and cetaceans, the rest of nature is ambivalent about handedness. Mice and budgies just don't care, for instance. It's best that way.

Mr Bajaj speaks again



Government-business relations remain fraught. But why PM Modi must pay heed

Sanjaya Baru

TWENTY-SIX YEARS AFTER he made news as the voice of beleaguered Indian big business, industrialist Rahul Bajaj has once again spoken on their behalf. In 1993, he voiced their fear of foreign competition. Today, he voices their fear of domestic governance. Fear of arbitrary governance is only one side of a multi-dimensional problem that Indian business has come to confront. There is also a growing concern about economic slowdown and policy uncertainty. Bajaj is known to speak a lot, and even shoot his mouth off on occasion, but he is a widely respected and a hugely successful leader of Indian business. His views must be heard with care.

In 1993, the then finance minister, Manmohan Singh, was publicly dismissive of the concern Bajaj and friends articulated about the threat to domestic business from external economic liberalisation. The business media also did not share the concerns of big business, dubbing those who met at a Mumbai hotel to draft a memorandum of shared concern regarding foreign trade and investment policy, as "The Bombay Club". The appendage of the word "club" damned

Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao, however, paid heed. He reached out to business leaders and fine-tuned policy. He said he was turning neither Right nor Left, but would walk the Middle Path. His critics, including the more enthusiastic liberalisers, called it the "Muddle Path", but the PM ensured he had everyone on board, stayed the course and moved India forward. The time has come for Prime Minister Narendra Modi to also reassure the nation that he will neither swerve to the Right nor the Left, but walk the Middle Path of "sabka saath, sabka vikas, sabka vishwas", with greater conviction.

If, in 1993, Bajaj voiced business's "concerns", today he voices its "fears". There is a world of difference between fear and concern. Concern can be about bureaucratic procedures and delays, poor infrastructure, dumping of subsidised goods by foreign competitors, and so on. Fear is often about the knock on the door, the tap of the phone, mysterious acts of retribution by persons in

What ails this government is precisely what has ailed all governments — the arrogance of power. While such arrogance is often a mask for incompetence, business persons tolerate that arrogance in the hope of benefitting from the incompetence, and consequent arbitrariness. It is this incestuous nexus that Prime Minister Modi has tried to break, but in doing so he may have ignored the impact it would have on

investor sentiment and

it is time for some course

correction.

business confidence. Clearly,

power. They do no good to the reputation of a liberal democracy. It is good that Bajaj has spoken openly and it is equally good that Union Home Minister Amit Shah has publicly reassured him, stating emphatically that the government would "have to make the effort to improve the atmosphere".

It is not clear, though, how much of the fear of big business that Bajaj sought to convey is due to the chinks in their own armour and how much is due to unfair harassment. Indian business leadership has not covered itself with glory, still unable to run globally competitive businesses and continuing to seek a "level-playing field" seven decades after Independence. The relationship between government and business, therefore, remains fraught. It is characterised by feudal supplication, on the one hand, and a willingness to cut corners and buy political cover, on the other. It has to be said in Modi's favour that he has been more forthright in weakening the foundations of crony capitalism than any previous government.

What ails this government is precisely what has ailed all governments — the arrogance of power. While such arrogance is often a mask for incompetence, business persons tolerate that arrogance in the hope of benefitting from the incompetence, and consequent arbitrariness. It is this incestuous nexus that Prime Minister Modi has tried to break, but in doing so he may have ignored the impact it would have on investor sentiment and business confidence. Clearly, it is time for some course correction. The government has taken a series of policy steps to improve the environment for business. Equal attention has to be paid to improving governance and better functioning of existing institutions, both at the Centre and in states.

The problem is not specific to the current ruling dispensation. It is inherent to the feudal nature of democratic governance in India. Today's humble in Opposition were yesterday's arrogant and arbitrary in power. Yesterday's beacons of hope have become today's cause for despair. That is true in state capitals too. Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely. It is an old adage, everyone quotes Lord Acton approvingly, yet few have mastered the art of wearing and bearing power lightly on one's shoul-

Part of the problem in the governmentbusiness relationship is that both sides need each other and loath that fact. For Prime Minister Modi, the current conjecture, with a combination of an economic slowdown, political setbacks and foreign policy challenges, is a moment of reckoning. He has faced setbacks before, but the multiple challenges he faces today require a major reset in policy and politics. More of the same cannot and will not do. He may still have a significant chunk of the national vote with him, but there is growing restiveness in his traditional constituencies. Both his slogans of a "New India" and a "\$5-trillion economy" have lost their shine and sheen.

The Opposition still has nothing new to offer. Its best faces remain those of an ageing leadership — from Sonia Gandhi and Manmohan Singh to Sharad Pawar — and its best ideas are from manifestos of a bygone era. Provincial leaders offer no national alternative. Given this situation, Prime Minister Modi owes it to the nation to make something of the massive mandate he received. It may have been a mandate for a nationalist platform but nationalism means nothing without economic development.

The idea of a Rising India has been devalued and diminished by a faltering one. India is once again at a critical crossroads but runs the risk of yet again missing the bus. The focus of governance has to move away from divisive issues, including issues of identity and citizenship, to the here-and-now of investment promotion, employment generation and the building of a capable and competitive economy. Governance in public institutions, including in the fields of education, has to be prioritised for improvement. No one but the prime minister can and must provide the leadership needed to address these challenges anew.

> The writer is a policy analyst and former media advisor to prime minister of India

SOLI J SORABJEE

A Judicious Balance

Supreme Court's recent judgments reaffirm its role as a vigilant monitor

ONE MAY CRITICISE our Supreme Court for some of its judgments, but no person can describe it as a passive judiciary. The recent judgments of the Court clearly portray it as an active, rather an overactive judiciary.

No one can claim unrestricted entry to any temple or religious institution or a public meeting. A person with proven criminal antecedents may be rightly denied entry. But, surely, it is irrational to deny entry to a certain class of citizens, for example, women, because of a natural physical phenomenon like menstruation. Menstruation is not a crime. This practice, prevalent at the Sabarimala temple in Kerala, ignited the jurisdiction of our Supreme Court which battled with this issue, and occasioned the dissenting judgment of Justice Indu Malhotra.

Lengthy and erudite arguments were advanced by parties who championed a woman's right of entry based on the guarantees of equality and prohibition of discrimination inter alia on the ground of sex. Parties supporting the no-entry practice relied on Article 25 which guarantees the right to practise and profess religion. They overlooked that this Article is "subject to other provisions of the Constitution". In other words, subject to Articles 14 and 15, which prohibit discrimination inter alia on grounds of gender.

Another argument was the right of the "Deity" Ayyappa, who is believed to be in disfavour of the entry of women of certain ages in a temple and whose divine right, it is argued, should be respected.

Ordinarily, the Supreme Court judgment

The Rafale case is another instance worth noting. The Supreme Court dismissed the review petitions filed against its previous order, which found nothing wrong with the Rafale transaction. This has not excited the public. Instead, what has is the Supreme Court's dismissal of the contempt petition against Rahul Gandhi for him attributing his comment — 'chowkidar chor hai' — to

the Supreme Court.

should finally settle any controversial issue, but not in our country. This is evident from the heated debates on the issue on TV channels and in public meetings. Interestingly, many women support the no-entry rule, not on legal or constitutional grounds, but on the misconception that a menstruating woman is not "clean" and, therefore, allowing her to enter the temple would be a desecration of a holy place. To keep the pot boiling, the issue has been referred to a larger bench of seven judges. It is debatable whether the seven judge bench judgment will finally put a lid on the matter. The real remedy would be to cleanse the minds of the supporters of noentry to women doctrine.

The Rafale case is another instance worth noting. The Supreme Court dismissed the review petitions filed against its previous order, which found nothing wrong with the Rafale transaction. This has not excited the public. What has is the Supreme Court's dismissal of the contempt petition against Rahul Gandhi for him attributing his comment — "chowkidar chor hai" — to the Court itself. Rahul Gandhi tendered an unconditional apology which was accepted, but with a strong warning to him to be careful in the future. I think Rahul Gandhi was dealt with leniently. He is an influential political leader who should not make statements which are untrue and betray disrespect for the Court.

Another Supreme Court judgment which has hit the headlines is its decision to uphold the Karnataka Speaker's orders disqualifying 17 defectors. The Supreme Court, however, quashed the Speaker's order to the extent that it prevented the disqualified candidates to contest elections till 2023. The Court's exposition of the law relating to the inter-play between resignation and defection is welcome. It ruled that the resignation does not take

away the effect of a prior act that incurs disqualification. The Supreme Court made instructive observations about the role and function of the Speaker in dealing with cases of disqualification of a candidate on the grounds of defection. It ruled that Speakers are not given a free pass to sit on resignation letters indefinitely. Once it is demonstrated that a member is willing to resign out of his free will, the Speaker has no option but to accept the resignation. The Speaker is not empowered to consider the motives and circumstances whenever a resignation letter is submitted. The Supreme Court deplored that Speakers sometimes tend not to be neutral.

Hopefully, Speakers will pay serious heed to the Court's observations. When the antidefection law was enacted in the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution, it was believed that the vice of defection would be effectively curtailed. Regrettably, subsequent developments have belied the hope. The remedy lies not so much in amending the law or introducing fresh legal provisions, but in arousing the conscience of every honest citizen to reject the defector at the poll booth.

> The writer is a former attorney general of India

DECEMBER 3, 1979, FORTY YEARS AGO POWER STRIKE OFF referendum to approve an Islamic constitu-



UTTAR PRADESH POWER minister Rewati Raman Singh said that the agitating power engineers of the state electricity board had called off their strike. He said he had been informed of the decision by the Power Engineers Association president, Rejendra Prasad. The announcement came shortly after the association secretary, Shailendra Dubey, declared that the power engineers of Delhi, Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh would go on "work-torule" in support of the agitating UP engineers.

New Iran IRANIANS STARTED VOTING to a non-secret tion entrenching the religious leadership as the absolute rulers of the country. Approval by the simple "yes or no" vote would automatically confirm Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini as the uncrowned ruler of Iran for life with sweeping powers described as "dictatorial" by critics of the constitution. There was a brisk turnout of voters in Teheran's numerous polling stations, particularly to the poorer neighbourhoods of the capital, with men and women above 16 lining up separately to cast votes. "We've had more than 700 votes cast here already and only one was a no. And that was a mistake," an Englishspeaking official at the Teheran polling sta-

New Delhi

tion told the Associated Press.

ASSAM BANDH

THE STUDENTS OF Assam are on the war path and are determined to thwart elections in the state. The All Assam Students Union and the All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad have given a call for a 44-hour Assam bandh from 6 am on December 3 to 4 pm on December 4, to be followed by mass picketing from December 5 to 8 outside the state and central government offices. The main purpose of the agitation will be to thwart the move of candidates to filing their nomination papers. The essential services have been exempted from the purview of the bandh.

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2019

THE IDEAS PAGE

All's not well with secularism

It is caught in a crisis not because it is irrelevant, but because it is subjected to rank overuse and invested with too many expectations



NEERA CHANDHOKE

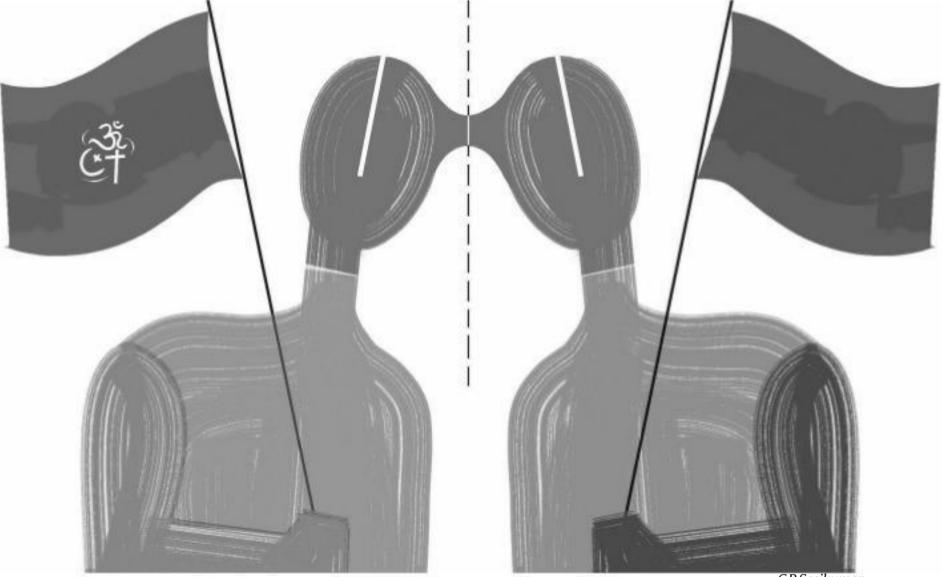
THIS IS, PERHAPS, not the best time to clarify and defend the principle of secularism in India. For the religious right, secularism has become a "bad" word, an object of mockery, disdain, and casual dismissal. There is still an urgent need to ponder, reflect and rethink. India's recent history of discrimination against minorities demands this. Recollect that history is a hard taskmaster. No one can dodge the big questions that history crashes onto political platforms. History poses questions; it is the job of imaginative and visionary politics to find the right answers. Or, these questions will continue to haunt us.

The leaders of the freedom struggle were confronted by one such big question in the aftermath of the 1931 Kanpur riots, which left 400 dead. The Indian National Congress established an inquiry commission to investigate the problem. The committee reported that communal riots are an outcome of historical processes sparked off by colonial rule. Overturning the assumption that Hindu-Muslim enmity is endemic to India, the Congress held that India is home to both Hindus and Muslims. It is possible to end the conflict if minorities can be assured that their rights to religion and culture will be given full protection in an Independent India, the party held.

On March 31, 1931, while moving the resolution on fundamental rights in the open session of the Congress at Karachi, Gandhi spoke on the issue. "Though Islamic and Aryan cultures are not mutually exclusive," he said, "we must recognise that Mussalmans look upon Islamic culture as distinctive from Aryan. Let us therefore cultivate tolerance... Religious neutrality is important and Swaraj will favour Hinduism no more than Islam, nor Islam more than Hinduism... Let us from now on adopt the principle of state neutrality in our daily affairs". This neutrality of the state we call secularism.

Secularism is not a standalone concept, it flows from Article 14 of the Constitution, which guarantees equality. No one shall be discriminated against on the basis of birth into a class, caste, gender, or religious community or for her sexual preferences. This was the intention of the founders of democracy in India, and this is what secularism should be understood as — as related to democracy.

The significance of secularism becomes clearer when we make three distinctions. The first distinction is between secularisation and secularism. Secularisation is a social process that involves the privatisation of religion, as in Europe after the Enlightenment. In India, processes of secularisation were stymied because religion, since the late 19th century, was latched to the nationalist project, and, from the 20th century, to competitive nation-state projects. Hinduism and Islam had been politicised and continue to be so. Two, religion as politics has nothing to do with religion as faith. Politics in search of power seeks only one thing — monopoly over resources. The third distinction dispels a confusion that has accompanied the debate on secularism in India. Secularism is not the binary opposite of communalism. The opposite of communalism is religious harmony. Secularism is the diametric opposite of



theocracy or the merging of two awesome forms of power — the non-religious and the religious. Theocracy simply does not fit into modern democratic imaginations.

Secularism for long has ridden to prominence on the shoulders of secularisation. Now that secularisation has been shown to be one of the vanities of modernity, secularism needs a new home. What other home can it live in except democracy? Democracy and secularism are companion concepts, because of their shared commitments to basic values such as freedom, equality and justice. This does not imply that secularism can be collapsed into democracy. We need to distinguish between the two. Indian society is fractured in many ways.

Vertically, it is fractured along the axis of caste, class and gender. Horizontally, it is divided along the matrix of different belief systems. Different sorts of strategies are needed to deal with different kinds of inequalities and oppressions. The responsibility of reorganising unequal and unjust religious communities on the norms of freedom, equality, and rights falls on democracy. The principle of secularism is intended to ensure equality between these communities. It is not the job of secularism to reorder unequal gender or caste relations. That falls within the province of democracy. Secularism ensures that the state is not aligned to any one religion, that all religious communities are treated with equal care and consideration, that no community is granted special advantages because it is in a numerical majority. Similarly, it ensures that no religion is discriminated against just because its numbers are smaller than the majority community. Secularism extends the principle of equality — or even its weaker form, non-discrimination — specifically to the relationships between religious communities. If a government openly supports a majority religion and discriminates against minorities, justice kneels before political power.

This is not to say that all is well with the concept. Secularism is today caught in a crisis, not because it is irrelevant, but because it has been subjected to rank overuse and invested with far too many expectations, from solving the issue of national integration to gender justice. Notably, secularism is not a robust concept like democracy or justice; it is a "thin"

and a limited procedural concept. The challenge to secularism has not come from personal faith or religion, but from religious groups that struggle for power. The challenge is also to democracy because denial of secularism catapults issues about the rights and privileges of citizenship, and throws into sharp relief the intersections between religion and the lack of voice, inadequate distribution of goods, and recognition of unique distinctiveness of groups.

Finally, the coexistence between religious identity and democratic politics is not easy. There is, arguably, a fundamental discrepancy between religious and secular languages. Religion gives to believers "thick" or comprehensive conceptions of the good that help them to make sense of the world, order their lives, and relate to others. The concept of secularism is, in comparison, "thin" insofar as it establishes procedures that indicate what the place of religion in the public domain is, and what the relationship between different groups should be, and how justice and democracy can be secured.

This is not to suggest that secularism is not a good; merely that secularism does not tell people how to lead their lives or what to strive for. The principle of secularism contributes to the construction of a constitutional framework where people can pursue their faith or any other substantive conception of the good, unburdened by discrimination, and where the state does not discriminate between different religious groups. Religion and secularism relate to different kinds of justice and are in many cases difficult to translate into each other.

But that is the nature of democratic political life. Irresolvable dilemmas that can only be negotiated through the deployment of imagination and creativity in thinking and practice. Let us remember and take heart from Jawaharlal Nehru's words in the Discovery of *India.* He quotes the chorus from the *Bacchae* of Euripides, translated by Gilbert Murray. "What else is wisdom? What of man's endeavour/Or God's high grace, so lovely and so great?/To stand from fear set free, to breathe and wait;/To hold a hand uplifted over Hate;/ and shall not Loveliness be loved for ever?"

The writer is a former professor of political science, Delhi University

"China needs to make efforts to dismantle the influence of the West's Chinarelated reports worldwide... Only by gradually achieving this task can China's soft power make a necessary breakthrough." - GLOBAL TIMES, CHINA

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

A new mould

From trade to geopolitical significance, it is time for India to look again at the island nation

for Mauritius



BY C RAJA MOHAN

AS IT PREPARES to host the prime minister of Mauritius, Pravind Jugnauth, who returned to power in the recent general elections, Delhi needs to change the lens through which it sees the small island republic in the western Indian Ocean.

For far too long, Delhi has viewed Mauritius through the prism of diaspora. This was, perhaps, natural since communities of Indian origin constitute a significant majority in the island. But the time has come to reimagine Mauritius in much larger terms.

More recently, Delhi has certainly begun to see the strategic significance of Mauritius thanks to the renewed great power contestation in the Indian Ocean. Right at the very start of his first term in May 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi saw Mauritius as part of India's neighbourhood and invited its leadership to join his inauguration along with other South Asian leaders.

It was during his visit to Mauritius in 2015 that Modi unveiled an ambitious policy called the SAGAR (security and growth for all). It was India's first significant policy statement on the Indian Ocean in many decades. Delhi has some ways to go before it can translate the logic of SAGAR into effective outcomes on the ground.

But there is a bigger challenge for Delhi in dealing with Mauritius. It is the urgent need to discard the deep-rooted perception that Mauritius is simply an extension of India. It is not. Mauritius is a sovereign entity with a unique national culture and an international identity of its own. Its leaders are also conscious of the island's special place in the Indian Ocean as a thriving economic hub and an attractive strategic location. Although it is quite small with just 1.3 million people, Mauritius has been punching way above its weight.

Jugnauth's visit is a good moment for India to visibly demonstrate its respect for the sovereignty of Mauritius. Jugnauth, who took over from his father Anerood as the PM in January 2017, has now won power on his own steam. At 61, Pravind may not be too young, but he represents a new generation that is immensely proud of the republic's extraordinary evolution from a slave island to a prosperous economy.

An India that begins to see Mauritius on its own terms would want to go beyond sentimentalism and to explore the immense possibilities for elevating India's strategic partnership with an island that is looking beyond sugar plantations to financial services and technological innovation.

Mauritius is all about location and the genius of its people. As early European explorers sailed around the African continent and ventured eastwards to India, they began to call Mauritius, the "Star and Key of the Indian Ocean". If the Portuguese and the Dutch were the first to gain a foothold in Mauritius, it was the French who gained effective control over the island in the early 18th century.

The French developed sugar plantations, introduced ship building and developed a naval base. The French certainly understood the strategic significance of Mauritius. A French soldier and colonial official, Félix Renouard de Sainte-Croix, described the island as "a central geographical point between every other place in the world'.

The British who gained control over Mauritius during the Napoleonic wars turned it into a garrison island that would help secure the sea lines of communication between Europe and India. The enduring value of its location is reflected in the fact that Diego Garcia, once part of Mauritius, today hosts one of America's largest foreign military bases in the world. But in emphasising the value of military

access to Mauritius, it is easy to miss its geoeconomic significance. The French description of the island as a "central geographic point" holds equally true for commerce and connectivity in the Indian Ocean. As a member of the African Union, Indian Ocean Rim Association and the Indian Ocean Commission, Mauritius is a stepping stone to multiple geographies.

If Delhi appreciates the value of Mauritius as a regional hub, a number of possibilities present themselves. One, as new investments pour into Africa, Mauritius is where a lot of it gets serviced. Mauritius can be the fulcrum for India's own African economic outreach. Two, until now India has tended to deal

with the so-called Vanilla islands of the south western Indian Ocean — Comoros Madagascar, Mauritius, Mayotte, Reunion and Seychelles — on a bilateral basis. If the Indian establishment thinks of them as a collective, it could make Mauritius the pivot of Delhi's island policy.

