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Go back, Viceroy  
of Delhi

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**MIND & GAMES****WHAT'S GOOD FOR THE OCEAN MAY ALSO BE GOOD FOR BUSINESS**

Companies are trying to prove that conservation, sustainable fishing and carbon sequestration are profitable

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# FE SUNDAY

FINANCIAL EXPRESS ON SUNDAY

**READ TO LEAD****SPOTLIGHT****THE UNSTOPPABLE GOLFER**

Jeev Milkha Singh talks about his plans for 2022 and more **Pages 6-7**

NEW DELHI  
SUNDAY, MARCH 28, 2021, 14 Pages, ₹10 (Patna ₹10, Raipur ₹10)

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**Art in isolation**

The pandemic had an unprecedented impact on the art world, with many artists losing their stage, audience and livelihoods. So how