Three, the Mauritius pivot can facilitate a number of Indian commercial activities in the south western Indian ocean — as a banking gateway, the hub for flights to and from Indian cities and tourism.

Four, India could also contribute to the evolution of Mauritius as a regional centre for technological innovation. India has not really responded so far to the demands from Mauritius for higher education facilities from India like the IIT.

Five, climate change, sustainable development and the blue economy are existential challenges for Mauritius and the neighbouring island states. Mauritius will be the right partner in promoting Indian initiatives in these areas. It could also become a valuable place for regional and international maritime scientific research.

Finally, if Delhi takes an integrated view of its security cooperation in the south western Indian Ocean, Mauritius is the natural node for it. The office of a defence adviser in Mauritius, for example, can service the demands of all the island nations as well as the East African states.

All this and more is possible if Delhi takes a fresh and more strategic look at Mauritius. One way of getting there is to have an early Indian summit with the leaders of the Vanilla islands.

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



Goals within reach

Six months of Modi 2.0 show it is on track to achieving its development targets

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GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT

DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS, A subject for which Abhijit Banerjeeand Esther Duflo won the 2019 Nobel Prize and classical economists like Robert Lucas, also a Nobel laureate, have had a long-standing debate on what rids nations of poverty. Classical economists argue that any nation which has seen rapid growth and development has seen rapid decline in their poverty levels, while development economists say that tinkering and experimenting in sample spaces will help us find out the economic intentions of people and thus help the gov-

ernment in making better economic choices. The current Union government, after a successful re-election under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has done both: It committed itself to the vision of a \$5trillion economy by 2024-25 much to the pleasure of classical economists and decided to shape the economic intentions of people through its various social schemes and programmes, making the development economists happy. Riding on the rainbow of trust due to the stellar work done during its first term, the NDA government is not shying away from taking major economic decisions.

The achievements of the government are numerous. I should begin with the biggest achievement of any government since Independence — the removal of special provisions under Article 370 and Article 35A. No issue in this country has been more sentimental than Kashmir's special provisions. Generations of Indians shall be grateful to the government.

Understanding that a major re-calibration of various aspects of the economy was needed, the government began by forming an inter-ministerial taskforce to finalise infrastructure projects worth over Rs 100 lakh crore. The first major sector that was tackled was real estate. Against a demand for 1.12 crore houses, 93 lakh houses have been sanctioned, 28 lakh houses have been handed over and 56 lakh are under construction.

In the health sector, under Ayushman Bharat scheme, 64,26,238 beneficiaries have been admitted across 20,757 empanelled hospitals. Along with health, women's empowerment is a priority for this government. To protect vulnerable married Muslim women, the regressive practice of triple talaq was abolished and made punishable with three years imprisonment. Wage inequality has also been dealt with through the Code on Wages, 2019. We understand that the future lies in the proactive adoption of energy-efficient and non-polluting practices. India's total installed renewable energy capacity crossed the milestone of 80,000 MW on June 30. The fact that India has become the most secure habitat for the tiger is a testimony to this government's efforts and foresightedness.

MSMEs and startups are the vehicles for future economic growth. Startups with over Rs 25 crore as turnover shall get the promised tax holiday for three years. The withdrawal of the Angel Tax will also give a major investment boost to startups. The government has also launched the Van Dhan Yojana, which shall link 1.92 lakh tribal entrepreneurs to the national market. In the meantime, 28,211 micro enterprises have been set up, giving employment to 2,25,288 people. The government has also mandated that 25 per cent of the sourcing in CPSU's come from MSEs — goods and services worth Rs 16,746 crore have already been procured from 61641 MSEs.

Farmers are at the centre of this government's agenda. Nearly Rs 34,873 crore has been transferred to about 7.33 crore farmers under the PM-KISAN yojana till date. A minimum assured pension of Rs 3,000 per month is being provided to both farmers and traders upon reaching the age of 60. Welfare measures and assured MSP for rabi and kharif at 1.5 times the cost of production has improved the lives of our farmers and strengthened the rural economy. Development with empowerment has been the mantra of this government from its first day in office. By the 75th year of Independence, not a single rural family will be bereft of electricity or cooking gas. In a commendable achievement, the Ujjwala Yojana achieved its target of eight crore LPG connections seven months before the target date.

In order to achieve water security, drinking water shall be provided to all households by 2024 through the integrated management of water supply, conservation and grey water reuse through the Jal Jeevan mission. The Jal Shakti Abhiyan, under which 3.56 lakh water conservation projects, 1.23 lakh watershed development projects and 1.5 lakh acres of rainwater harvesting measures are being undertaken, has sounded the government's intentions. After the grand success of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, the Jal-Jeevan Mission shall be the next major achievement.

The prime minister in the past six months has led by example: His video of plogging on the beach in Mamallapuram made every Indian more conscious of his/her surroundings and the Global Goal Keeper Award received by him reaffirmed India's commitment to the SDGs. The "Howdy Modi" event brought leaders of the two biggest democracies together in a rare spectacle of friendship and brotherhood. The second informal India-China meet at Mamallapuram ushered a new dawn of cooperation between the two countries.

The past six months has seen India taking big strides. With renewed vigour and focus, the government is marching towards the \$5trillion economy mark. If this pace continues for the next four-and-a-half years, there is no doubt that India shall achieve this milestone before the target date.

> The writer is Union minister, Ministry of Jal Shakti

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FAILING A MINORITY

for dignity' (IE, December 2). The Transgender Persons Bill is supposed to be a progressive legislation, which discards societal prejudice. But it fails to provide dignified existence to transgenders as their fundamental right to sexual identity is dependent on a piece of paper issued by a magistrate. Besides, it inclines towards entitlement rather than the empowerment approach.

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'The fight

Divya Singla, Patiala

LIVING IN DENIAL

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'A new low' (IE, November 30). What is more scary than the economic slowdown is the government's refusal to check populism and wasteful expenditure. Onetime investments in non-bankable and economically disastrous infrastructure projects or increasing tax rates through GST may earn revenues in a particular FY, but is unlikely to ease the recession. Varin Dhir. Ahmedabad

LIGHTER BAGS

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'In Rajasthan, integrated books make school bags lighter, student happier' (IE, December 2). It is heartwarming to see this small but creative initiative turning out to be a game changer in the realm of education at the grass roots, where it is needed the most. One hopes that the

New Delhi

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.

move doesn't get mired in cheap political stunts and is replicated throughout the country.

Rahul Gaur, Gurugram

FOR HER SAKE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Her freedoms' (IE November 30). It is a matter of great regret that despite a raft of laws there is no let up in cases of violence against women. It seems that the problem cannot be tackled through laws alone, and requires societal changes. There is also a need for judicial reforms. Trials are slow and the judicial process does is unfair to the survivor.

Ravi Mathur, Ghaziabad

epaper.indianexpress.com

First up, a lesson on

lead to impeachment

what offences can

THE NEXT step in the impeachment process will begin Wednesday

as the House Judiciary Committee kicks off another round of hear-

ings. The first hearing will see testimony from four legal scholars on

what constitutes an impeachable offence. With the Judiciary panel

likely to draft articles of impeachment later this month, the testi-

mony by the legal scholars is aimed at familiarising the American

public with the language of impeachment proceedings and to in-

form them of the kind of offences that could lead to the impeach-

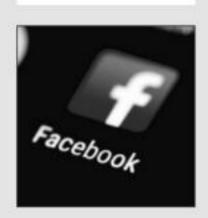
ment of a US president. With the GOP-majority Senate unlikely to

remove Trump from office, the Democrats hope that such hearings

will convince the public to vote him out in the 2020 election.

Climate change, gun violence and the very nature of democracy helped propel "existential" to Dictionary.com's word of the year. "In our data, it speaks to this sense of grappling with our survival, both literally and figuratively, that defined so much of the discourse," said John Kelly, senior research editor for the site, ahead of Monday's announcement.

TOPOFTHE WORLD



BRITAIN

FB removes Conservative Party ad with **BBC** presenters

London: Facebook said it removed Conservative Party ad that used BBC news footage on the grounds that it infringed on intellectual property rights. The BBC had complained about the ad last week, arguing material involving some of its wellknown presenters was taken out of context and could damage its impartiality. Facebook said Monday that whenever it receives "valid IP claims against content on the platform, in advertising or elsewhere," it will "act in accordance with our policies and take action as required".

USA

2 Indians killed in hit-and-run

Washington: Two Indian students have been killed in a hit-and-run accident on Thanksgiving night in the US state of Tennessee and the owner of the pickup truck involved in the incident has surrendered, authorities said. Judy Stanley (23) and Vybhav Gopisetty (26), were graduate students of the Tennessee State University and were pursuing food science degrees in the College of Agriculture, the university said. According to the local police, Stanley and Gopisetty died in an apparent hit-and-run incident on the night of November 28 in South Nashville.

SRI LANKA Pak's Qureshi meets Gotabaya, invites him to

visit Islamabad Colombo: Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi called on Sri Lanka's newly-elected Gotabaya President Rajapaksa here on Monday and discussed issues including bilateral trade, investment and people-topeople contact. According to the Pakistan Foreign Office, Qureshi also handed over a letter from Pakistan President Arif Alvi to Gotabaya and invited him to pay a visit to Islamabad at his earliest convenience. Earlier. Qureshi held talks with his Sri Lankan counterpart Dinesh Gunawardena.

HOUSE JUDICIARY PANEL TO BEGIN IMPEACHMENT HEARINGS WEDNESDAY

Trump's lawyer says President will not participate in hearing

House Intelligence Committee to submit report detailing evidence from previous round of hearings

EMILY COCHRANE & MICHAEL D SHEAR WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 2

LAWYERS FOR US President Donald Trump said Sunday that they would not participate in the House Judiciary Committee's first public hearing Wednesday as House Democrats prepare to shift the direction of the inquiry towards drafting articles of impeachment against the President.

Democratic Representative Jerrold Nadler, the chairman of the committee, had offered the President or his lawyers the opportunity to participate in the hearing as part of the impeachment inquiry, when a panel of legal experts will offer an assessment of whether Trump committed impeachable offenses.

"We cannot fairly be expected to participate in a hearing while the witnesses are yet to be named and while it remains unclear whether the Judiciary Committee will afford the President a fair process through additional hearings," Pat Cipollone, the White House counsel, wrote in a letter to



Trump will be at a NATO leaders' meeting in London when the first hearing takes place, his lawyer said. Reuters

Nadler. "Under the current circumstances, we do not intend to participate in your Wednesday hearing." He did not rule out participation in future hearings.

Trump has stonewalled the inquiry, seeking to block witnesses and documents, and his lawyers had privately guestioned whether to participate in the Wednesday hearing, as the President and his allies continue

A masked protester attends a "March of Gratitude to the US"

China to suspend US

Navy visits to HK over

law backing protesters

American rights groups face sanctions

Donald Trump, mandates sanc-

tions on Chinese and Hong Kong

officials who carry out human rights abuses and requires an an-

nual review of the favourable trade

by US lawmakers who are sym-

pathetic to the protesters and

have criticised Hong Kong police

has seen regular protests for six

months. The movement's de-

mands include democratic elec-

tions and an investigation into the

police response. More fundamen-

tally, the protesters fear China is

eroding the rights and freedoms

they have under a "one country,

two systems" framework. AP

democracy movement.

The legislation was backed

status granted to Hong Kong.

event in Hong Kong on Sunday. *Reuters*

KEN MORITSUGU

HONG KONG, DECEMBER 2

CHINA SAID Monday it will sus-

pend US military ship and aircraft

visits to Hong Kong and sanction

several American pro-democ-

racy and human rights groups in

retaliation for the signing into

law of legislation supporting

anti-government protests in the

tions remained unclear, the move

followed Chinese warnings that

the US would bear the costs if the

Hong Kong Human Rights and

The steps are "in response to

Democracy Act was approved.

America's unreasonable behav-

iour," foreign ministry spokes-

woman Hua Chunying said in

Beijing, adding that the legisla-

tion seriously interfered in

Wednesday by US President

The law, signed last

China's internal affairs.

While the nature of the sanc-

semi-autonomous territory.

to call the proceedings "deranged" and a "witch hunt." On Friday, Nadler also in-

formed the administration that the President and his lawyers had a week to tell the committee whether they would call witnesses or present evidence as part of their defence against possible impeachment articles stemming from allegations that Trump pressured Ukraine to help

JEFFREY HELLER

JERUSALEM, DECEMBER 2

AN INDICTMENT submitted to

Israel's Parliament on Monday

against Prime Minister Benjamin

Netanyahu names more than 300

prosecution witnesses, including

wealthy friends and former aides,

in three graft cases against him.

dictment to the legislature, after

announcing charges of bribery,

breach of trust and fraud on

Nov 21, Attorney General Avichai

Mandelblit set the clock ticking on

a 30-day period in which

Netanyahu can seek parliamen-

tary immunity from prosecution.

likely, with Israeli politics in disar-

ray after inconclusive elections in

Such protection seems un-

By formally sending the in-

him in his reelection campaign. House Intelligence Committee is expected to approve a written report of its findings in its investigation of Trump's dealings with Ukraine

on Tuesday, after which the focus

of the impeachment proceedings

EXPLAINED

will shift to Nadler's panel. During the remainder of his Thanksgiving vacation at Mar-a-

tate, Trump remained relatively quiet about the inquiry, except for a few Twitter posts sharing articles late Saturday that asserted Trump's innocence.

Representative Doug Collins of Georgia, the top Republican on the Judiciary Committee, before the announcement questioned why the White House would want to participate in

a popular right-wing leader.

As Prime Minister, he is un-

der no legal obligation to resign

after being charged. No date

has been set for the opening of

Lago, his Palm Beach, Florida, es-"just another rerun". NYT Israel A-G files official Netanyahu indictment, lines up 333 witnesses



The Israeli PM has 30 days to seek parliamentary immunity from prosecution

April and September and the failure of Netanyahu and his main challenger, Benny Gantz, to secure a ruling majority in the legislature.

Netanyahu, in office for the past decade, has denied any wrongdoing, saying he is a victim of an attempted "coup" waged by

legal authorities trying to unseat

The indictment submitted to parliament listed 333 witnesses for the prosecution. Legal experts said the long roster meant pro-

the trial.

ceedings could go on for years. They include US casino mogul Sheldon Adelson and his wife Miriam, Hollywood producer Arnon Milchan, Australian billionaire James Packer and re-

tired Israeli security chiefs. "When an accusation is true, you don't need 333 witnesses," Netanyahu wrote on Twitter. "When the accusation is untrue, not even 333 wit-

nesses will help." **REUTERS**

UN chief warns world against burying head in sand as annual climate meet kicks off



AMITABH SINHA DECEMBER 2

AMID INCREASING pressure on countries to do more to save the world from climate change, the two-week annual climate conference began in the Spanish capital on Monday with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warning that the climate crisis was fast approaching a "point of no return".

"By the end of the coming decade, we will be on one of two paths, one of which is sleepwalking past the point of no return. Do we want to be remembered as the generation that buried its head in sand and fiddled as the planet burned?" Guterres asked at the opening ceremony that was attended by over 50 heads of states and governments.

His comments come on the back of mounting scientific evidence that the world was not doing enough to ward off the catastrophic impacts of climate change, and that an immediate shifting of gears was required to meet the targets countries had set for themselves under the 2015 Paris Agreement.

On the opening day, most of the talk was about striking a deal over the creation of a new carbon market, an issue that remained unresolved last year as countries finalised most of the other provisions of the Paris Agreement rulebook. The rulebook specifies the processes, mechanisms and institutions through which the provisions of the Paris Agreement would be implemented.

A carbon market allows countries to trade emission reductions between themselves, for a price. A country can earn carbon credit by achieving emission reductions more than its own target, and then trade this credit to others who are struggling to meet their own targets. A similar carbon market existed under the Kyoto Protocol as well. But that regime is expiring next year, and its replacement, the Paris Agreement, is trying to cre-



WE ARE STILL IN IT, U.S. HOUSE **SPEAKER SAYS**

Madrid: US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi told a UN climate conference that the world could still count on the US in the fight against global warming despite Donald Trump's decision to pull out of the Paris Agreement. Pelosi and 14 other members of the US Congress were in Madrid to make the point that larges swathes of the US are committed to the targets set by the 2015 agreement, as are most Democratic candidates for President. "We're here to say to all of you, on behalf of the House of Representatives and the Congress of the United States, we're still in it, we're still in it," Pelosi said. PTI

ate a new one.

The biggest problem that this proposal has run into is the tussle over the fate of unsold carbon credits. Some countries, led by Brazil, and supported by India and others insist that the large amount of carbon credits they had accumulated in the previous regime. but had remained unsold, be carried over to the new market. In the last few years, as many countries walked out of the Kyoto Protocol and the rest did not feel compelled to fulfil their emission reduction targets, the demand for carbon credits had crashed, leaving countries like India and Brazil with a

large number of unsold credits. However, developed countries have resisted this demand, saying that weak verification mechanisms under the Kyoto Protocol had allowed dubious projects to earn carbon credits.

An agreement over the carbon markets is one of the most significant outcomes on the agenda of the Madrid meeting, but many are already warning that no deal is much better than a weak deal.

Malta PM to quit over journalist's murder

STEPHEN GREY CHRIS SCICLUNA

VALETTA, DECEMBER 2

MALTESE PRIME Minister Joseph for cracking down on the pro-Muscat, engulfed in crisis over Police say their use of teargas, the probe into a murdered jourrubber bullets and other force is nalist, announced on Sunday he planned to step down, saying he a necessary response to escalating violence by the protesters, would ask his ruling Labour who have blocked major roads Party to start a process next and thrown gasoline bombs back month to choose a new leader at officers in riot gear. Hong Kong for the country.

Calls for Muscat to quit had intensified after the investigation into the 2017 car bomb killing of iournalist anti-corruption Daphne Caruana Galizia led to charges on Saturday against a prominent businessman with alleged ties to government ministers and senior officials.



Maltese Prime Minister Joseph Muscat. Reuters

In a televised address on Sunday evening, Muscat said he was not leaving immediately, rather announcing a process to re-

place him that will start on Jan 12. This drew immediate criticism from some opponents who

said he should go right away. "I will write to the President of the Labour Party so that the process for a new leader is set for 12th January 2020. On that day I will resign as leader of the Labour Party. In the days after I will resign

as prime minister," Muscat said. "Our country thus will start a short process of approximately a month for the Labour Party to choose a new leader and a new prime minister," he added.

Thousands of people took part earlier on Sunday in an anti-government march in Valetta, the capital of the tiny Mediterranean archipelago, in an event organised, among others, by activist group Repubblika, and led by members of the Caruana Galizia family.

In his address, the PM struck a defiant tone, saying that every day since the murder he had shouldered responsibilities in "the interests of the conclusion of the case". But he added that "some decisions were good while others could have been better made". REUTERS

Pak ruling party leader, sacked over anti-Hindu remarks, returns as state minister

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA LAHORE, DECEMBER 2

PAKISTAN'S PUNJAB province Chief Minister on Monday reappointed Fayyazul Hassan Chohan as his Information Minister, nine months after he was sacked over anti-Hindu remarks that invited criticism from senior party leaders and the minority community.

The portfolio was previously held by the minister for industries, Aslam Iqbal, who resigned from the post saying that due to engagements in his constituency he could not do justice to two ministries.

Chohan had come under se-

vere criticism from senior members of his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party, ministers and social media users for his controversial remarks while addressing a gathering on February 24 in the aftermath of the Pulwama terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir. He later apologised for his re-

marks, saying he was addressing

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Indian armed forces and the media, not the Hindu community in Pakistan. Pakistan Prime Minister

Imran Khan had taken serious notice of Chohan's remarks and had directed Punjab CM Usman Buzdar to remove him.

Hindu community in Pakistan had also condemned the minister's remarks on social media.

Several members of the

Hindus form the biggest minority community in Pakistan.

WAVE OF NEW CASES TO BE FILED AS 15 STATES IN US EXTEND STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS TO ALLOW CLAIMS FROM DECADES AGO

Legal reckoning: New abuse suites could cost Church over \$4 bn

BERNARD CONDON & JIM MUSTIAN NEW YORK, DECEMBER 2

AT THE end of another long day trying to sign up new clients accusing the Roman Catholic Church of sexual abuse, lawyer Adam Slater gazes out the window of his highrise Manhattan office at one of the great symbols of the Church, St. Patrick's Cathedral.

"I wonder how much that's worth?" he muses.

Across the country, attorneys like Slater are scrambling to file a new wave of lawsuits alleging sexual abuse by clergy, thanks to rules enacted in 15 states that extend or suspend the statute of

epaper.indianexpress.com

limitations to allow claims stretching back decades. Associated Press reporting found the deluge of suits could surpass anything the nation's clergy sexual abuse crisis has seen before, with potentially more than 5,000 new cases and payouts topping \$4 billion. It's a financial reckoning

playing out in such populous Catholic strongholds as New York, California and New Jersey, among the eight states that go the furthest with "lookback windows" that allow sex abuse claims no matter how old. Never before have so many states acted in near-unison to lift the restrictions that once shut people out if they didn't bring claims of



than 5,000 new cases of abuse against the clergy. AP

childhood sex abuse by a certain age, often their early 20s. That has lawyers fighting for

clients with TV ads and billboards asking, "Were you abused by the church?" And Catholic

dioceses, while worrying about the difficulty of defending such old claims, are considering bankruptcy, victim compensation funds and even tapping valuable real estate to stay afloat. "It's like a whole new begin-

ning for me," said 71-year-old Nancy Holling-Lonnecker of San Diego, who plans to take advantage of an upcoming three-year window for such suits in California. Her claim dates back to the 1950s, when she says a priest repeatedly raped her in a confession booth beginning when she was 7 years old.

"The survivors coming forward now have been holding on to this horrific experience all of their lives," she said. "They bottled up those emotions all of these years because there was no place to take it." Now there is. *AP* interviews with more than a dozen lawyers and watchdog

groups offered a wide range of estimates, but many said they expected at least 5,000 new cases against the Church in New York, New Jersey and California alone, resulting in potential payouts that could surpass the \$4 billion paid out since the clergy sex abuse first came to light in the 1980s.

Lawyers acknowledged the difficulty of predicting what will happen but several believed payouts could exceed the \$350,000 national average per child sex abuse case since 2003. At the upper end, a key benchmark is the

paid per case the last time California opened a one-year window to suits in 2003. That offers a range of total payouts in the three big Catholic states alone from \$1.8 billion to as much as \$6 billion. Some lawyers believe pay-

average \$1.3 million the Church

outs could be heavily influenced by the recent reawakening over sexual abuse fuelled by the #MeToo movement, the public shaming of accused celebrities and the explosive Pennsylvania grand jury report last year that found 300 priests abused more than 1.000 children in that state over seven decades. Since then, attorneys general in nearly 20 states have launched investigations of their own. AP

New Delhi

19 ECONOMY





71.66





\$64.00 ₹45,730

SENSEX: 40,802.17 ▲ 8.36 NIFTY: 12,048.20 ▼ 7.85 NIKKEI: 23,529.50 ▲ 235.59 HANG SENG: 26,444.72 ▲ 98.23 FTSE: 7,353.73 ▲ 7.20 DAX: 13,235.91 ▼ 0.47

'NEARLY 90% DUPED INVESTORS GOT BACK SECURITIES'

Bourses suspend Karvy's broking licence

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, DECEMBER 2

CRACKING THE whip on brokers who misuse the funds of customers, the National Stock Exchange and the BSE on Monday suspended Karvy Stock Broking's trading licence for all segments due to non-compliance of the regulatory provisions of the bourses. Simultaneously, the National Securities Depository Ltd (NSDL) said nearly 90 per cent -82,559 of duped investors have got back their securities and the remaining ones will get after clearing their dues.

On the other hand, Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) rejected Karvy's plea to use its clients' power of attorney (PoA) to settle trades done by them as the broking firm illegally transferred securities worth Rs 2,300 crore of more than 95,000 clients.

In two separate circulars, the bourses announced that they "have suspended Karvy Stock Broking Ltd with effect from December 2, 2019 due to noncompliance of the regulatory provisions of the exchange". The BSE said it has deactivated trading terminals of Karvy in equity and debt segment and put them in the risk reduction mode in equity deriva-

'Manufacturing

sector activity

in November

on new orders'

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU

THE COUNTRY'S manufacturing

sector activity saw a marginal in-

crease in November as growth

rates for new orders as well as pro-

duction were modest amid com-

petitive pressures and unstable

market conditions, the IHS Markit

India Manufacturing PMI showed

ing economic scenario prevented

hiring in November, with payroll

numbers declining for the first

cure new work amid successful

marketing and strengthening demand, but others struggled in the

face of competitive conditions,

amid challenging economic sce-

nario and troubles in the automo-

November from 50.6 in October,

when it had fallen to a two-year

low, indicating only a slight im-

provement in the health of the

sector. As per the survey, growth

was supported by the launch of

new products and better demand,

though restrained by competitive

pressures and unstable market

above 50 means expansion, while

a score below that denotes con-

in October, manufacturing sector

"After pulling back noticeably

The PMI rose to 51.2 in

Some firms were able to se-

time in 20 months, it said.

Subdued sales amid challeng-

on Monday.

tive sector.

traction.

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 2

inches up

tives, currency derivatives and commodity segment.

Sebi's directive had come after the National Stock Exchange forwarded a preliminary report to it on the non-compliances observed with respect to pledging/misuse of client securities by Karvy. The exchange's preliminary report is the result of the limited purpose inspection of Karvy conducted by it on August 19, covering a period from January 1 onwards, Sebi had said in its order.

In an order passed on November 22, Sebi barred Karvy from taking new clients in respect of its stock broking activities and also prevented it from using the power of attorney (PoA) given by clients after the broker was found to have allegedly misused clients'

The NSDL said 82,559 investors them have got back their securities, which were illegally transferred by the KSBL to its own account. "As per the directions of Sebi and under supervision of NSE, securities have been transferred from the demat account ... named Karvy Stock Broking Ltd to the demat accounts of respective clients who have paid in full against these securities. The number of such clients who have received securities are 82.599." NSDL said in a circular.

GDP GROWTH hit an

over six-year low of

4.5 per cent in July-

subdued farm sector

data released on Friday

Dun & Bradstreet India

September 2019, dragged

mainly by deceleration in

manufacturing output and

activity, according to official

REINFORCING CONFIDENCE of

of the biggest challenges for the

stakeholders in the ecosystem will be one

government to tackle; there are no easy

fixes, said Arun Singh, chief economist at



Focus on EY report; Sebi may have to look into similar cases

SEBI HAD earlier said Karvy Stock Broking transferred Rs 1,096 crore of investors' money to its real estate subsidiary. However, it's not clear how and where was this money used by its real estate arm.

The forensic audit of Karvy Stock Broking by EY is expected to bring out more details on the fund diversion. Now, it's to be seen how banks will recover the funds lent to Karvy. The market regulator should look into similar fund diversion from clients' accounts by other broking firms.

Karvy had earlier taken loans to the tune of Rs 600 crore by pledging securities worth more than Rs 2,300 crore of 95,000 clients with lenders.

In another order passed on Friday, Sebi said it would not be prudent to allow the use of PoA (power of attorney) by Karvy given to it by its clients. It clients of Karvy who seek to sell securities through the broker may do so by using electronic or physical Delivery Instruction Slip (DIS) only. A DIS is used by sellers of securities to instruct their depository participant to debit their de- additional pledges on client secu- be higher also," said a source.

Reinforcing confidence will be one of the

biggest challenges for the govt'

Growth is expected to remain subdued in near future as the slowdown has

deepened and may remain extended longer, says a Dun & Bradstreet report

by the recent floods

agricultural output

and lower

RURAL SECTOR DEMAND

is likely to remain affected

mat account. The order also highlighted that Karvy, in one demat account under its name on the BSE, unauthorisedly transferred securities worth Rs 2,300 crore of more than 95,000 clients, into this account, by misusing the PoA given by its clients. This demat account was never disclosed by the firm in its filing with exchanges.

The securities of fully paid clients were also pledged by Karvy Stock Broking to generate funds for its own/group entities use. Apart from misutilisation of client funds. KSBL continued to create

rities even after Sebi regulations prohibiting firms from doing so became effective from October 1.

Sebi said forensic audit of KSBL, initiated by the NSE, is in progress and the full magnitude of the mis-utilisation of the clients' securities will be known after completion of the forensic audit.

The latest Sebi order came af-

ter the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) on Friday directed Sebi to look into the issue of clarification sought by KSBL with regard to usage of PoA given by clients. The tribunal had asked the regulator to pass an appropriate order after giving an opportunity of hearing by December 2, 2019. Prior to that, KSBL had also written to Sebi requesting it to permit the continuation of KSBL using the PoA only for the limited purpose of transfer of securities to the pool account solely for settling the clients' pay-in obligations to stock exchanges.

The forensic audit of Karvy Stock Broking by EY is expected to bring out more details on the fund diversion from KSBL to its real estate arm. Sebi has said KSBL transferred Rs 1,096 crore of investors money to its real estate subsidiary. However, it's not clear how this money was used by its reality division. "The funds diverted could

SECTORS UNDER STRESS

the corporate and revenue

Most sectors, from auto to real

estate, are under stress and this is

reflected in the profit margins of

collections of the government

CO-OPERATION BETWEEN

Both the Centre and the states

This will provide employment

opportunities for the rural and

urban poor. Secondly, it should

work towards ensuring that

auditing norms become more

boosting consumption seems

difficult when incomes are not

growing, food inflation is rising and

governance issues have increased

stringent, the report said adding

infrastructure projects in pipeline

CENTRE AND STATES

BENEFITS

should gear up to execute

INTERVIEW WITH MD OF LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION

'Millennials bought 44% of total policies sold by LIC in current year till October'

TC SUSEEL KUMAR, Managing Director of Life Insurance Corporation (LIC), says the insurer has increased its market share by 6 per cent this year despite tough competition from private sector players. In an interview to GEORGE MATHEW, Kumar said millennials account for 44 per cent of the new policies sold by LIC. Edited excerpts:

How are you taking on competition from private sector players?

Our market share in premium (new business) was 66.5 per cent as of March 2019. But on September 30, it touched 72.5 per cent. We have regained 6 per cent market share in six months time. In October, our market share in policies was as high as 78 per cent. The share has gone up in the individual segment. We're showing good growth in single and nonsingle premium segments. Earlier single premium was taking a larger portion.

How are millennials or young population looking at the

insurance sector? In the current year till October, we sold 1.04 crore policies. Out of this, 26 lakh plus policies were sold to people who are less than 25 years old. Another 18 lakh policies were sold to people between 25 to 30 years old. If you look at people between 30 and 35 years old another 17 lakh policies. We have sold 44 lakh policies to people below 30 years old, or millennials. That's nearly 44 per cent of policies. They are coming. If you ask me whether this is adequate, well the number outside (is more)... we have to do a lot of work. If you look at the agents who are recruited, about 30-35 per cent are millennials. That may be also a good connect. Getting people early is always advantageous. Millennials can be from rural areas also ... need not be from urban areas.

Are you divesting your stake in **UTI Mutual Fund?**

We're not completely divesting our stake. The regulations say that it has to be brought down below



'LIC has increased market share from 66.5% to 72.5% despite tough pvt competition'

TC SUSEEL KUMAR MD, LIFE INSURANCE **CORPORATION**

10 per cent.

Are you hiking premium in Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJBY)?

Ultimately it depends on the claim experience. It's the government which is paying the premium. We don't get any profit out of it. We run the scheme. They have formed a committee and it has to recommend it.

Is there any progress on listing of LIC?

The government has to decide on that issue.

What's the share of online premium collection?

About 20-30 per cent of the premium collection is through online route. If I add the agents' offices, it will be around 50 per cent.

The life insurance industry has been doing well despite the slowdown in the economy. What's driving the sector?

Right from April, the insurance industry has been showing a fairly good growth. And cumulative from April every month it has been growing. We're growing faster than the industry. Currently, LIC is showing a growth

rate of 37 per cent whereas the industry is 31 per cent and private companies are showing 19 per cent as of October. It (slowdown) should not affect the insurance sector. People look for safer investment ... safer options when there's trouble in the market.

LIC seems to have stepped up hiring of agents. What're your plans?

We're serious about addition of agency force. We have added about a lakh of agents in the current year. We have around 11.8 lakh agents now. We have started sending them to institutions like IIM for training.

After the acquisition of IDBI Bank, how are things taking shape?

It was always LIC's desire to have a bank as we have other subsidiaries for mutual fund, housing finance and credit card. We look at the addition of the bank as a benefit which can give a lot of synergy to LIC and our subsidiaries. We're looking at bancassurance very seriously. Currently, they have sold about 50,000 policies and Rs 400 crore premium They are also collecting renewal premium in their outlets. IDBI Bank doesn't report to LIC. We have a board membership. It's a board-driven bank. We don't get involved in micro management.

What are your hiring plans this year?

We're hiring around 16,700 people this year, including clerical and officers' categories. This is about 13-14 per cent of our current work force. We have around 8,000 development officers coming in a month's time. We have already done the exams for 3,000 clerical staff. We have already recruited 600 class one officers.

What's your stock market

strategy?

Whenever the price is attractive, we always tend to buy. Whenever the price is good to sell, we sell. We made a profit of over Rs 14,000 crore till November 15 this year.

'GREEN SHOOTS' VISIBLE

In a matter of a year ... will have lot of investment coming: FM

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 2

STATING THAT "green shoots" are visible with several companies showing interest to invest in the country, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Monday said that the corporate tax reduction will help

attract fresh investment and jobs

generation through Make in India.

Sitharaman said there has conditions. In PMI parlance, a print been no decrease in direct tax collections and the gross mop-up rose 5 per cent during April-November this financial year, adding that maximum direct tax collections come in the final quarter of the financial year.

growth displayed a welcoming acceleration in November. Still, The recent cut in corporate rates of expansion in factory ortax was not aimed to benefit cerders, production and exports retain companies but the entire inmained far away from those dustry, the Finance Minister said, recorded at the start of 2019, with adding that "people are apsubdued underlying demand proaching" the government for largely blamed for this," said fresh investment which will help Pollyanna de Lima, principal econin generating more jobs as well omist at IHS Markit. **WITH PTI** as make India a manufacturing

'NO DECREASE IN DIRECT TAX COLLECTIONS'

THE CONUNDRUM of soaring

to address

domestic stock market indices in

India, slowing growth, rising inflation,

and elevated unemployment presents

a complex challenge for policymakers



■ FM Nirmala Sitharaman was not aimed to benefit certain firms but the entire industry and "people are approaching" government for fresh investment

hub in the future.

On corporate tax cut, the

said the cut in corporate tax

"Yes, it is the decision (corporate tax reduction) which has resulted in revenue foregone ... approximately about Rs 1.45 lakh crore could be foregone," she said while replying to a debate on Taxation Laws (Amendment Bill) in the Lok Sabha.

■ Said there has been no decrease in direct tax collections and gross mopup rose 5% during April-Nov

Finance Minister further said, "Yes,

we are conscious of it and we are

conscious that if not today, in a

matter of a year you will have a lot

of investment coming into this

country. I can see the initial green

shoots." The whole objective of reducing corporate tax was to drive and attract manufacturing invest-

ments from all over the world. This had prompted the government to introduce a special rate of 15 per cent for new investments from new companies that go into operation between October 2019 to 2023, she said.

Source: PTI

On the possibility of a personal income tax cut, Sitharaman said she would rather deal with the matter separately based on its merit. On queries why the government did not reduce personal income tax to spur demand, she said tax benefits to individuals are reviewed periodically and the government will take action at an appropriate time.

government September had announced a cut in the corporate tax rate, wherein corporate tax for existing companies was reduced to 22 per cent from 30 per cent, and to 15 per cent from 25 per cent for new manufacturing firms incorporated after October 1, 2019, and starting operations before March

After the MPs asked about slowing economic growth following GDP growth slipping to 26quarter low of 4.5 per cent in July-September, Sitharaman said it was not the first time that the GDP growth rate had slowed to 4.5 per cent. The minister said in the fiscal 2012-13 also the GDP had recorded sub-5 per cent growth, but it increased later. "It is possible to go up," she said, adding the government was "proactive" in addressing challenges being faced by the economy.

Clarifying on an error in the Taxation Laws (Amendment Bill), 2019, which said the reduced MAT will come into force from the next financial year beginning April 1, 2020, she said that the lower rate of 15 per cent minimum alternate tax (MAT) announced as part of the corporate tax rate cuts in September will be applicable from the current financial year. The intention, she said, has always been to apply reduced MAT rate from 2019-20.

'Neither anti-national nor anti-government': Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 2

BIOCON CHAIRPERSON and Managing Director Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw on Monday said India Inc is "neither anti-national nor anti-government".

This comes in the backdrop of veteran industrialist Rahul Bajaj saying that India Inc was afraid of criticising the Narendra Modi government.

Shaw, who had earlier said the government treated India Inc as "pariahs" and doesn't want to hear any criticism of the economy, was responding to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's remarks that spreading one's own impression "can hurt national interest" in relation to the statement made by Bajaj on Saturday.

Trump restores aluminium and

"Madam we are neither anti national nor anti government. We want you to succeed big time as fastest growing economy n rise to the top of the global league of economies. I am a proud apolitical National nonly want the Govt to promote good policies includ-

ing at State level," Shaw tweeted.

In the tweet, Sitharaman said "Home Minister @AmitShah answers on how issues raised by Shri. Rahul Bajaj were addressed Questions/criticisms are heard and answered/addressed. Always a better way to seek an answer than spreading one's own impressions which, on gaining traction, can hurt national interest."

Supporting Bajaj, Shaw had earlier said, "Hope the govt reaches out to India Inc for working out solutions to revive consumption n growth". **WITH PTI**

IN OCTOBER, THE UNITED STATES WAS ALLOWED TO IMPOSE TARIFFS ON AIRBUS

WTO rejects EU bid to stop US tariffs over Airbus

REUTERS PARIS/BRUSSELS, DEC 2

THE WORLD Trade Organization on Monday rejected European Union claims that it no longer provides subsidies to planemaker Airbus, underscoring tariffs recently imposed by the United

States on European goods. A new compliance report from the Geneva trade watchdog found that the Airbus A380 and A350 jetliners continue to be subsidised as a result of past European government loans.

It is the latest move in a record

transatlantic trade dispute involving mutual claims of illegal aircraft subsidies, coming to a head at a

A new compliance report from the World Trade Organization found that the Airbus A380 and A350 jetliners continue to be subsidised as a result of past European government loans

time of rising global trade tensions. The United States was in October awarded the right to impose tariffs on \$7.5 billion of annual EU imports in the case against Airbus. It went ahead with partial tariffs on most Airbus jets and products from cheese to olives and single-malt whisky.

A decision on retaliation rights for the EU in a parallel case on aid for Boeing is due next year.. In Monday's finding, a threethat a recent decision by Airbus to stop producing the slow-selling A380 meant the giant airliner could no longer be seen as a threat to Boeing, whose competing 747 is also out of fashion. While the WTO no longer faulted Airbus for causing lost sales to Boeing with the A380, which is no longer mar-

person panel rejected EU claims

for as long as it is produced and delivered. Airbus plans to shut production in mid-2021.

The WTO appeared to strengthen findings against the A350, saying it had both cost sales and damaged Boeing's marketshare prospects - a process called impedance - in the busier twinengined long-haul market where Boeing offers its 787 Dreamliner.

The European Commission said it took note of the report, adding it contained a number of serious legal errors. The Commission, with Irishman Phil Hogan leading trade policy since December 1, said it would consider its next steps, including a possible appeal, while seeking an overall agreement on aircraft subsidies with the US. There was no immediate comment from the US Trade Representative.

European sources said the decision to drop references to the A380 causing lost sales to Boeing had cut about \$2 billion from a list of harms worth \$7.5 billion that had driven the WTO's decision to allow US tariffs up to the same amount.

They did not immediately say whether the finding against the A350 would change the equation in the opposite direction. US sources argued such calcu-

lations were "irrelevant," since only full compliance or an agreement to settle the trade dispute politically would cancel WTO approval for the tariffs.

steel tariffs on Brazil, Argentina Trump's larger trade battle with **REUTERS** WASHINGTON/RIO DE JANEIRO.

DECEMBER 2

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump on Monday announced he would restore tariffs on US steel and aluminium imports from Brazil and Argentina in apparent retaliation for currency weakness he said was hurting US farmers. In an early morning tweet

Trump said Brazil and Argentina were "presiding over a massive devaluation of their currencies." Both countries have actively been trying to strengthen their currencies — the real and the peso against the dollar. Their currencies have been buffeted by weakness that analysts partially attribute to

Trump, who gave no details

about his new plan, said the currency weakness was hurting US farmers. "Effective immediately, I will restore the Tariffs on all Steel Beijing: China expects the US to iation, adding that he would call "reasonable." his US counterpart, who he was

with US officials.

New Delhi

China repeats demand for US tariff rollback

& Aluminum that is shipped into roll back some tariffs on its exthe US from those countries," ports as part of a trade deal, the Trump wrote. Brazil's president, Communist Party newspaper Jair Bolsonaro, an avowed Trump Global Times said Monday, reitfan who has sought closer US ties, erating Beijing's insistence that said in a local radio interview that President Donald Trump's ad-Trump's decision was not a retal- ministration be "flexible" and "Rolling back tariffs is a must confident would listen to Brazil's The China-US trade war (was) in-

concerns. Argentine Production stigated by the US with tariffs, so Minister Dante Sica said Trump's the tariffs have to be cut first," the announcement was "unex- newspaper quoted Wei Jianguo, pected" and he was seeking talks a former Chinese commerce minister as saying. AP

keted, it ruled that the superjumbo would continue to cause market-share damage to Boeing

20 ECONOMY

Goyal: Exports at \$538 billion in 2018-19

New Delhi: The value of India's overall exports rose about 8 per cent to \$538.07 billion during 2018-19, Parliament was informed on Monday.

In a reply to a question in the Lok Sabha, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal also said that as per the Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20, the government aims to increase the country's export of merchandise and services to \$900 billion in 2019-20 and raise India's share in world exports (goods and services) to 3.5 per cent. According to data provided by the minister, India has been registering a growth for the past three years in terms of exports of merchandise and services. PTI

About ₹87,000 cr invested by EPFO in ETFs till Sept

New Delhi: Retirement fund body EPFO has invested Rs 86,966 crore in exchange traded funds (ETFs) till September 2019, Parliament was informed on Monday.

The EPFO has been investing in ETFs since 2015. Initially, the body decided to invest 5 per cent of its investible deposits into the markets. The proportion was increased later. The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation is investing in ETFs based on Nifty 50, Sensex, Central Public Sector Enterprises and Bharat 22 Indices. PTI

seeking insolvency resolution for DHFL

NCLT admits RBI plea

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, DECEMBER 2

THE MUMBAI bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) on Monday admitted the petition of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) seeking bankruptcy proceedings to resolve the Rs 83,000 crore debt of Dewan Housing Finance Ltd (DHFL).

Admitting the petition, an NCLT bench said, "the petition deserves admission." On November 29, the RBI

filed the insolvency resolution process against DHFL at NCLT for recovery of debt as DHFL had been defaulting on repayments. DHFL is the first company from the financial sector to be referred to the NCLT after the government recently notified the financial sector providers (FSP) insolvency rules. With the DHFL case now in the NCLT, an "interim moratorium will commence on and from the date of filing of the application till its admission or reiection".

On November 20, the RBI superseded the board of directors of DHFL and initiated the bankruptcy proceedings "owing to governance concerns and defaults by DHFL in meeting various payment obligations".

On November 29, the RBI filed the insolvency resolution process against DHFL at NCLT for recovery of debt as DHFL had been defaulting on

repayments

The RBI, which stepped in after the banks and the company failed to work out a resolution plan to bring the firm back on the rails, also appointed R Subramaniakumar, former MD and CEO of Indian Overseas Bank, as the Administrator to run the affairs of the company.

According to the insolvency rules, on the insolvency commencement date, the Adjudicating Authority should declare moratorium on all payments and transfer of assets.

There will be moratorium on the institution of suits or continuation of pending suits or proceedings against the corporate debtor including execution of any judgement, decree or order in any court of law, tribunal, arbitration panel or other authority.

HOPES OF REVIVAL IN TELCOS' FINANCIAL HEALTH DRIVES RALLY

Telecom stocks surge after companies increase tariffs

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, DECEMBER 2

SHARES OF telecom firms rallied on Monday, a day after the announcement of tariff hikes by them of up to 50 per cent, as the move instilled hopes of revival in their financial health in the coming quarters. Shares of Bharti Airtel rose

3.67 per cent to end the day at Rs 458.55 — its highest level since January 2018 – while Vodafone Idea (VIL) rallied 14.06 per cent to settle at Rs 7.79. Reliance Industries, the parent of lio, rose 2.3 per cent to close at a record-high of Rs 1,586.30 on the BSE. RIL's share price has moved up by 17 per cent since the first tariff hike (10-15 per cent tariff increase) was announced on October 9, while shares of Bharti and VIL have risen 23 per cent and 17 per cent respectively in the same period against 7 per cent rise in the Sensex.

Analysts do not rule out further price hikes in times to come, as the current hike may not be sufficient for sustainability of Vodafone Idea.

Bharti and VIL announced tariff hikes of up to 50 per cent on their pre-paid plans, while Jio

India's mobile internet rates lowest in world, says Prasad

New Delhi: A day after India's top mobile phone service providers announced an increase in call and data charges, Telecom Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad on Monday said mobile internet rate in the country remains by far the lowest in the world.

Bharti Airtel, Vodafone Idea and Reliance Jio Infocomm on Sunday announced the rise in the cost of subscriptions to their plans with effect from Tuesday. "India's mobile internet rate

said it would hike its tariffs by up to 40 per cent. The new tariffs will come into effect from December 3 for Bharti and VIL, while that of Jio from December 6. "VIL and Bharti announced tariff hikes were better than expected," said analysts at Bank of America and Merrill Lynch.

While low and high denomination tariffs have been hiked by upto 41 per cent, the popular plans saw tariff hikes of 25-30 per cent. For instance for VIL and Bharti, the minimum Rs 35 deper GB remains by far the lowest in the world. The UK-based http://cable.co.uk which compared mobile data plans around the world has indicated this," Prasad tweeted posting the comparative chart made by the price comparison site in March 2019.

The average price of \$0.26 for one gigabyte (GB) in India compares to \$6.66 in the UK and \$12.37 for the same amount of data in the US, the study had shown in March. PTI

nomination plan has now moved to Rs 49. For VIL, popular 1.5 GB per day, 84 day pack will cost 31 per cent more at Rs 599 versus Rs 458 (33 per cent hike for Bharti) and 25 per cent hike for Rs 199 plan (1.5 GB/day pack).

Meanwhile, Cellular Operators Association of India said Monday that rise in price of mobile calls and internet rates is beneficial for customers, will boost government revenue mop-up and help in creating jobs by improving financial health of the sector. **FE WITH PTI**

Past dues credit negative for Airtel despite rate hikes: Moody's

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 2

ADJUSTED GROSS revenue dues on Bharti Airtel are credit negative for the telecom operator despite a two-year moratorium given by the government on spectrum payment and the firm's plan to raise mobile call and data charges, credit rating agency Moody's Investors Service said on Monday.

Bharti Airtel has posted a staggering Rs 23,045 crore net loss for the second quarter ended September 30, due to provisioning of Rs 28,450 crore in the aftermath of the Supreme Court's ruling on statutory dues. As per data from the government, the liabilities in case of Airtel add up to nearly Rs 35,586 crore, of which Rs 21,682 crore is licence fee and Rs 13,904 crore is the spectrum usage charge due (excluding the dues of Telenor and Tata Teleservices).

BRIEFLY

AAI to invite bids under Udan

New Delhi: The Airports Authority of India from Tuesday will take bids from airlines for various routes under the fourth round of bidding of Udan, as per a release.

Ujjivan SFB IPO subscribed fully

New Delhi: The IPO of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank was subscribed 1.62 times on the first day of bidding Monday.

Databank for directors

New Delhi: The government Monday launched a databank of independent directors, which will be a "comprehensive repository" of existing and those eligible to be independent directors. PTI

NCLAT bench in Chennai

New Delhi: The government is taking all steps to strengthen the NCLT and its appellate tribunal, Minister of State for Corporate Affairs Anurag Singh Thakur said on Monday. The government has decided to set up a bench of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) in Chennai following a Supreme Court judgment, he added. **ENS**

Samsung India profit falls 58%

New Delhi: Samsung India Electronics' consolidated net profit fell over 58 per cent to Rs 1,540.5 crore in 2018-19, according to a regulatory filing. The firm posted a net profit of Rs 3,712.8 crore in financial year 2017-18. However, the company's total income rose 20 per cent to Rs 73,085.9 crore in FY19 from Rs 61,065.6 crore in the previous fiscal, as per the documents filed by the company to the Registrar of Companies.

Realtor 'admits' black money

New Delhi: An undisclosed income of over Rs 3,000 crore has been "admitted" by a NCR-based real estate group after the Income-Tax department raided it recently, the CBDT said.

'FSNL MD fired whistleblowers'

New Delhi: The Centre has

received over 60 complaints against the MD of Ferro Scrap Nigam for allegedly terminating whistleblowers and practising caste-based discrimination, Steel Minister Dharmendra Pradhan informed Parliament on Monday. PTI

Over 3.38 lakh firms deregistered in last two financial years: Govt Minister of State for he said in a written reply.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 2

MORE THAN 3.38 lakh companies were struck-off from official records in the last two financial years for failing to submit annual returns, according to the government.

The Corporate Affairs Ministry has removed the names of these companies for their failure to file annual returns for two or more financial years continuously.

Corporate Affairs Anurag Singh Thakur told the Lok Sabha on Monday that the ministry through its RoCs (Registrar of Companies) files prosecutions against companies that have not filed financial statements

"During the financial year 2017-18 and 2018-19, RoCs had removed/struck off 3,38,963 companies...for failing to file financial statements or annual returns for a continuous period of two or more financial years,"

from time to time.

RoCs can remove the names of such companies from the official records in case they have not applied for dormant status under the Companies Act,

In a separate written reply, Thakur said as far as the ministry is concerned, Section 182 of the Companies Act provides for the manner in which a company shall be able to contribute money to any political party or to any person for political purpose.

Two-wheeler sales decline for 12th straight month in November Hero MotoCorp and Bajaj Auto reported 16 per cent y-o-y

> o-y dip. TVS Motor Company and Royal Enfield's sales fell 26 per cent y-o-y an 8 per cent, respectively. "Diwali falling a month earlier and planned adjustment of BS-IV stocks is reflecting in the sales growth difference between November 2018 and November 2019," a TVS Motor spokesper-

and 14 per cent y-o-y dip in vol-

umes in November, while Honda

Motorcycle posted a 5 per cent y-

per cent y-o-y. Most manufacturers are producing lesser units of BS-IV models as from April 2020, only BS-VI compliant units can be sold. **FE**

Crisil slashes FY20 growth forecast to 5.1% from 6.3%

PRESSTRUST OF INDIA MUMBAI, DECEMBER 2

THE SLOWDOWN is deeper than anticipated and will be prolonged, ratings agency Crisil warned on Monday slashing its growth estimate sharply to a low 5.1 percent from 6.3 percent earlier.

The agency attributed the sharp revision to various high-frequency indicators showing a softness and partly blamed the same to the reforms like GST, real estate regulation, and the bankruptcy code which are still a "drag" on the economy which is yet to adjust to the changes unveiled years before.

Crisil's estimate is among the lowest, but still above Nomura's 4.7 percent forecast.

The Reserve Bank, which is scheduled to review of the monetary policy on Thursday, had in the October review lowered its forecast to 6.1 percent--down a full 90 bps from its August fore-

Given the gathering storm, the monetary authority is widely expected to slash its rates further--after five successive rate cuts to the tune of 135 bps, bring down the policy rates to a nine-year low of 5.45 percent.

Official data released Friday showed the September quarter GDP hitting a 26-quarter low of 4.5 percent, penciling the first half growth at a low 4.75 percent.

'Warehousing sector gets investment of ₹25K cr since 2017'

The country's warehousing sector has attracted an investment of ₹25,400 crore since 2017 and the inflow is likely to reach ₹49,500 crore by 2021 on robust demand for logistics space by e-commerce companies, as per global property consultant Colliers

FACTORS DRIVING GROWTH

goods and services tax (GST)

Colliers said the sector is benefiting from

government policy initiatives such as the

implementation and the Make in India

programme, as well as global trade

ATTRACTIVE TO INVESTORS The sector has attracted

interest from multiple large institutional investors since 2017, with investment inflows of ₹254 billion (\$3.6 billion), signifying a large pool of capital available for investment in this sector

CHANGING NATURE OF THE SECTOR

Colliers noted that this sector in the past has been characterised by fragmented sheds and godowns but now, it is becoming organised because of demand for larger facilities from ecommerce companies

dynamics and evolving consumption patterns

PROJECTION

The investment inflow is likely to touch ₹495 billion (\$7 billion) by 2021 as existing participants expand their portfolio and new players enter the market, the consultant said

SUGGESTIONS Occupiers mulling large

contiguous warehouse leases, especially in the ecommerce and 3PL(thirdparty logistics) sectors, should look at select micromarkets in Mumbai and Pune that offer a good mix of industrial and multipurpose warehouses

GST



Kamal Nath leads Indian delegation at ABLF awards

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, DECMBER 2

THE ASIAN Business Leadership Forum (ABLF) celebrated its 12th anniversary last month, with an award ceremony in Dubai that hosted India as a guest nation.

The Indian delegation, hosted at Jumeirah Emirates Towers in Dubai, was led by Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath. The ABLF Business Innovator Award was presented to Madhusudan Agrawal, cofounder and vice chairman of Ajanta Pharma Ltd and Samta Mines & Minerals Ltd, who is also

the Consul of Uganda in Mumbai. Awards were also conferred to business leaders including Kumar Mangalam Birla, chairman of the Aditya Birla Group; Shobhana Bhartia, chairperson and editorial director of HT Media: and BK Goenka, chairman of the Welspun Group.

Agrawal said: "This year's theme of 'Inclusive Leadership for Sustainability of Progress' is very close to my heart. At Samta Foundation, we are working to bring those excluded from our so-

US factory sector shrinks Rlys' operating ratio at 98.44% in 2017-18, worst in 10 yrs: CAG again in November: ISM

Washington: The US economy's manufacturing sector contracted for a fourth straight month in November as new order volumes slid back to around their lowest level since 2012, as per an industry report released on Monday.

October.

The Institute for Supply Management (ISM) said its index of national factory activity fell to 48.1 from 48.3 the month before. The reading was below expecta-

tions of 49.2 from a Reuters poll. A reading above 50 indicates expansion in the manufacturing sector and a reading below 50 in-

index rose to 46.7 from 45.5, compared to expectations of 47.0.

The US Treasury yield curve steepened on Monday. The curve was at 20.6 basis points, up 4.6 basis points from Friday's close. Immediately following the data, the spread hit its highest since November 18. **REUTERS**

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICES NEW DELHI. DECEMBER 2

INDIAN RAILWAYS' operating ratio would have crossed the 100 per cent mark if not for the advance payments from NTPC and IRCON in 2017-18, when it recorded the worst operating ratio in 10 years, a Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report has said.

Operating ratio is the money spent to earn every Rs 100; the lower the better. The audit found that in 2017-18 it was 98.44. worst in 10 years.

The Railways has also been unable to meet its operational cost of passenger services and other coaching services

The CAG in its report on the Railways' finances, said that the Railways would have ended up with a negative balance of Rs 5,676.29 crore instead of a surplus of Rs 1,665.61 crore but for the advance received from NTPC and IRCON.

The report was tabled in Parliament on Monday. "Exclusion of this advance

would otherwise have increased the operating ratio to 102.66 per cent," the CAG said.

The Railways has also been unable to meet its operational cost of passenger services and other coaching services. Almost 95 per cent of the profit from freight traffic was utilised to compensate for the loss on operation of passenger and other coaching services, it said. The CAG has also said that the 'give it up' scheme for senior citizens was not a success.

nance accounts of Indian Railways revealed a declining trend of revenue surplus and the share of internal resources in capital expenditure. The net revenue surplus decreased by

The audit analysis of the fi-

crore in 2017-18. The share of internal resources in total capital expenditure also decreased to 3.01 per

Resources," the CAG said.

cent in 2017-18. "This had resulted in greater dependence on Gross Budgetary Support and Extra Budgetary

66.10 per cent from Rs 4,913.00

crore in 2016-17 to Rs 1,665.61

The CAG also recommended that railways need to take steps to augment their internal revenues, so that dependence on gross and extra budgetary resources is contained.

"Under provisioning for de-

preciation is resulting in piling up of 'throw forward' of works concerning renewal of over aged assets. There is an urgent need to address this backlog and ensure timely replacement and renewal of old assets," it said. It also advised the railways to avoid creating new funds without any "justifiable reason".

Binny Bansal transfers \$76-mn

Flipkart shares to Walmart

'Bear with me,' new ECB boss Lagarde to lawmakers

REUTERS FRANKFURT, DECEMBER 2

NEW EUROPEAN Central Bank President Christine Lagarde asked EU lawmakers on Monday to give her time to learn the ropes of her new job and to reshape the ECB's monetary policy in what is likely

A relative newcomer to the world of monetary policy, the former International Monetary Fund chief has promised an overarching review of ECB business ranging from how it defines its inflation objective to whether it

to be a lengthy policy review.



ECB President Christine Lagarde. Reuters

includes a fight against climate change among its responsibilities. "I'm indeed trying to learn German but I'm also trying to learn central bank language," Lagarde, a former politician and lawyer told the European Parliament's Committee on **Economic and Monetary Affairs** in a regular hearing.

"So bear with me, show a little bit of patience, don't over-interpret, if I may say," said a seemingly nervous Lagarde, who often diverged from the text of her prepared speech and stumbled at times, leaving out phrases or repeating herself.

Lagarde took the helm at a difficult time for the ECB, which has recently resumed a 2.6 trillion

euro bond-buying programme and cut interest rates to record lows after failing to bring inflation back to its target of just below 2 per cent.

Lagarde said that a key focus of the review would be to determine whether its objective of keeping inflation at close to but below 2 per cent was still valid, given changes in the global economy. She said the review would look at whether the target should by symmetric, meaning it should be used to tackle both low and high inflation and not just the latter, if the ECB should have leeway in reaching that target, or whether

around it. "The strategy review will be

mate risk assessments.

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 2

FLIPKART CO-FOUNDER Binny Bansal has transferred shares worth an estimated \$76 million he held in the e-commerce firm to Walmart, according to business signals platform Paper.vc. This is the fourth such transaction by Bansal following the US-based retailer's acquisition of a controlling

Bansal sold about 539,912

primarily controls its India businesses, documents sourced from the research firm showed. Bansal's shareholding in Flipkart after this transaction could

Luxembourg-based entity that

not be immediately ascertained. The deal took place on November 27, as per the documents. In June, the co-founder transferred a similar amount of equity shares to the Luxembourgentity for about \$76.4 million, reducing his stake to about 3.52 per cent . In May last year Walmart announced purchase of a 77 per cent stake in Flipkart in a \$16-billion deal. **FE**

cieties back into the mainstream."

Hero MotoCorp and **ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU** NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 2 DESPITE HEFTY discounts and other promotional schemes in

per cent year-on-year (y-o-y), the 12th consecutive month of decline. Management of top manufacturers including Hero MotoCorp and TVS Motor Company said demand slipped as Diwali fell in October, which typically accounts for over 40 per

cent of the festive season sales.

In October however, despatches

to dealers had declined by 14 per

November, consumers chose to

stay away from buying two-

wheelers in enough numbers

as sales slipped by an over 15

Bajaj Auto reported 16 per cent y-o-y and 14 per cent y-o-y dip in volumes in November. while Honda Motorcycle posted a 5 per cent y-o-y dip

cent y-o-y but the companies

had claimed that retail sales vehicles sold by dealers to cusson said. So far this fiscal, twotomers — had improved. wheeler sales have fallen over 16 According to Federation of **Automobile Dealers Association** (FADA), retails of two-wheelers had grown by 5 per cent y-o-y in

> dicates contraction. The employment index slid to 46.6 from 47.7 a month earlier, also marking a fourth consecutive month of declining employment in the sector. New orders dropped to 47.2 from 49.1. The prices paid

there should be a tolerance band

guided by two principles: thorough analysis and an open mind," Lagarde told lawmakers. "This will require time for reflection and for wide consultation." She added while inflation is the bank's primary objective, the fight against climate change should be a central part of policy. She said the ECB's economic analysis should include the impact of climate change and its bank supervision arm should be asking lenders for transparency disclosures and cli-

stake in Flipkart.

shares in Flipkart Private to FIT Holdings SARL, Walmart's

New Delhi

NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Over here

Turkey's Syria move highlights America's tactical nukes in Europe



A U.S. Air Force F-16 jet during a NATO exercise. During the failed coup against President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in 2016, Incirlik hosted the refuelling tankers that allowed F-16 fighter planes to threaten Istanbul and Ankara. Reuters

GERMANY OWNS no nuclear weapons. It renounced the very idea when it reunified in 1990. But if war were to break out in Europe today, German pilots could clamber into German planes, take off from Büchel Air Base in Rhineland-Palatinate and drop nuclear bombs on Russian troops.

The Luftwaffe can do that thanks to NATO's nuclear-sharing scheme, under which America quietly stations nuclear bombs across five countries in Europe. The arrangement is decades old. But it has raised questions for some time—and clashes involving one of those nuclear hosts, Turkey, are making matters worse. As NATO leaders gather in London for a summit next week, Turkey's bombs will be on many minds.

In 1950 America moved its first bombs to Britain. In the subsequent decades it stashed a vast trove of nuclear weapons across Europe, numbering over 7,000 at their peak in 1971. Many were small devices known as tactical, or nonstrategic, nuclear weapons. They were capable of exploding with yields of as little as a fraction of a kiloton—far smaller than the 15-kilotonne bomb dropped on

Hiroshima. The smallest of them could fit into a backpack.

Today only about 150 remain. These are B61 free-fall bombs whose yield can be set anywhere from a third of a kilotonne to more than 170. They remain in American custody in peacetime and could be released only by a presidential order—but European pilots still train to drop them. Italy and Turkey are thought to have the most, perhaps 60 to 70 each, with smaller numbers in Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands.

The bombs that most worry American officials are stored in vaults at Incirlik air base in southern Turkey, a few hours by road from the Syrian border. During a military coup in 1960 and a diplomatic spat in 1975, America considered removing the bombs. During the failed coup against President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in 2016, Incirlik hosted the refuelling tankers that allowed renegade F-16 fighter planes to threaten Istanbul and Ankara. Mr Erdogan's regime responded by cutting power to the

base and arresting its commander. That prompted alarm in Washington about the security of its weapons and the risk that they could become hostages in

the strained relationship with Turkey. Senior officers were sent to Incirlik, only to conclude that the bombs did not need to be removed. The warheads can be armed only by a code, and the vaults are automatically sealed if power is cut off, giving American forces time to fight their way onto the base if required. Nevertheless, in recent years America has considered spiriting away the bombs and replacing them with dummies.

Nukes were taken out of Greece in 2001 and from Ramstein air base in Germany in 2005. Pulling bombs out of Incirlik would remove vulnerable targets and implicit leverage. But if done clumsily it could worsen the diplomatic crisis and even prompt Mr Erdogan to pursue a nuclear-weapons programme of his own, something he hinted at in September. It would also restart a fraught debate over the presence of B61s elsewhere in Europe.

Opposition to nuclear-sharing has been simmering in Germany, in particular. Although Angela Merkel, Germany's chancellor, has defended the practice, her coalition partners over the past decade have repeatedly asked for the bombs to

be withdrawn. Keeping them is tricky for technical reasons, too. Europe's current dual-capable aircraft (DCA)—those wired up to carry nukes as well as ordinary bombs—are approaching the ends of their lives. Belgium, Italy and the Netherlands are all buying America's F-35 as a replacement, but Germany ruled this out in January.

That was partly in deference to France, which wants to build its own next-generation warplane with Germany. The Luftwaffe could instead buy the F-18, an older American DCA. Or it could retrofit the European-built Typhoon to accommodate B61s. But as well as being expensive and time-consuming, that would expose European technology to American eyes. And neither plane is especially stealthy.

Nor is Incirlik the only cause for security concerns. In 2008 an American airforce review concluded that most European bases hosting weapons did not meet its standards. Support buildings, fencing, lighting and security systems were all deemed in need of repair. Two years later, peace activists entered a base in Belgium and roamed near its B61 vaults for an hour.

Timebombs

If the bombs are politically troublesome and vulnerable, why keep them in Europe at all? Some NATO planners fear that if Russia attacked an ally like Estonia and then conducted a limited nuclear strike to stave off a Western counter-attack, it would not make sense for the alliance to respond with "strategic" weapons—those on longer-range missiles and aircraft that have much higher, city-destroying yields. Smaller bombs like the B61s are thought to allow a proportional response.

It is not entirely clear that the enemy would appreciate the distinction, however. And the military case for B61s is dubious for other reasons. The planes—if not destroyed on the ground—would struggle to get through Russian air defences. So America would probably use stealth bombers dispatched from across the Atlantic or submarine-launched missiles armed with a new low-yield warhead built under the Trump administration. NATO acknowledges that its "supreme guarantee" is provided by American, British and French strategic forces in this way, rather than by the

Europe-based B61s.

In truth, the purpose of the nuclearsharing scheme is more political than practical. The aim is to create a tangible and symbolic link between America and Europe. Allies who enjoy American nuclear protection must share the moral burden of nuclear use—and the cost of potential retaliation. At the same time. Europeans get a larger (if still modest) say in how American nukes might be used. That is thought to assuage their fear of abandonment.

That reassurance comes at a price. President Barack Obama toyed with the idea of bringing the bombs home, but ultimately deferred the decision. Instead, he authorised a \$10bn programme to extend their lives and increase their accuracy. The total cost of American tactical nuclear weapons will run to \$25bn between 2017 and 2046, about \$1bn a year. And if Turkey's relationship with allies continues to crumble, Europeans may feel less soothed than alarmed by the several megatonnes of weaponry sitting at Incirlik.

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ISRAELI POLITICS

Highly charged

Binyamin Netanyahu's allies reconsider their indicted leader

THE RALLY'S organisers feared that turnout would be low. Even after a flurry of text messages and a big internet campaign, an underwhelming crowd of several thousand people showed up in downtown Tel Aviv on November 26th to protest against the "coup d'état". That is how Binyamin Netanyahu, Israel's prime minister, refers to the legal campaign against him. Five days earlier he was charged with bribery, fraud and breach of trust stemming from three corruption cases. Mr Netanyahu is the first sitting prime minister to be indicted. He denies all charges.

The prime minister claims to be the victim of a left-wing conspiracy. Biased courts, police and media are to blame for his problems, he says. But after a decade in power, his grip on Israeli politics is weakening. His coalition of nationalist and religious parties failed to win a majority in two successive elections, in April and September. The opposition, led by the Blue and White party, has also come up short. Yet it has frustrated Mr Netanyahu's attempts (and failed itself) to form a government, pushing the country towards another election. Cracks are even showing in his own Likud party, where he faces the most immediate challenge to his rule.

Likudniks stuck with Mr Netanyahu even as it became clear earlier this year that the charges against him were coming. Many believe he is indeed a victim. Others think his

political acumen gives them the best chance of winning elections. But some are starting to question both notions. It "isn't an attempted coup," says Gideon Saar, a former Likud minister. "Not only is it wrong to say that, it's also irresponsible to say that." He plans to challenge Mr Netanyahu for the party's leadership: "I haven't heard one person who thinks that after a third election, or a fourth, or a fifth, or a sixth, Prime Minister Netanyahu will succeed in forming a government." Other Likud bigwigs are steering clear of

the prime minister. The rally on November 26th was organised by the party, yet most of

The prime minister claims to be the victim of a left-wing conspiracy. Biased courts, police and media are to blame for his problems, he says. But after a decade in power, his grip on Israeli politics is weakening. His coalition of nationalist and religious parties failed to win a majority in two successive elections, in April & September

its members of the Knesset (parliament) didn't show up. Mr Netanyahu has conceded that a vote on his party leadership is needed. Mr Saar wants it to be held immediately, so that a new leader would have a shot at negotiating a government with Blue and White before the December 11th deadline, after which another election must be held. Mr Netanyahu prefers to delay in order to guarantee himself more time in power. Even if he loses control of the party, he would remain prime minister until a new government is formed.

Since its founding by Menachem Begin and Ariel Sharon in 1973, Likud has had only four leaders. It has never voted one out. Most have been successful: prime ministers from Likud have led Israel for 30 of the past 41 years. Having grown accustomed to power, some members now fear losing it. Mr Netanyahu no longer resembles the political "magician" who won four elections and became Israel's longest-serving leader earlier this year. But he is still popular with the party's rank and file. And, so far, no high-ranking Likudnik other than Mr Saar has called for him to go.

Mr Netanyahu could lose his job in other ways. The law does not explicitly require an indicted prime minister to step down, but many Israelis question Mr Netanyahu's ability to run the government while mounting his defence, and note the potential conflicts



Supporters of Israeli PM Binyamin Netanyahu protest outside Likud Party headquarters in Tel Aviv, on November 22. Reuters

of interest that come with his power over the justice ministry and the police. His decision to remain in office is therefore likely to be challenged in court. Israel's president, Reuven Rivlin, may also refuse to ask Mr Netanyahu to form a government even if he wins another parliamentary election.

The prime minister is already preparing for one. His rhetoric is strikingly similar to that used by President Donald Trump, who is fighting his own battle against impeachment in America. "This is an attempted overthrow of a prime minister with a biased investigation," says Mr Netanyahu, ignoring the fact

New Delhi

that his former cabinet secretary, who is now attorney-general, brought the charges. Critics say Mr Netanyahu, like America's president, is sowing division and damaging institutions—but perhaps not for much longer.

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22 CALENDAR

Get a new car on account, but

Induce to become religious?

morning with enthusiasm (7)

wanting to go out with girls

Flat out after a mishap? Not

unusual if you're this (8-5)

11 I am bent on getting out and

Nigerian perhaps can be

after fair treatment (7)

14 Demanding, like royalty can

16 Has to make professions of

18 Amounts of water coming

moving round (7)

be?(6)

loyalty (5)

Locked up as a final course (7)

some capital required (5)

For example, rising in the

Hitherto the aim of boys

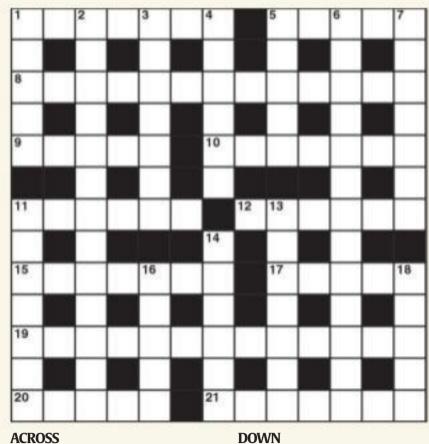
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(4,2,7)

(2,4)

torment(5)

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ACROSS

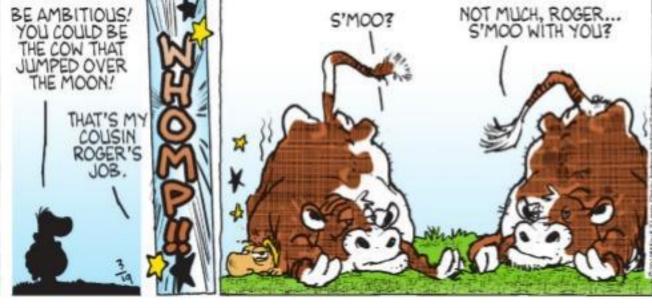
- Indisposition of one in mental breakdown (7)
- Dignified way to help (5) What I should have done, if I were in your position (7,6)
- Tears shed for Flora (5)10 A downtrodden machine
- worker(7) 11 In which all men are
- brothers?(6)
- 12 Girl out to procure bird
- (6)
- 15 Fire raisers (7) Salesman the Spanish rebuff
- (5)19 It gives current time
- (8,5)20 They have branches for shoes
- (5)21 They may be responsible for
- reports from the front

from leaks (5) Solutions Crossword 3977: Across: 1 Index, 8 Sore need, 9 Storm, 10 Sergeant, 11 Obeys, 12 Oat, 16 Onager, 17 Oil rig, 18 Eon, 23 Spree, 24 Aspirate, 25 Habit, 26 Forgoing, 27 China. Down: 2 Nota bene, 3 Early age, 4 Rowena, 5 Hedge, 6 Delay

7 Edits, 12 Ore, 13 Ton, 14 Slapdash, 15 Siberian, 19 Ostend, 20 Waifs, 21 Spars,

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis





CALVIN & HOBBES by Bill Watterson









MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLED WORDS

22 Orlop.

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip. A person who ____ no one can't be ____. — Jerome Blattner (6,..,7)

IERRS AESTTT ATSST DMMDUU

Answer: A person who **trusts** no one can't be **trusted**. — Jerome Blattner SOLUTION: RISER, STATS, ATTEST, DUMDUM

Difficulty Level 2s 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

| 6 | | 2 | | 9 | | | | 3 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 4 | | 8 | | | | 5 | |
| | | 5 | , | 6 | 4 | 8 | | 2 |
| | | 1 | | 7 | | | 4 | |
| 2 | | 3 | 5 | | 6 | 9 | | 8 |
| | 6 | | | 1 | | 5 | | |
| 8 | | 9 | 6 | 5 | | 7 | | |
| | 1 | | | | 3 | | 6 | |
| 3 | | | | 2 | | 1 | | 9 |

SOLUTION SUDOKU 4047 6 5 4 6 7 5 1 9 6 2 1 4 9 8 7 5 3

DAY TODAY

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

You are being forced along at a pace not of your own choosing. Children, or other family commitments, may be putting you under increased pressure. Domestic repairs may also be adding to your burden, so you'll do best to face up to awkward issues as soon as you can, rather than sweeping them

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

under the carpet.

You've been under emotional pressure but it will soon be clear that you've been given a reprieve. Please be advised that all delaying tactics can only put off the inevitable for a few days, and that, in the meantime, you should continue to prepare your ground.

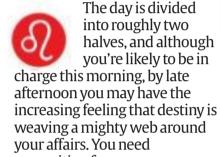
GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

You should pay attention to basics and remember those ancient stories about how wise people built their houses on foundations of stone, rather than sand or straw. Do the necessary deeds now and nobody will be able to blow you off course, later. Try to get more experienced friends on your side.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

you can. This may mean no more than a spot of essential shopping. However, before much longer you should be thinking seriously about the future: an important discussion may be overdue, and if you don't come up with the answer then you might lose control over events.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)



VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

Nobody can force you to reveal anything against your will. Neither can they object if you seem to be going behind their backs. By late evening, or at least by tomorrow, you'll be ready to spill the beans. Your task is to find exactly the right words.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23) You are often to be

seen at your best when engaged in your own activities, with total responsibility for how you manage your personal affairs. My concern at the moment is that you might be lured into a spot of counterproductive plotting or rumour-mongering.

BY PETER VIDAL

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

If you feel the world is against you, today is the day to start picking up allies. Concentrate on specifics early in the day, but towards the evening focus on the broader issues. Begin to look at your long-term goals. Do they really suit you? Or should you think again?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

sympathetic planet by nature, but that doesn't mean that you have it all your own way emotionally at the moment. From the astrological point of view it is only right and proper that you make more of an effort to understand partners' feelings, instead of dismissing them out of hand.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

questions as soon as

halves, and although you're likely to be in recognition for your achievements but it may not come just yet.

Venus is a

Deal with financial

patterns which the heavens set down for you and get financial matters sewn up by mid-afternoon, especially if joint arrangements are crucial to your general well-being. Your next step should be to consider the ethical and moral

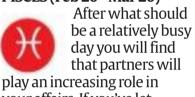
Observe the sensible

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19) Play your cards right

implications.

and partners will be generous, loyal and forgiving. It does seem likely, though, that you may be unwilling to accept goodwill, perhaps imagining that partners have ulterior motives. You're wrong. A domestic dilemma should be solved soon.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)



your affairs. If you've let your social life slide, then this looks like a perfect time to start getting in touch, particularly if you drifted apart from a loved one without meaning to.

NOTICE BOARD

CORPORATE ASSOCIATE DIARY

EVENTS, HONOURS



ART EXHIBITION-AAI

AAI along with other associations recently organised an Art Exhibition "PRERNA-3", on the theme "FREEDOM", which was inauguratedby MNN Rao, Regional ED (Northern Region) AAI, in presence of other dignitaries.



CEREMONY-CISF

CISF organised a Band Display & RetreatCeremony at National Police Memorial (NPM), Chanakayapuri, New Delhi, to pay tributes to the Police Martyrs. Rajesh Ranjan, DG, CISF, graced the occasion as Chief Guest.



T 20 MATCH ORGANIZED BY EPCH & FASCO

1st T20 Challenge match was played betweenmember exporters of handicrafts from Delhi & Firozabad at CAS Cricket ClubGround. Firozabad. Team Delhi won the match & trophy was presented to themby Rakesh Kumar, DG-EPCH.



CONSTITUTION DAY-EAST COAST RAILWAY

Constitution Day was observed at ECR headquarters. Sudhir Kumar, AGM, ECoR read out the Preamble of the Constitution. All senior officers including Principal Heads of the Departments of ECoR & staff were present on this occasion.

mess.com



55th RAISING DAY PARADE-BSF

SUDOKU

An impressive parade was conducted at BSF Campus Chhawla, New Delhi, during 55th BSF Raising Day parade. NityanandRai, MOS (Home), GOI, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.



AWARD -EPCH

R. Kumar, DG-EPCH & Chairman India Exposition Mart Ltd, has been conferred with "LifeTime Achievement Award" for his trem endous contribution to the Handicrafts sector during Handicraft Summit organised by Handicrafts Exporters Association.

NR To further strengthen the infrastructure of Railway. Moradabad Division of NR shall take 62 days Traffic Block from 04.12.2019 to 03.02.2020 between Raiwala-Rishikesh in connection with commissioning of a 125-km-longnew broad gauge railway line between Rishikesh-Karnprayag on Virbhadra-New Rishikeshsection. As a result, 24888/24887 Ambala Cantt.-Rishikesh-Ambala Cantt. Link Exp: 54481/54482 Haridwar-Rishikesh-Haridwar Passenger: 54483/54486 Haridwar-Rishikesh- HaridwarPassenger, will be temporarily cancelled to run on the section during the block.14610/14609 Sh Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-Rishikesh-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi KatraHemkunt Exp; 54471/54472 Delhi Jn-Rishikesh-Delhi Jn Passenger; 54463/54464Chandausi-Rishikesh-Chandausi Passenger, will be Short Terminated / ShortOriginated /partially cancelled to run on the section during the block.

NMPT organised 'Agri Export Meet 2019', wherein exporters of agricultural and allied products, as well as, various related governmentalagencies are being brought together on a single platform to create awarenessamong exporters and farmers regarding opportunities in Latvia & surroundingcountries, introduce Latvia as an attractive destination for export to/import fromEurope, showcase NMPT's infrastructure and services for agri-product exports and imports, & understand and try to resolve various issues faced by the exporters.

NR has decided to revise the days of run of 12045/12046 New Delhi-Chandigarh-New Delhi Shatabdi Express train from 17.03.2020. Therevised days of Run are – Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, & Sunday, for both 12045/12046.



71st RAISING DAY-NCC

NCC recently celebrated its 71st Raising Day by paying homage to the martyrs at the National War Memorial. Dr Ajay Kumar, Defence Secretary & DG NCC Lt Gen Rajeev Chopra, AVSM laid

APPOINTMENTS

wreaths, onbehalf of the NCC fraternity.

EdCIL Manoj Kumar has taken over as CMD, EdCIL (India) Ltd, a mini-ratna Category –I CPSE, Govt. of India. Before taking over as CMD-EdCIL, he was ED (Projects) in EdCIL India Ltd, where he was handling major verticals of the com-



pany. He has over two decades of experience in various sectors ofGovernment of India and also its PSUs i.e. DMRC & others.

POWERGRID NR-1 DK Singh, ED, has taken over the charge of Headof POWERGRID Northern Region-I. Prior to this, he was serving as the head ofWestern Region-II. He has nearly 30 years of extensive experience working inthe Power sector.



Bankers' Club Meet held at Corporation Bank

Ameeting of Bankers' Club, Mangalore, was organised at Corporation Bank, Corporate Office, Mangalore, PV Bharathi, MD & CEO. Corporation Bank & Hon. Chairperson of the Club. Mahabaleshwara MS, MD & CEO, Karnataka BankLtd. and Hon. President, Bankers' Club & Rajashekara V Maiya, VP & Head, Business Consulting Group, Infosys Finacle & Gokulda Pai, CBO, Karnataka BankLtd, as along with executives & Branch Heads from Banks in Mangalore citywere also present on the occasion.

ONGC has priced itsmaiden offering of USD bonds in the aggregate principal amount of USD 300million for meeting capital expenditure in accordance with the External Commercial Borrowing guidelines issued by the RBI & successfullyachieved its objective to set a fresh benchmark for the Group Companies. Thebonds will bear a coupon of 3.375% & will mature in 2029. This is thetightest coupon for 10 yr or longer tenure offering from India everachieved by any Indian Corporate.

verka

THE PUNJAB STATE COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS FEDERATION LTD. SCO 153-155. SECTOR 34-A, CHANDIGARH-160022. EPABX NO. 0172-5041812-13 www.verka.coop

CORRIGENDUM

Reference to our tender Notice published on 16.11.2019 in Indian Express (Delhi Edition) & Rozana Spokesman (Punjabi Edition), the date for submission of the Sealed quotations for the Selection of Agency for: Publication of Newspaper Advertisement in English Newspapers only, Designing and Finalizing Designs for Advertisements in Newspapers other than English & Media Buying for English Newspapers is hereby extended up to 09.12.2019 and will be opened on 10.12.2019. Rest of the other terms & conditions will remain same.

NOTE: Any further information or corrigendum (if any) will be uploaded on our website only and no such information shall be provided separately. **GENERAL MANAGER (QA&E)**

Mahendragiri invites online tenders for supply of the following:

भारत सरकार GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, अंतरिक्ष विभाग DEPARTMENT OF SPACE इसरो नोदन कॉम्प्लेक्स ISRO PROPULSION COMPLEX महेंद्रगिरि पी ओ MAHENDRAGIRI PO

तिरुनेलवेली जिला TIRUNELVELI DISTRICT- 627 133, तमिलनाड् TAMILNADU

दिनांक /DATE: 02.12.2019 क्रय व भंडार प्रभाग / PURCHASE & STORES DIVISION

निविदा सूचना सं. आईपीआरसी/प्र.क .व.भं/पीटी/ई-प्रापण/21/2019-20/TENDER NOTICE NO.IPRC/HPS/PT/e-PROC/21/2019-20 भारत के राष्ट्रपति के लिए और उनकी ओर से प्रधान, क्रय व भंडार, इसरो नोंदन कॉम्प्लेक्स (आईपीआरसी), महेंद्रगिरि निम्नलिखित की आपुर्ति हेत् ऑनलाइन निविदाएं आमंत्रित करते हैं। For and on behalf of the President of India, Head, Purchase & Stores, ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC)

| क्र. सं. SI. No. | निविदा संदर्भ सं. Tender Ref. No. | संक्षिप्त विवरण Brief Description | निविदा प्रस्तुतीकरण की अंतिम तिथि व समय/ Last Date & Time for Tender Submission |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| 1. | आईपीआरसी/क्रय/2019ई0347602 (एक-भाग) | नया पीएस2 / जीएस2 चरण एकीकरण भवन हेतु ऐलिवेटर | Upto 27.12.2019 |
| | IPRC/PUR/2019E0347602 (Single-Part) | Elevator for New PS2/GS2 stage Integration Building | 10:00 बजे/hrs. तक |
| 2. | आईपीआरसी/क्रय/2019ई0389901 (एक-भाग) | पी.वी.सी. यंत्रीकरण केबिल | Upto 20.12.2019 |
| | IPRC/PUR/2019E0389901 (Single-Part) | PVC Instrumentation Cables | 14:00 बजे/hrs. तक |
| 3. | आईपीआरसी/क्रय/2019ई0376301 (दो-धाग) | द्रव्यमान प्रवाहमापी | Upto 31.12.2019 |
| | IPRC/PUR/2019E0376301 (Two-Part) | Mass Flow Meter | 14:00 ਫਯੇ/hrs. तक |

इच्छुक विक्रेता हमारे इसरो नोदन कॉम्प्लेक्स लिंक यूआरएल https://eprocure.isro.gov.in पर जाएं और केवल ऑनलाइन द्वारा अपने कोटेशन अपलोड करें। इस निविदा सूचना के प्रकाशन के पश्चात जारी कोई भी शुद्धिपत्र केवल हमारे वेबसाइट में ही देखा जा सकेगा। आप कृपया वेबसाइट नियमित रूप से देखा करें।/The interested vendors may visit our ISRO PROPULSION COMPLEX Link in URL https://eprocure.isro.gov.in and upload your quotations through online only, Corrigendum if any, issued after publication of this Tender Notice, will be hosted in our web site only. You may please visit the site regularly.

प्रधान, क्रय व भंडार/Head, Purchase & Stores, फोन सं./Ph. No: 04637-281599/281550/1552/1553/1554



x. Budget Head

Dated: 28.11.2019

No. SIMS 139 EX.471/19-1882-91-383-85

New Delhi

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR SHER-I-KASHMIR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES. SOURA

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL

E-mail: mechanicalskims@gmail.com **SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE** Gist of e-NIT No. 35 of 2019-20 Dated 28.11.2019 For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Executive Engineer,

Mechanical, SKIMS, Soura, Srinagar, invites e-tenders from Registered/ Repute/

Experienced Firms having relevant experience of repairs and maintenance of Hot Water

| Generators on annual contract basis. | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|--|--|
| Sr. No. | Name of the Work | Estimated Cost (in Lacs) | | |
| 1. | Replacement of Old/Unserviceable Fan Coil Unit with allied Jobs at Habakatoon Nurses Hostel/Unmarried Doctors Hostel SKIMS, Soura, Srinagar | 2.98 | | |

The complete tender document is available at website: http://jktenders.gov.in. Bidders/Tenderers may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarifications and submit their bids online upto the date and time mentioned in the table below. Tender Document contains qualifying criteria for bidders. Specifications, Bills of Quantities & Terms and Conditions of the contract and other relevant details.

| i. | Date and Time of downloading/ Sale of Tender documents (Starting Date) | 30.11.2019 from 11.00 hrs. |
|-------|--|---|
| ii. | Date & Time of Bidding Queries/ clarification/ Pre-Bid meet | 02.12.2019 at 11.00 hours |
| iii. | Last Date & Time of Bid uploading | 06.12.2019 upto 16.00 hours |
| iv. | Date of Submission of hard copies (Only Original EMD/DD for Document Fee) | 07.12.2019 upto 14.00 hours |
| V. | Date & Time of Commercial/ Technical Bid (Cover-I) opening | 09.12.2019 11.00 hours (or next convenient day) |
| vi. | Date & Time of Financial Bid (Cover-IInd) opening of the qualifying Bidders. | Shall be intimated separately |
| vii. | Cost of e-Bid Document | Rs. 200/- (Rupees Two Hundred only) |
| viii. | Amount of Earnest Money Deposit (CDR/FDR) | Rs. 6,000/- (Rupees Six Thousand only) |
| ix. | Completion Time | Ten (10) days |

M&R Non Plan for the Year 2019-20

Sd/- Executive Engineer

Mechanical, SKIMS.

A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP

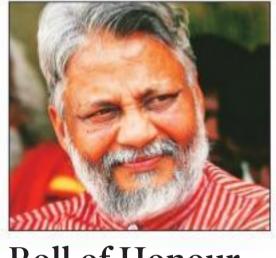
American rapper Snoop Dogg (pictured) has rendered lullabies for children in his new album, Lullaby Renditions of Snoop Dogg, where he has reworked on his greatest hits. The album, featuring songs like *Drop it like it's hot*, and Gin and juice, will release on December 6.

SNAP SHOTS



Book Award

ENGLISH AUTHOR Tony Joseph (pictured) has been awarded the 12th Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize for his book Early Indians: The Story of Our Ancestors and Where We Came From (2018). The Shakti Bhatt Foundation announced the award on Monday, which carries a cash prize of Rs two lakh for "extraordinary new writing in all genres", handpicked from entries from across South Asian countries. The book emerged a winner, leaving behind Priyanka Dubey's No Nation for Women, Roshan Ali's Ib's Endless Search for Satisfaction, late Bangladeshi writer Numair Atif Choudhury's Babu Bangladeshi, and Pakistani-American novelist Nadia Akbar's debut novel Goodbye Freddie Mercury. Judges Sonia Faleiro and Prayaag Akbar said in a statement, "Early Indians is a remarkable exploration of the origins of the first humans who occupied the Indian subcontinent, bringing together a wealth of research from population genetics, archaeology, social history, biology, linguistics and other fields that are proving deeply interconnected... As the question of origin becomes, increasingly, a tool of politics, Joseph's book serves as a vital corrective to those who seek to simplify this most complex of subjects."



Roll of Honour

AS THE 10th edition of the CMS

Vatavaran Environment and Wildlife Film festival, which celebrates environment and wildlife films, drew to a close, Rajendra Singh (pictured), famously known as the 'Water Man of India', was awarded the Prithvi Bhushan Award for his work in drought-prone villages of Rajasthan, involving ancient Indian techniques of water harvesting. From the 1020 films submitted for the festival from over 60 countries, the best film of the festival was awarded to Ajay and Vijay Bedi's The Secret Life of Frogs, the first documentary on the amphibians of India. In the category of Celebrating Himalayas, Shriniwas Oli's Koti Banal, a film chronicling the various settlements, buildings and architecture in the Himalayan region, was chosen as the winner, and Nitin Das's India's Healing Forest, which traces the effects of forests on mind and body, topped the category of Environment Conservation.

The only way forward is building a tolerant society'

Author Aruni Kashyap on his new book, the mainland and the Northeast, and concepts of identity and assimilation

TORA AGARWALA

TETELIGURI, GUWAHATI, New York, Minnesota — Aruni Kashyap's new collection of stories, His Father's Disease (Context, Rs 400), is about Assamese people everywhere. The characters flit between far-flung places, as they do between cultures, much like the author himself: Kashyap, an English literature and Creative Writing professor at the University of Georgia, hails from Assam, who spent much of his life between Guwahati and his village Teteliguri, before moving to Delhi and then more recently, America. He speaks about his new book on Assamese identity and assimilation, the mainland and the Northeast, and the stereotypes that need to be explored. Excerpts:

In your book, the two themes that hold most characters together are migration and insurgency. What made you choose them?

I don't think I chose those themes. As a writer, we set out to tell stories about people and these are two historical processes that have shaped my life. I believe that any writer of fiction writes about people, and then their problems. In my case, it is the insurgency and displacement.

One of your protagonists is peeved at the expectations the 'mainland' has from a writer from the 'Northeast'. Did you ever feel the same pressure?

People in Assam have asked me to write about the 'good things' in Assam because everyone just knows about ULFA and the 'immigration problem'. One person was chasing me to write a novel about the 'flood problem'. Another section in Assam is happy that I have written about the insurgency 'for the world' and presented Assamese suffering, but they think I should have talked more about human rights violations. These are the

write in English, as well. Outside, the mainstream literary establishment is mostly interested in the beautiful "museumised" Northeast. I used to be annoyed by these pressures, but reading writers such as Amitav Ghosh has given me the confidence to proudly say that I am an Assamese writer; every other label is incidental, a product of my location, and sometimes identity.

pressures in Assam because I

Your previous book House With The Thousand Stories is set against the backdrop of insurgency. Your forthcoming book is an edited anthology: How to Tell A Story About an *Insurgency*. Do you ever fear falling into the mainland trope of how writing from the Northeast should be of a

certain kind? Absolutely not, because I have also written a magic realist novella set in Teteliguri called Horokanto Bejor Montro Puthibur, a year-long series of essays about life in Delhi as a migrant student for Amar Asom (an Assamese daily). I have written a novella called Somironor Pasot. It is set in Guwahati about the rickety relationship between a mourning mother and her dead son's much older girlfriend, and I have written a novel set



Author Aruni Kashyap (above); the cover of his book *His Father's Disease*

in Minnesota in Assamese that was released this month. Anyone who thinks I write only about the insurgency is poorly read. If the Indian literary establishment has unimaginative and different standards for me, they may, but those are not the challenges and artistic concerns I set out for myself.

In some of the stories, there are oblique references to the 'illegal infiltration' in Assam. Yet, in the same breath, your

> character, Himjyoti, develops friendship with a Bangladeshi boy in America. Is this your way of making a larger point?

I am friends with a number of people who are descendants of immigrant Muslims. We are all born in Assam and we have equal stake in the state. No one I know makes these distinctions in our everyday life — it is only a

very small, vocal, toxic minority which is polarising the climate and social media magnifies it. In my world, we all love Assam and care about its health. So no, Himjyoti would have ample chance to be friends with immigrant Muslims if he didn't grow up protected like upper-class and upper-middle-class people in Assam. I am not sure if I was trying to make a larger point, but I soaked those small things up like a sponge because the spectre of the Bangladeshi immigrant is a constant presence in the Assamese imagination.

The divide on NRC in Assam has polarised opinions. As an Assamese living outside Assam, do you feel that the Assamese side of the story is not being told enough?

I absolutely feel that multiple sides of the story haven't been told, and there is a lot of misrepresentation and misreading. The NRC has been implemented in a hor-

rific, dehumanising way. Rightly so, the focus of the reportage around the world has been on the suffering of the people. But there is little conversation about why the NRC was required in the first place. I do get questions about it, but it is not my intellectual labour to explain. I do that in my fiction. I don't know what the solution is, but the only way to go forward is peaceful co-existence and construction of a tolerant society.

In July, an FIR was lodged against a group of Miya poets. As a writer from Assam do you feel that fault lines of identity and language have become sharper?

It was unfortunate and in many ways reflective of the crisis of free speech in India. I was horrified and worried about the poets because I know some of them personally. I think it shows the power of literature and storytelling to heal, to represent, to make a political point, to be subversive. Also, Assam's intellectuals were actually divided. Iwas looking at the positive side: that something called Miya poetry had emerged that would enrich literature from Assam.

You've said that you are a 'political writer'. Is this by choice or because of the context you have grown up in?

It is because that is the kind of fiction that makes sense to me, and incidentally, those are the kind of writers — who try to make a point through their fiction — who shaped my apprentice years. So, yes, I want to be read politically. Being a political writer from a traditionally underrepresented literary space is to be consistently misinterpreted and rejected by the ones in power. The readers who dismiss our cultural productions perpetuate a long tradition of rejection and fetishisation of representations from the region we now call Northeast.



A gawwali performance in progress at the fourth edition of Jashn-e-Rekhta

A Language by Any Other Name

After Rekhta skips 'Urdu' on posters of its annual festival, lovers of the language fret, organisers bring it back

NAWAIDANJUM

'JASHN-E-REKHTA', the annual festival of Urdu organised by the Rekhta Foundation, was at the centre of a conversation after it sent out some posters of its annual celebration of Urdu, "Jashn-e-Rekhta: Celebrating Urdu" without mentioning the word Urdu. The three-day festival, which is set to hold its sixth edition at Dhyan Chand National stadium in Delhi on December 13, sent out some posters to its speakers, with the title, "Jashn-e-Rekhta: The Biggest Celebration of Hindustani Language & Culture". The foundation, however, did not make any official statement on the change, which triggered a debate among the admirers of Urdu on Monday. "It seems Jashn-e-Rekhta has surrendered to the powers that be," says author and journalist Ziya Us Salam, adding that the name change has come about right after the Delhi High Court asked the police to cut down on "difficult" words in Urdu. A spokesperson from Rekhta said that their core has been and will remain Urdu.

Author and historian Rana Safvi, who has been running a campaign to document India's syncretic culture, says, "I have no idea why the change this year. Hindustani is the spoken language — a mix of Urdu and Hindi, along with local dialects. It is colloquial. The literary language of prose and poetry is Urdu, written in Perso-Arabic script." The admirers of Urdu say that it's an attempt to take away Urdu's due credit from the festival which has established itself in the name of the language. "Rekhta seems to be ditching Urdu," says Nasheet Shadani, founder of Ishq Urdu, the popular social media initiative to contemporarise the language. "Why call it Hindustani? Why must Urdu, an officially registered language, be known by another name? They don't call English by 55 names," Shadani says.

Urdu poets and writers echo the sentiment that the decision must be due to "pressure". Poet Gauhar Raza says that it is problematic if you can't hold a festival in the name of Urdu. "It is unfortunate," he says,

adding that the earth seems to be suddenly "shrinking" for Urdu. Shadani says that Rekhta is doing what Bollywood did with Urdu: it began with Urdu, changed to Hindustani and now it's known as Hindi cinema or music. Raza says that organisers of several mushairas in Delhi and other cities have complained to him about having been asked by public representatives not to hold them. "Grants given to some organisations for Urdu-related events have been cut down," he says, adding that Urdu is a language that originated in India, and, contrary to what many claim, didn't come from "outside". He says, "We gave Urdu to Pakistanis on a platter. Urdu was nurtured in this country, in Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar." No other country, he adds, has abandoned its own language as India seems to be doing with Urdu.

Poet Wasim Barelvi, who will be participating this year, however, argues that it's a useless debate on language. "Urdu language is Hindustani only. It emerged out of a need. One should focus on the great work that Rekhta has done to promote Urdu by creating a huge archive of literature at one place," he says.

Jashn-e-Rekhta has a distinct Urdu flavour and brings together admirers of the language from the spectrum of academia as well as popular culture. Some of its annual fixtures have included conversations with distinguished Urdu scholars and writers like Shamsur Rahman Faruqi and Shamim Hanfi, and poets and lyricists Javed Akhtar and Gulzar. This year's edition will see the presence of several figures from the culture and entertainment sectors, including ghazal singer Radhika Chopra, actor Raza Murad, filmmaker Anubhav Sinha, actor Divya Dutta and sitar maestro Shujaat Khan. Faruqi says that Hindustani was used for Urdu by the British briefly in the 1850s. "I don't approve of this change. Urdu was never Hindustani," he says.

Later in the evening, Rekhta sent out fresh posters that read, 'A Festival of Urdu Celebrating Hindustani Culture' triggering celebration among those who wanted 'Urdu' back.

High Bandwidth

Community radio station, Gurgaon Ki Awaaz, turns 10

PALLAVICHATTOPADHYAY

SHARMILA SHARMA, the station manager at Gurgaon's community-driven radio station, Gurgaon Ki Awaaz, broadcast on 107.8 MHz FM, has been quite proud of the channel's achievements since it began in November 2009. The music it features is folk only and one can hear ballads in Haryanvi, Bhojpuri and other dialects, while the targeted audience in-

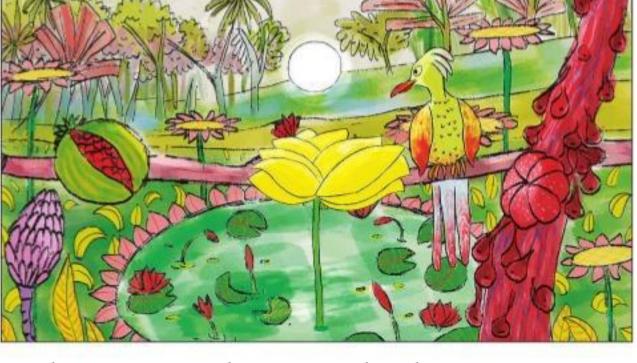
cludes local villagers and migrant workers. A major chunk of the topics includes shows on issues that generally aren't very comfortable for people in a public forum. Be it sexual health, mental health, adolescence, women's rights and the transgender community, here one can share their personal stories. "Those kind of stories are not happening in the visual medium, because you are constantly being judged," says station director Arti Jaiman, For instance, their health programme Chahat Chowk allows couples to discuss sexual and reproductive health while remaining anonymous. Its latest collaboration with Society for Service to Voluntary Agencies (SOSVA) for an upcoming series aims to discuss the social exclusion of the transgender community, to delve into how and why they are forced to leave home and how they too yearn for love like

everybody else. Set up by the NGO, The Restoring Force (TRF), which works towards the empowerment of marginalised communities, the radio station celebrated its 10th birthday at its office (pictured) in Electronic City in Gurgaon on Sunday. With four reporters, Sharma, 45, believes that the radio station with over six lakh listeners has brought in a new wave, with drivers comprising a majority of the listeners. Their show Diary Ke Panne draws inspiration from the simple act of writing diary entries, where listeners introspect on the therapeutic effect of writing, and observe how the life of people

New Delhi



changes once they read it after a long time There is also a show for drivers and is titled Chalti Ka Naam Gaadi. The shows highlight the importance of community radio, through a channel that caters to many villages in and around Gurgaon, including Mullahera, Chakkarpur, Sikanderpur and Nathupur. Jaiman says, "What is their music, what are they cooking, what are their key concerns, their own history, what was Gurgaon in the '60s and '80s, the first selling of land and changes in their music? When we had started, we had made a conscious choice that the team is going to be from the community. If you have to be a radio programme for everyone, there has to be an English programme, Hindi programme, Bollywood and English music. But this community of Haryana has been ignored by us. We are not even aware of the very rich Haryanvi culture, or the folk music of all the migrant communities that live and work here, which are in lakhs."



The Birds and the Bees

Filmmaker-artist Paromita Vohra's new installation urges to not shy away from pleasures aural and oral

TANUSHREEGHOSH

ITWOULDN'T have been outlandish to emerge from Paromita Vohra's immersive installation, A Love Latika, singing RD Burman's Samundar mein nahake aur bhi namkeen ho gayi ho. The light emanating from a corner — separated by diaphanous net curtains, in the pitch-black Max Mueller Bhavan in Delhi — is the voice of reason that society would rather leave in the dark. Inside, a tetraptych of four wall-mounted, flat-screen TVs, connected with headphones and a mouse, has a *latika* (long vine/creeper) a "heterogeneity of desire", out of a colouring

book — running through it. Wild, uncontrollable, growing in all directions in "an electronic forest of erotic verse", with its many flowers and fruits, a butterfly, a suspicious-looking bird, and a plant eating a fish.

One feels awashed and enriched. The electronic installation that travelled to Delhi and Kolkata, recently, as part of Goethe-Institut's year-long 'Five Million Incidents' series of art projects, is an exercise in self-reflection.

Mumbai-based Vohra, whose online sexeducation portal 'Agents of Ishq' turns four this month, says, "We are sanitising sexual culture

either through woke censoriousness or cultural morality." The *Latika* is born out of her love for "poetry and the diverse, layered, erotic tradition of India: from Sanskrit erotic verse, Sangam poetry, Bihari or Punjabi folk songs, Gita Govinda, Urdu verse and film songs".

Produced by Hamsi Manglani, coded by Harish Ranganathan, and animation by Stuti Bansal, each flower/fruit, like the tactile, red, juicy pomegranate, in Vohra's personal art

project, hides two poems within it. Move the cursor over it, and it will quiver like the first hesitant touch of a lover. In Vohra's voice, we hear Fehmida Riyaz's poem, *Kis se ab arzu-e*vasi karen (A plea for union, to whom should I make?) and DH Lawrence's *The elephant*, the huge old beast, is slow to mate/ he finds a female, they show no haste, they wait. Others, who lend their voices to the 38 poems, shortlisted from a 100, include mythologist Devdutt Pattanaik, filmmaker Q (Qaushik Mukherjee), writers

Sharanya Manivannan, Amruta Patil, poet Akhil Katyal, among others. There's longing and urgency, forceful and playful lust, purring, giggling, and joking.

Paromita Vohra

(above); from A

Love Latika

Sound — of waves, windchimes, Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata, Lavani, Bhojpuri folk, SD Burman's playful Janu janu ri kaahe khanke hai tora kangna (Insaan Jaag *Utha*, 1959) — accompanies the verses. The sonic is pivotal to the granddaughter of yesteryear actor Ashalata Biswas and composer Anil Biswas.

The translated Greek poem *Nothing Is* Sweeter than Eros by Nossis — in filmmaker Samina Mishra's voice — dates to third cen-

tury BC, so, Vohra says, "Itne time se log kar hi rahe hain, why do we pretend otherwise?"

An erotic story of hers, some years ago, made some people remark "that's not erotica, that's porn". But "one person's porn is another's erotica. Prudishness exists strongly across the political spectrum. The danger is that the seriousness of your work can be undermined," says Vohra, the writer of Khamosh Pani (2003).

The 50-year-old Vohra, with a spring in her step and a rose in her hair, has been using erotic imagery in her work for a while, like last year's music video Love in the Garden of Consent. She made a film about toilets, Q2P, in 2006, when noone was talking about them, her Morality TV Aur Loving Jehad: Ek Manohar Kahani (2007) is, ostensibly, the first public documentary to talk about Love Jihad. Her 2016 Lavani music video on consent. The Amorous Adventures of Shakku and Megha in the

Valley of Consent preceded the #MeToo movement, which, Vohra says, is "the first time when we heard people talk in granular detail about the actual nitty-gritties of sex, which reveals a lot about human nature and social relations." Sex is also about "emotions, sensuality, eroticism"; unless it's talked about in a positive way in music, art and poetry, it will only be thought of as a "bad thing". "Had I been a guy doing this, I would have been hailed as a hero," she says. Her remark is for friend Q (Gandu, 2010), who, she says, "will be put on magazine covers. The revolutionary guy is taken more seriously than the revolutionary chick."

RANJI TROPHY

YADAV NAMED MUMBAI SKIPPER

Batsman Suryakumar Yadav will lead Mumbai in this year Ranji Trophy, which begins next week. It's a turnaround for the 29-yearold after getting dropped from the team during the last edition of the tournament.

BRIEFLY

Hate to see Smith 'white-anting' Paine: Ian Chappell

Adelaide: Former Australian captain Ian Chappell feels Steve Smith undermined current skipper Tim Paine by trying to set the field in the second Test against Pakistan, which the home team won by an innings and 48 runs here on Monday. Smith captained the team before losing the position in the aftermath of the balltampering scandal last year. Chappell said the batting mainstay should not be as involved in field placements as he seemed to be on Monday when Australia wrapped the 2-0 series triumph. "Itell you what I don't like to see, Steve Smith is moving a few fieldsmen around," Chappell told 'Macquarie Sports Radio'.

"He did have a chat with Tim Paine, trying to talk Tim Paine into moving a fielder on the off-side, but I'm not sure Tim Paine moved him as far as Steve Smith wanted. Steve Smith started moving him, I hate to see that," he added. David Warner's 335 was the highlight of Australia's victory here. Chappell said Smith's conduct amounted to "white-anting" Paine. White-anting is an Australian term to describe action which seeks to bring down from within. "England used to do it a bit, blokes other than the captain and I always felt it was white anting the captain." he said. Smith was banned from Australia's captaincy for two years due to his role in the ball-tampering scandal and will be eligible for the role in April next year.

Graeme Smith confirms discussions over S. Africa role

Cape Town: Graeme Smith has confirmed he is again in discussions with Cricket South Africa (CSA) to be their new Director of Cricket, but said a Sunday newspaper report that he had already been appointed was premature. Smith, the most successful test captain in cricket history with 53 wins, had been encouraged to apply by embattled CSA chief executive officer Thabang Moroe as the organisation seeks a long-term replacement for Ottis Gibson, whose contract was not renewed after a dismal World Cup in England. Smith turned down the job in November, but a report in South Africa's Sunday Times said that he had now been persuaded to accept it. However, he said that was not true, at least not yet. "Contrary to media reports I have not been appointed Director of Cricket by CSA. As previously advised, I withdrew my application for the role. I am, however, in ongoing discussions with CSA, but I still have real concerns, which I have reiterated to them," he said via Twitter.

Nepal's Anjali Chand takes 6/0, best figures in T20Is

Pokahra: Nepal's Anjali Chanda on Monday scripted history by producing the best bowling performance in a women's T20 Internationals with figures of 6/0 in a match against Maldives at the 13th South Asian Games here. This is the first time ever a bowler has taken six wickets for no run in any international match. Nepal won the match by 10 wickets, reaching 17 for no loss in 0.5 overs. Earlier, the record belonged to Malaysian Mas Elysa, who had claimed six wickets for three runs from her 4 overs against China women in January this year. The 24-year-old Anjali dismissed six batswomen — all for nought — in 2.1 overs as Nepal bowled out Maldives, who elected to bat, for just 16 runs from 10.1 overs. AGENCIES



ROOT 2.00

Joe Root celebrates after bringing up his double hundred on Day Four of the second Test against New Zealand in Hamilton on Monday. Root made 226. Reuters

Lyon king

Pink-ball phenom takes five wickets as Australia beat Pakistan by an innings to win the Test series 2-0

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE ADELAIDE, DECEMBER 2

series 2-0 Monday.

SPIN KING Nathan Lyon snared five wickets, including dangerous half-century makers Shan Masood and Asad Shafiq, as Australia wore down a stubborn Pakistan to clinch the second Test and wrap up the

Pakistan resumed day four of the daynight match on a precarious 39 for three with Masood not out 14 and Shafiq on eight after being bowled out for 302 in their first innings and forced to follow on.

It followed Australia's mammoth 589 for three declared, built around David Warner's exceptional 335 not out -- the 10th highest Test score of all time.

Needing another 248 to force Australia to bat again and avoid a second successive innings defeat, they had a decent crack but were eventually all out for 239 with the home team claiming victory by an innings and 48 runs.

It was Australia's sixth consecutive win in a pink ball Test -- four of them at Adelaide -- with every day-night Test played so far since the concept was introduced in 2015 producing a result.

"Really happy. Barring few slip-ups in the field yesterday, we played excellent cricket in the last two matches," said Australia captain Tim Paine.

"David and Marnus (Labuschagne) have been unbelievably good. We all witnessed a special knock from David Warner. It is among the top one or two innings ever by an Australian.'

Lyon was Australia's saviour, finishing with 5-69 on a lifeless pitch that offered little for the home side's fast bowlers, who were made to toil.

It was his 16th five-wicket haul and his first against Pakistan, who have lost all four



Nathan Lyon finished with 5-69 on a lifeless pitch. AP

Tests they have played this year after two defeats to South Africa in January.

Defeat continued Pakistan's appalling record in Australia, where they have now crashed in 14 consecutive Tests.

"I would like to congratulate Australia and especially David Warner," said Pakistan skipper Azhar Ali. "We have been beaten by a better team. We will take some positives from here. As a bowling unit, we need

to control the scoring rate." At least they offered some resistance on Monday, with Masood, who models himself on England's Alastair Cook, playing some glorious strokes as he assumed a leadership role after Babar Azam and captain Azhar Ali fell cheaply on Sunday evening. His sixth Test 50, in his 17th Test, arrived with a boundary off Lyon, his sixth

four, before he chipped the spinner to midoff on 68 where Mitchell Starc collected an easy catch.

Shafiq, who has 12 Test hundreds to his name, proved to be Masood's equal and brought up his 25th half-century with a single off Josh Hazlewood. But Lyon struck again, with Shafiq getting a thin edge to a flighted ball that carried to Warner at slip and he was gone for 57.

Lyon then removed Iftikhar Ahmed, caught at short leg by Labuschagne for a battling 27, before trapping surprise firstIt was Australia's sixth consecutive win in a pink ball Test — four of them at Adelaide — with every day-night Test played so far since the concept was introduced in 2015

innings century-maker Yasir Shah lbw for 13. Shaheen Afridi became his fifth victim, caught at mid-off by Hazlewood on the last ball before dinner.

Commanding victory

producing a result.

The new pink ball was taken when they returned and with the lights on it didn't take long to finish off the tail, with Hazlewood clean-bowling Mohammad Rizwan for 45 and Mohammad Abbas run out. It capped another commanding victory for Australia who exploited Pakistan's inexperienced bowling attack, which includes two teenagers.

Warner's triple century was the highlight while Labuschagne shored up his burgeoning reputation by making 162 to go with the 185 he made in the first Test at Brisbane.

Mitchell Starc was the destroyer in Pakistan's first innings, taking 6-66 to reinforce his position as perhaps the best pink-ball bowler in the world. Tougher opposition awaits them with the arrival this month of New Zealand for three Tests -- in Perth, Melbourne and Sydney.

BRIEF SCORES: Australia first innings 589 for three declared beat Pakistan first innings 302 all out & second innings 239 all out (Shan Masood 68, Asad Shafiq 57, Mohammad Rizwan 45; Lyon 5/69, Hazlewood 3/63) by an innings and 48 runs.

Captain Root hits double, gives England a sniff against New Zealand

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE HAMILTON (NEW ZEALAND), DECEMBER 2

JOE ROOT could not hide his delight after a masterful 226 ended his run drought and gave England a much-needed boost in the second Test against New Zealand on Monday as they ended day four believing they can square the series. It took a five-wicket haul for the tireless Neil Wagner to bring England's first innings to an end at 476, a lead of 101.

At stumps, New Zealand were 96 for two and needing to bat late into the final day although rain may yet have the last word with further showers forecast for Tuesday.

"It felt good," a beaming Root said as he put a stream of low scores behind him. "Once I got in and had the bit between my teeth I wanted to make it a real big one and try and get us in a position where we can force a result in this game. I know there's a bit of weather around but you just never know. It'll be one big last push from everyone to try and come away with a levelled-up series."

Root said it had been a frustration more than a worry that he had gone 14 Test innings without a century but his return to form gave him confidence.

'It's been a while'

"It's nice to get back to scoring some big runs," he said. "I found a really good rhythm out there, felt pretty comfortable and I just wanted to keep going. It's been a while since I've had that amount of time out in the middle and you get really hungry for it."

New Zealand openers Jeet Raval (nought) and Tom Latham (18) were out early in their second innings, and for Raval it continued a disappointing run in which he has failed to reach double figures in six of his last 10 innings. But after being 28 for two, New Zealand's most skilled batsmen Kane Williamson and Ross Taylor prevented further damage with Williamson on 37 at stumps and Taylor on 31.

If Raval was feeling the pressure of his slump with an away series against Australia looming, he need only look Root's timely double century to see fortunes can change England were 24 for two in their first innings when he went to the middle where he controlled proceedings in a marathon knock during which he faced 441 deliveries in nearly 11 hours. It was Root's third double-century, his longest innings in terms of time and balls faced and it ended just 28 runs short of his Test best 254 against Pakistan three years ago.

Tireless Wagner rewarded

He had partnerships of 177 with Rory Burns for the third wicket and 193 for the sixth-wicket with Ollie Pope. On a placid wicket, Root and Pope slowly accumulated runs eary on the fourth day to ensure a firstinnings lead and then picked up the pace to build on the advantage.

The 21-year-old Pope, in only his fourth Test, progressed to 75 before his valuable contribution ended with an edge to yet another Wagner bouncer. Four balls later, it was all over for Root whose exquisite timing deserted him when an attempt to hit Mitchell Santner out of the ground turned into a soft catch to Henry Nicholls at deep cover. He left the field to a deserved standing ovation but barely had time to take his seat when Wagner mopped up the England tail to finish with five for 124, his second five-wicket haul in the series.

"I'm blessed in that with that with my body that I can bowl long spells and if you keep putting pressure on then hopefully wickets come your way," Wagner said. "Even when it's flat you've got to make sure you graft away and (batsmen) tire out as well." **BRIEF SCORES:** New Zealand first innings 375 all out & second innings 96 for two (Williamson 37 batting, Taylor 31 batting) trail England first innings 476 all out (Root 226, Rory Burns 101, Ollie Pope 75; Wagner 5/124) by 5 runs.

RINGING OFF THE HOOK

What's at receiving end of BCCI phone line? Abuses, requests, last wishes

DEVENDRA PANDEY MUMBAI, DECEMBER 2

THERE ARE people out there who will go to any extent to talk to their favourite cricketer. At least, that's what can be gauged from the recollections of Bernard Fernandes, who recently quit as a receptionist at the Indian cricket Board headquarters in Mumbai after 15 years of service.

Fernandes recalls that he routinely fielded calls from fans asking to be connected with some top player or the other – in some instances, while the cricketer was in the middle of a match. It took a lot of politeness and patience to hear them out and tell them that their request could not be entertained.

"One day, a man called up and said his father was about to die and that he wanted to hear the voice of this cricketer, is it possible to speak to him?" Fernandes recalls for *The Indian Express*. "How could I rudely

tell them that they don't stay in BCCI's office. I need to respect their emotions; I just politely made them understand the situation that it is not possible for him."

The BCCI landline phone tends to ring off the hook on India's match days. Even on non-match days, BCCI gets calls from fans enquiring about match tickets or a request to speak to a cricketer.

In the past few years, fans from South India has been calling to speak to 'Thala' aka Mahendra Singh Dhoni. Asking him not to retire is the common line. There are fans who want to speak to Virat Kohli and, at times, even retired Army officers call up, says Fernandes.

"So what if he is batting now, can't I speak to Virat Kohli?" "I want to speak to my Thala (MS Dhoni) now, I want to tell him not to retire'.

Fernandes used to try his best to ensure such fans saw reason.

"The match is on, the match is happening in some other part of India. I always tell them,



A common request from fans is for the phone numbers of top cricketers. Judging by the sheer number of such calls, KL Rahul appears to have the biggest female fan following.

'sir Kohli is batting, how can he speak' but some of them remain stubborn and say try in break."

Another common request from fans is the phone numbers of top cricketers. Interestingly, Kohli, Dhoni and Rohit Sharma don't have the biggest female following in this regard. It's KL Rahul whose number is the most sought after.

One of the most common calls — and annoying to Fernandes — is when people make call up to ask for the score of an ongoing game. "My colleagues and I always used to say, 'there is TV, the internet, you can check it

New Delhi

there' but people still persist. If I told them the score, they would want more details and ask who scored how many, in how many balls, how many wickets, how many fours-sixes. Sometimes it's irritating but if you don't respond, they will abuse," Fernandes says.

Handling fans can also get tough when India are playing Pakistan. Fernandes recalls a day when BCCI had to shut down its landline for a few hours because fans across the border called up to sing 'Mauka-Mauka', the punchline of a television commercial for the World Cup match between the arch rivals.

When India played Pakistan at the 2015 World Cup, some fans warned BCCI to be ready to face consequences if India lost the game. India won and there was no security issue. But when India lost to Pakistan in the 2017 Champions Trophy final, fans took out their anger by dialling board numbers. Some of them abused Fernandes and his colleagues; some even asked him "why did India play Pakistan when soldiers are dying at the border".

Pakistan has never beaten India on that stage.

Emerging from the shadows

With Bolt having hung his spikes, Blake trains his eyes on gold at 2020 Tokyo Olympics

SHAHID JUDGE MUMBAI, DECEMBER 2

A QUESTION comes from the media scrum: "Have you ever beaten Usain Bolt in the nationals?" Yohan Blake smiles before saying, "I won't say. I won't say."

Through all his career, the 29-year-old Jamaican has lived in the shadow of the world record holder and eight-time Olympic gold medallist Bolt. The only times Blake has managed to win the yellow metal at the Olympics has been when he shared the podium with the world's fastest man, in the 4x100m relay races at the 2012 London and 2016 Rio Games. But that's not to say Blake is an insignificant name in the world of athletics.

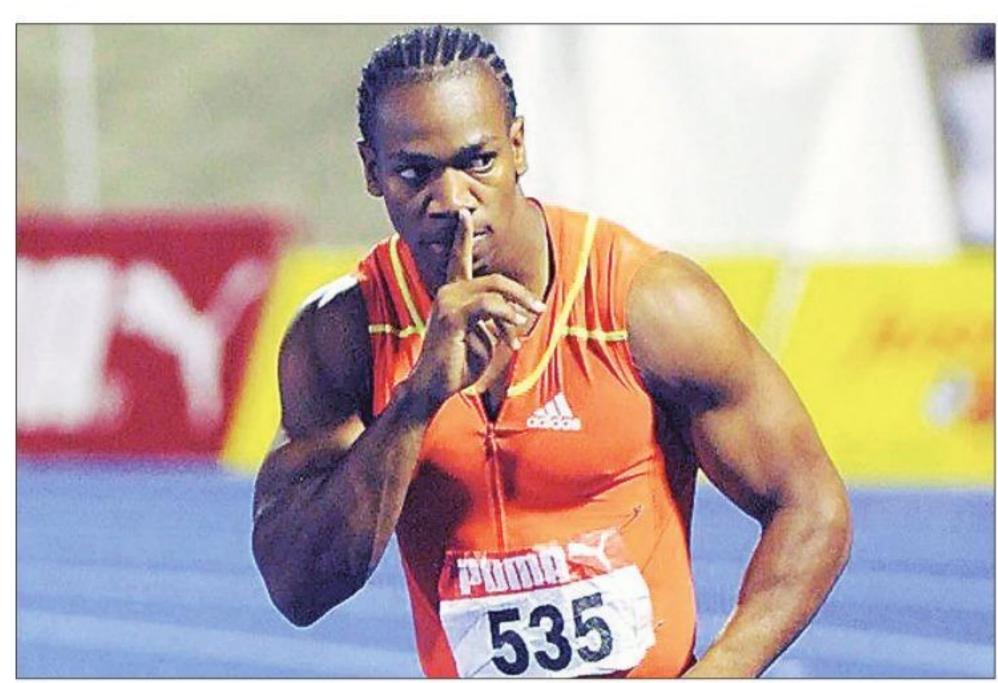
With a personal best of 9.69 seconds and 19.26 seconds in the 100m and 200m respectively, Blake is the second-fastest sprinter in history – behind Bolt's mark of 9.58 seconds (100m) and 19.19 seconds (200m). And now that 'Lightning Bolt' has hung his spikes, Blake is looking to make his move up the podium at the Olympics next year.

"I'm always the favourite, I'm the second-fastest man in the universe," he said at a promotional event in Mumbai on Monday. "Everyone has to look up to me. This is going to be my last Olympics, so I'm definitely going for the gold. I have got many medals in the past, but this will put the icing on the cake for me at the Tokyo

The Jamaican sprinter, whom Bolt dubbed 'The Beast,' had first announced his name at the 2011 World Championships in Daegu, when he surprised the field and raced to gold. That made him the youngest ever sprinter till date — at 21 years and 245 days – to win a 100m gold at the World Championships. On that occasion though, Bolt, the favourite, was disqualified because of a false start. It's an achievement that will always have an asterisk beside it. But Blake doesn't care.

"If you take Usain out of the picture, I'd be the fastest man. I feel I was born in the wrong time," he says lightly. "Nevertheless, I'm still proud with what I have achieved. It was Usain's time and I was competing against a giant.'

Blake was at hand when his senior com-



Yohan Blake is the second-fastest sprinter in history – behind Usain Bolt's mark of 9.58 seconds in 100m. File

Everyone has to look up to me. This is going to be my last Olympics, so I'm definitely going for the gold. I have got many medals in the past, but this will put the icing on the cake for me at the Tokyo Olympics."

YOHAN BLAKE

patriot set an Olympic record in the 100m at London 2012. And he was also there when Bolt stumbled past the finish line, in last place, in his last competitive race, at the 2017 World Championships.

"He was hardly training (in the run-up to the event). He was partying a lot instead.

He didn't feel the urge as it was his last race. He said he was just going to have fun, he just wanted a medal. Everyone wants to win, but he just wanted a medal," recalls Blake. "On the day of the race, he said he was feeling his hamstring. When I came around the corner to give him the baton, I knew he was not going to make it. I thought, 'what about my medal?' "But he had done so much for Jamaica, for the world, and I forgive him that once. But it was a bad end to his career."

Now Blake's looking forward to his own swansong at what will be his third Olympics. He reckons that his body is "firing" and that everyday he's "hungry and running with purpose."

But in the longer run, for athletics, he's critical of the changes the world body – The

International Association of Athletics Federation (IAAF), now called World Athletics – has been making to international events. In the coming season, the 15 Diamond League meets will no longer have the 200m sprint, discus throw, triple jump and 3000m steeplechase.

"If he (IAAF president Sebastian Coe) can take away the 200 and triple jump, I don't know if he is trying to build athletics or trying to kill it. But that's a stupid move he is making. He must enhance the sports, but he is killing it," he says. "This is people's career and where they make money. For Coe to be doing that, everybody is hating him. It's madness." But whatever comes of the alterations with the Diamond League, Blake remains unfazed in his goal. Gold. At the Olympics. On his own terms.

'New generation should have replaced me by now'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 2

VETERAN INDIAN tennis player Leander Paes on Monday hinted at a possible retirement, saying he has lived his career and doesn't see himself playing past another year. Paes was named in India's Davis Cup squad for the Pakistan tie after several top players made themselves unavailable to travel to Islamabad. The 46-year-old Indian went on to better his own record by achieving his 44th Davis Cup doubles win, this time partnering debutant Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan, as India routed Pakistan 4-0 last week.

"My experience carries me through now but in the longer run what's best for the team is that I should not be playing past another year," Paes told reporters.

"I am not going to play much longer, I have had a great 30-year stint in Davis Cup. I have lived my career playing for the country." However, Paes said he will always be there to represent his country, if need be. "For me, when it comes to being called for a tie whatever the circumstances I will represent my country."

The Atlanta Olympic bronze medallist said that nurturing a young team should be the main objective for Indian tennis right now. "Already by 46, I should have been moved out by the next generation coming up," Paes said.

"So to really be looking at it objectively, to nurture a younger team is what's impor-

tant," he said. Paes, who has won 18 Grand Slam titles, said coaching youngsters is one of the things he plans to do in the future.

"I was really focused on this tie, I had to motivate the youngster. Now I'm going to think about my 2020 season. I will be think-

ing hard about these 30 years I have just completed. And I'm going to evaluate with my team what this new season brings," he said "There are other things that are motivating me so much. A dream of mine is to coach and train and nurture youngsters to win Olympic medals, to win the Wimbledon championship." Talking about the Pakistan tie, Paes said he volunteered to play because

Davis Cup. "My reason for this Davis Cup was to make sure India as a team didn't forfeit the tie with the players not going to Islamabad to play ... then for the next three to four years we would be relegated to a zonal group and

he didn't want India to be relegated in the

"None of us have put 30 years to see that happen. The last time that happened was in 1974 when India was to play South Africa."

would have to fight our way up," he said.

Meanwhile, coach Zeeshan Ali and nonplaying captain Rohit Rajpal lavished praise on Paes, saying the experience the veteran brings with him is unmatched.

"Experience is one thing that he brings to the table, having played the amount of Davis Cup matches that he has played and won. No matter where we go and which team we play, they all look up to him. It does not have to be only Indian players," Ali said.



Leander Paes says coaching youngsters is something he plans to do in the future.

Maxwell, Lynn in auction pool

PTI/ENS NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 2

AUSTRALIA PACE spearhead Mitchell Starc has opted out of the Indian Premier League for a second successive year even as compatriots Glenn Maxwell and Chris Lynn have listed their names for the player's auction to be held on December 19 in Kolkata.

The 29-year-old Starc last featured in the IPL in 2015 when he represented Royal Challengers Bangalore. The left-arm quick had been signed by Kolkata Knight Riders for Rs 9.4 crore in the auction before the 2018 IPL, but was unavailable for the entire tournament because of injury.

Earlier this year too, Starc was recovering from injury ahead of the IPL 2019 auction and had opted out to give priority to Australia's World Cup campaign. He is the highest wicket-taker in the last two editions of the 50-over World Cup. He will feature in the first edition of The Hundred in the UK, where he will represent Welsh Fire. England's Test captain Joe Root is an-

other notable absentee from the auction pool of 971 players.

Maxwell and Lynn, however, will be up for grabs and have set their base price at the highest level of Rs 2 crore. The former, who had taken a break from cricket to deal

with "difficulties with his mental health" made a positive return to club cricket on November 23.

Apart from Maxwell and Lynn, the others to list their base price at Rs 2 crore are Australian fast bowlers Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood and all-rounder Mitchell Marsh, South Africa quick Dale Steyn and Sri Lanka batsman Angelo Mathews.

Among other overseas big names in the auction list is South Africa pacer Chris Morris, who became the only retained player in 2018 to be released ahead of the upcoming auction. Out of the 971 cricketers to go under the hammer, 713 are Indians and 258 overseas players. There are 215 capped players, 754 uncapped and two cricketers from Associate Nations, who will compete for the available 73 spots in the eight franchises.

Apart from India, the countries represented in the auction pool are Afghanistan (19), Australia (55), Bangladesh (6), England (22), Netherlands (1), New Zealand (24), South Africa (54), Sri Lanka (39), USA (1), West Indies (34) and Zimbabwe (3).

With the IPL Player Registration closing on November 30, teams now have time till December 9 evening to submit their shortlist of players that will make up the final Player Auction list.

Starc opts out of next year's IPL; Ex-truck driver Sonaba eyes wrestling glory

NITIN SHARMA

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 2

A SILVER medal at the wrestling nationals is a big achievement for anyone, especially one who had once quit the sport and drove a truck — without licence — to support himself and his family for four years.

Sonaba Gongane Tanaji had to settle for second place in the 61kg category at the nationals in Jalandhar last week, losing to World U-23 championship silver medallist Ravinder. But he has come a long way from the time he rode a pick-up truck throughout the day for four years. Those memories came rushing back for the 23-year-old when he saw a mini pick-up truck parked just outside the tournament venue.

"I wanted to put the medal on the mini truck and remember all the days when I drove a similar vehicle, sometimes for more than 14 hours in the day, to support myself and my family," the Kolhapur grappler said.

"When I started wrestling in 2006 at the village akhada, my father's health was a big concern and we couldn't earn as much as we should have from our 4.5 acre of land. That's why, three years later, I quit training at the akhada and bought a mini pick-up truck after taking loan of Rs 1.5 lakh. I would manage to save Rs 400-500 after buying diesel for the truck. I didn't have a licence and wouldn't enter towns for fear of being caught. A year later,



Sonaba Gongane won silver in the 61kg category at the nationals in Jalandhar.

I exchanged the truck for a bigger tempo after taking another loan of Rs 3 lakh."

It was a chance meeting with 2008 Youth Commonwealth Games champion Ranjeet Nalawade at the Pune Railway station that brought Sonaba back to wrestling in 2013 and he started making progress through the ranks. He first won a bronze at the Cadet Nationals before becoming state champion.

"Nalawade bhai was the main reason that I resumed training and when I won the bronze medal at the cadet nationals, my father distributed sweets in the village," he remembers.

In 2017, Sonaba claimed his first medal at the senior level – a bronze in the 61 Kg category in the nationals at Indore. He had also joined the Maratha Regiment in the Army by then, and is a Havildar now.

It was the year when his father suffered a paralysis attack but his job with the Army meant that Sonaba could support his family financially. Last year, the youngster had to miss the nationals due to injury but won the

title in the mud wrestling nationals at Pune He also reached the quarterfinals at the world championships in Budapest, Hungary, where he lost to Gadzhimurad Rashidov of Russia.

The accolades kept coming for Sonaba this year with a silver medal at the Asian U-23 Championships in Mongolia.

The youngster has also been sparring with 2019 World Championship bronze medallist Bajrang Punia in the national camp and considers him his idol, even though a freak injury during one of those sessions kept him out of action for a while.

"I often seek tips from Bajranj bhai and he always helps me. I suffered a shoulder injury as Bajrang bhai's hand slipped due to sweat from the grip in practice, but things like these happen. Apart from Bajrang bhai I also talk with (world championship bronze medallist) Rahul Aware bhai. We fought in the Maharashtra dangal last year where I lost 6-9. I plan to shift to 65 Kg category next year and my target is the CWG and Asian Games podium," said Sonaba.

National coach Jagmandar Singh believes avoiding injuries will be key to Sonaba's success in coming years.

"He has the willpower and stamina to succeed but his style of wrestling is more prone to injuries. Perhaps he did not put much focus on technique during his early days but is improving with time. If he can avoid injuries, he can win more medals, said Singh.

[SPORTS BAR]



Neeraj suspended for failing dope test

International medal-winning Indian woman boxer Neeraj (57kg), who was among the probables for 2020 Tokyo Olympics, has been provisionally suspended after failing a dope test. The Haryana-boxer tested positive for performance-enhancing drug Ligandrol and "other anabolic steroids". A former national medallist, Neeraj won a bronze medal at the prestigious Strandja Memorial Tournament in Bulgaria and a gold at a tournament in Russia this year. She was also a gold-medallist at this year's India Open in Guwahati. Her sample was collected on September 24 and was tested at Qatar's Ani-Doping lab, which gave its findings earlier last month. Neeraj has accepted the findings and has declined a 'B' sample test.

Minakshi, Rituz win on Day 1 of boxing nationals

Punjab's Minakshi, Chandigarh's Rituz and crowd favourite Anchu Sabu emerged winners on the opening day of the fourth Elite Women's National Boxing Championship on Monday. A total of 235 boxers from 33 teams will be seen in action at Mundayad Indoor Stadium. A total of 23 matches were played on the first day with Punjab pugilist Minakshi (48kg) beating Meghalaya's Eva Marbaniang 5-0. Rituz defeated Ladakh's Dechen in the light fly weight category. Anchu Sabu (48kg) sprung the surprise of the day as she beat Manika Kumari from Bengal with an RSC verdict in round 2.

Pressure is all on Joshua, says Ruiz Jr

World heavyweight champion Andy Ruiz Jr believes his re-match with Anthony Joshua will be a harder fight than his stunning victory in June but says all the pressure is on the Briton ahead of their showdown in Saudi Arabia this weekend. Mexican-American Ruiz produced one of boxing's biggest upsets when he dethroned the previously undefeated world champion Joshua with a seventh-round stoppage at New York's Madison Square Garden. "We've got to see where he's at because all the pressure is on him. The pressure isn't on me because I followed my dream, made my dreams come true," Ruiz said ahead of the socalled 'Clash on the Dunes'.



Austrian Peter Seisenbacher won judo gold at 1984 and 1988 Olympics. Reuters

Olympic champ gets 5 years for child sexual abuse

Two-time Olympic judo champion Peter Seisenbacher was sentenced to five years in prison on Monday for sexually assaulting two young girls he was coaching in the early 2000s. An Austrian regional criminal court found Seisenbacher guilty of the abuse, which took place in Vienna between 1999 and 2004. The women filed charges against their former coach in 2013. Seisenbacher has always denied wrongdoing, claiming the women made up their stories. However, chief judge Christoph Bauer called the victims "extremely credible." "We didn't get the impression that they were lying, that they were misleading us, that they were complotting," Bauer said. The 59-year-old Seisenbacher started coaching following a successful career, which included winning gold medals at two consecutive Olympics in the 1980s. Seisenbacher was convicted of sexually assaulting one of the girls in 1999, when she was 11, and abusing her on multiple occasions until 2002. Also, he allegedly sexually assaulted a 13-year-old girl in 2004.

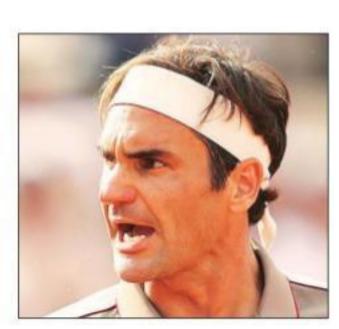
SAG: Badminton teams win gold medals

Indian men's, led by Kidambi Srikanth, defeated Sri Lanka 3-1 while the women's side blanked the same opponents 3-0 to make gold medals at the 13th South Asian Games (SAG). In the taekwondo event, India won nine medals, including two golds. In male team poomsae (17 years above to under 23 category) the trio of Lalthlamunapuia, Lalafakzuala and Daniel Lalhumthanga claimed the top honours. The country's second gold was won by the duo of Gaurav Singh and Harsha Singha in the pair poomsae (23 years above to under 29 category) event.

NorthEast secure late draw vs Jamshedpur FC

NorthEast United scored a late equaliser to secure a 1-1 draw against Jamshedpur FC in an Indian Super League match at the JRD Tata Sports Complex here on Monday. The hosts were the dominant side in the encounter and surged ahead through Spanish striker Sergio Castel's fifth goal of the season in the 28th minute. But a 90th minute equaliser from Panagiotis Triadis ensured NorthEast United's unbeaten record remained intact. The result enabled Jamshedpur to remain on the second spot on the table, while NorthEast are now fourth with 10 points in their kitty.

New Delhi



Federer's face to be minted on Swiss coin

Tennis great Roger Federer is to become the first living Swiss to have a coin minted in their honour, with a commemorative 20 france (\$20.06) silver piece bearing his image being issued in January. The 38-year-old 20-time Grand Slam champion is regarded by many as the greatest tennis player ever and is a national hero in Switzerland. Swissmint confirmed that 55,000 of the coins, featuring Federer delivering a backhand, will be produced and will be available for pre-order from Tuesday until Dec. 19. "Roger Federer's sporting achievements, his charitable commitments, his easy-going nature and his accessibility to his fans have prompted Swissmint to dedicate this 20-france silver coin to him – the first time it has done so with a living person," a Swissmint spokesperson told Reuters.

Napoli fines contested by world players' union FIFPro

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ROME, DECEMBER 2

NAPOLI'S DECISION to fine its players for abandoning an in-season training camp ordered by the club is being contested by world players' union FIFPro. The training camp was called for by Napoli president Aurelio De Laurentiis following a 1-1 draw at home with Salzburg in the Champions League a month ago.

"Napoli's intention to withhold player salaries is without valid grounds and is being contested collectively," the union said in a statement over the weekend. "FIFPRO believes that the ad-hoc decision of Napoli forbidding players to go home and re-join their families was unjustified. "Like every other employee, professional football players have the right to ensure that their private life is respected, especially considering the already congested fixture list which sees many players away from home for prolonged periods," FIFPro added.

De Laurentiis fined the players up to 50 per cent of their October salaries, with captain Lorenzo Insigne reportedly ordered to pay the most at 350,000 euros (nearly \$400,000), followed by midfielder Allan at 150,000 euros (\$165,000).

The fines could total 2.3 million euros (\$2.5 million). Since Napoli coach Carlo Ancelotti said publicly that he was not in agreement with the training camp, Italian Players' Association president Damiano Tomassi said "it needs to be understood if and how the request for the training camp was formalised." FIFPro said the grounds for the fines "contradict provisions in Italy's collective bargaining agreement."

Meanwhile, Napoli has continued to struggle amid a six-match winless streak in Serie A that has dropped the Partenopei to seventh place, prompting Ancelotti to announce on Monday that another training camp will be held beginning Wednesday for three nights - concluding with Saturday's match at Udinese. Including the Champions League and a 1-1 draw at defending champions Liverpool last week, Napoli have gone eight games in all competitions without a

Messi Madrid's nemesis again

Scores 86th-minute winner as Barcelona extended their unbeaten run against Atletico in La Liga

TALES AZZONI MADRID, DECEMBER 2

ATLETICO MADRID'S ordeal against Barcelona continues in the Spanish league.Lionel Messi made up for a lacklustre performance by scoring in the 86th minute on Sunday, giving Barcelona a 1-0 win at Atletico and extending the Catalan team's unbeaten run against their Madrid rivals to 19 league matches.

"It's always a big advantage to have Messi in even games like these," Barcelona coach Ernesto Valverde said.

Messi struck with a low left-footed shot from outside the area after being set up by Luis Suarez to keep Barcelona unbeaten against Atletico for nine years.

"We played a great match, but when Leo shows up he can make a difference," Atletico forward Saul Niguez said. "It's incredibly easy for him to do these things, that's why he is the best." It was Messi's 30th career goal against Atletico, who hadn't lost at home in 17 matches in all competitions.

"Messi appeared out of the match for a long time, but when he had a chance he broke free and scored a great goal," Atletico coach Diego Simeone said.

The victory put Barcelona back at the top of the league above Real Madrid - who won at Alaves on Saturday - on goal difference.

Atletico dropped to sixth place, six points behind Barcelona and Real Madrid who have a game in hand after their October clasico was postponed until December 18 because of a separatist rally in the Catalan capital.

Sevilla stayed third after beating lastplace Leganes 1-0 earlier on Sunday, while Real Sociedad are in fourth place after routing Eibar 4-1 on Saturday.

"The league is very long, we have to keep working to stay close to the leaders," Simeone said. The match marked Antoine Griezmann's return to the Wanda Metropolitano Stadium after being transferred to Barcelona at the end of last season. He was loudly jeered by most Atletico fans nearly every time he touched the ball. The France striker had a quiet performance and never posed a significant threat.

Atletico had most of the chances at the Metropolitano, but both teams squandered good opportunities throughout the match.



Lionel Messi scored his 30th career goal against Atletico Madrid, who hadn't lost at home in 17 matches in all competitions. *Reuters*

Each side hit the woodwork in the first half, and both goalkeepers - Atletico's Jan Oblak and Barcelona's Marc-Andre ter Stegen - made some good saves to keep the game scoreless. Messi broke the deadlock after an exchange with Suarez, whose perfect touch

just outside the box set up the playmaker's well-placed low shot.

Atletico's last league win over Barcelona was in February 2010, a 2-1 victory at the now demolished Vicente Calderon Stadium. It hadn't lost at the Metropolitano since a

Number of points Lionel Messi has helped Barcelona gain against Atletico in the Spanish league though his goals and assists.

Messi has found the back 428 of the net on 428 occasions at a rate of 0.928 GPG in the Spanish league. Rival Cristiano Ronaldo has 425 topflight goals from 555 matches.

Number of years since Atletico last defeated Barcelona in La Liga. The Catalans have extended their winning run in the league to 19 matches.

game against Real Madrid in February.

Barcelona have won 14 matches against Atletico since that loss in 2010, with five draws. Atletico's last win against Barcelona in all competitions was a 2-1 result in the quarterfinals of the 2015-16 Champions League. Atletico's worst streak against a single club is a 23-match winless run against Real Madrid from 2000 to 2013.

Sevilla stay close

Sevilla beat Leganes to keep pace with the leaders. Brazilian defender Diego Carlos scored in the 63rd to give the team its fifth straight win in all competitions.

Julen Lopetegui's squad hasn't lost in 10 matches in all competitions, since a 4-0 rout at Barcelona in the league.

Leganes are at the bottom of the 20-team standings with six points from 15 matches. They haven't won in five consecutive league games, with four losses and a draw. Three of the losses came against Real Madrid, Barcelona and Sevilla.

Athletic Bilbao beat Granada 2-0 at home for their fourth straight victory.

Raul Garcia scored from a penalty kick in the 41st minute and Yuri Berchiche sealed the win in the 83rd at the San Mames Stadium, putting Athletic in fifth place with 26 points, five behind Barcelona and Real Madrid.

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE MANCHESTER, DECEMBER 2

United blow

another lead

to lose ground

MANCHESTER UNITED threw away a second-half lead to remain eight points outside the Premier League's top four with a 2-2 draw at home to Aston Villa on Sunday.

Jack Grealish put Villa in front with a superb solo effort, but United levelled before the break when Marcus Rashford's header hit the post and came off Villa goalkeeper Tom Heaton into his own net before Victor Lindelof then headed the hosts in front. But a week after Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's

men surrendered a late lead to draw 3-3 with Sheffield United, they did not learn their lesson as Tyrone Mings secured a deserved point for Villa. The loss of those four points has cost United the chance to climb up to fifth in the table. Instead they lie down in ninth and trail two points behind a revitalised Tottenham who visit Old Trafford on Wednesday with new boss Jose Mourinho eying revenge against the club that sacked him 11 months ago.

"I wouldn't be sat here talking about us sitting fifth if we had got that goal extra," said Solskjaer. "The league table at this point is not the biggest concern, it's so tight. I just need to make sure we get performances and get three or four performances and results after each other.

"What I can say is so far we have had the lead in so many games and haven't been able to win those games. Six or seven times we have been up and we should be better at seeing these games into wins."

First, United themselves had to come from behind after a superb 11th-minute opener from Grealish, who has scored three league goals and made four assists this season. Anwar El Ghazi burst down the right wing before crossing through the United area for Grealish to gather the ball on the left-hand side and take advantage of Andreas Pereira's decision to back off by curling a precise shot into the top corner of David de Gea's goal.

"It was a super goal but that's what I've come to expect from him," said Villa manager Dean Smith. "I thought the first 30 minutes he was running the game.

"But then he missed a chance he would have scored 99 times out of 100 and they go up the other end and score."

Saudi Arabia embraces Western sports to rehabilitate image

NEW YORK TIMES

RIYADH, DECEMBER 2

ON HALLOWEEN, as two female WWE wrestlers battled inside a roaring King Fahd International Stadium, Najla Ibrahim stood with a hand on her heart and another in the air, capturing the moment with her smartphone. For years, the nurse from Riyadh followed wrestling from afar and yearned for the day when women would take the ring in her country. "I'm very proud because they are making

history," Ibrahim, 23, dressed in a black abaya and seated next to her older sister, said as the match ended under a shower of fireworks. "I've been waiting for this for so long." A year after the state-directed assassina-

tion of Jamal Khashoggi, a Saudi Arabian dissident columnist for The Washington Post, the government of Saudi Arabia is accelerating efforts diversify its economy, cultivate domestic spending and polish its global image by broadening cultural offerings centered on Western sports and entertainment.

Staging a women's wrestling match is no small feat in a kingdom where strict interpretation of Islamic law has long dictated that women be segregated, wear full-body coverings and have a male guardian. While the moment was notable, it was also carefully manufactured, stirring debate about whether Saudi Arabia is progressing or just glossing over its past.

"It's definitely 'sportswashing," said Philippe Nassif, Amnesty International's advocacy director for the Middle East and North Africa. "In the case of Saudi Arabia, they are infamous for the oppression of women's rights and ethnic and racial minority rights. What better way to attempt to change that image than an all women's wrestling match?"

The relationship between international brands like WWE and the Saudi government is symbiotic, as companies seek untapped markets while the kingdom tries to move its economy beyond dependence on oil production.

But the push comes with complications. Western businesses and stars have faced backlash and boycotts amid accusations that they are aiding a public relations initiative from an oppressive Saudi government.

Getting into the game

Saudi Arabia made sports a priority in 2016, as part of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's "Vision 2030" economic development program. To lay the groundwork, Princess Reema bint Bandar bin Sultan, now Saudi Arabia's ambassador to the United States, last year worked with an American lobbying firm to set up meetings with the National Basketball Association, Major League Soccer, World Surf League and Formula One auto racing to discuss bringing international



Lacey Evans (top) and Natalya Neidhart at the first-ever WWE women's match in Saudi Arabia, in Riyadh on October 31. AP

sports to the kingdom.

Big money soon flowed. In July, Saudi Arabia's General Sports Authority announced a \$650 million investment to develop local athletes and teams and to attract international events. Speaking at an investment conference in Riyadh in October, Prince Abdul Aziz bin Turki Al-Faisal, chairman of the General Sports Authority, explained how making Saudi Arabia a hub of global sports can lift economic growth and create thousands of jobs.

"A big part of the change within the kingdom is the sector of sport, and growing the sector of sport," he said.

Wrestling is one sliver of Saudi Arabia's new appetite for athletics.

This month, Anthony Joshua and Andy Ruiz Jr. will travel to a custom-built arena in Diriyah, outside of Riyadh, for a heavyweight boxing title fight billed the "Clash on the Dunes." February brings the debut of the Saudi Cup, a horse race with a \$20 million purse the richest in history. A Ladies European Tour golf tournament is being planned for March.

"We are in a really huge transformation, softening the image," Majed Al-Sorour, chief executive of the Saudi Golf Federation, said on the sidelines of the Future Investment Initiative conference in Rivadh in October.

Boundaries broaden

The sports expansion is part of Prince Mohammed's attempt to bring in foreign investment and increase the financial potential of a country whose population skews young. Of the kingdom's 22 million citizens, about two-thirds are under 30.

Saudi Arabia is a monarchy ruled accord-

ing to Shariah law. After Prince Mohammed was elevated to crown prince in 2017, he pursued a campaign aimed at convincing the world that Saudi Arabia was changing culturally with a series of reforms that were methodically rolled out to burnish its image. In the last 18 months, movie theaters opened for the first time in more than 35 years, women gained the right to drive and segregation of the sexes was relaxed in public places.

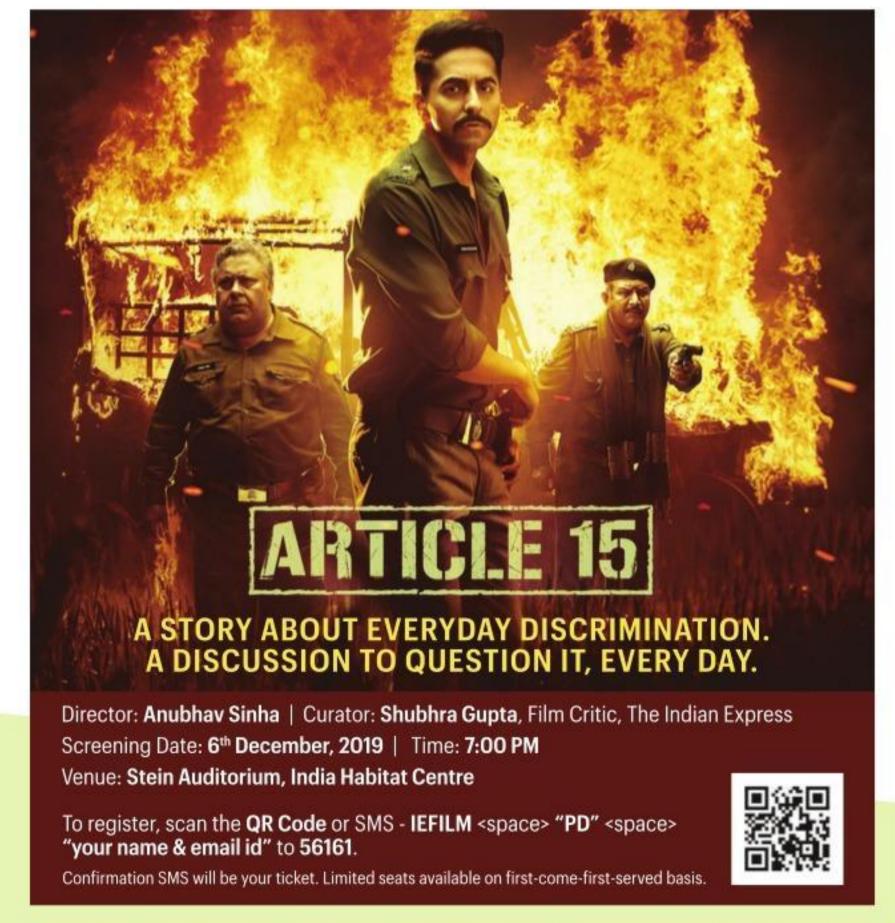
On a Monday night in late October, Saudi men and women in their 20s swayed to hiphop music at a fashion boutique that opened for Riyadh's Design Week. As with international companies, young people in Saudi Arabia are also adjusting to new boundaries and calibrating their ambitions.

At the event was Mohammed Alhamdan, who five years ago was an aspiring actor working at a McDonald's in Riyadh before he started creating satirical music videos that went viral on YouTube. Now he has more than 7 million followers on his social media networks and is paid to create and perform in advertisements for brands like McDonald's and Pepsi, which operate in the kingdom.

"Everything is new, for us and the country," said Mr. Alhamdan, 25, who goes by the online persona Warchieff.

Saudi Arabia's growing circle of social media influencers still tread cautiously when approaching cultural taboos. Mr. Alhamdan said he was careful to create videos that grab attention without veering into cultural criticism that will get him in trouble with a government that aggressively stifles online dissent.





Here are some comments shared by our readers about the unique format of The Indian Express Club.



"Screenings, at The Indian Express Film Club, become more like a confluence, where connoisseurs of cinema converge to create an ambience which is very conducive to savour a well curated cinema aesthetically".

Dr. Sumit Nandan, Professor



"The concept of The Indian Express Film Club itself excites me a lot, it not only has exposed to some exceptional movies. It was an amazing experience which allowed me to understand the movie in a much more informed way".

Maanik Sinha, Photographer





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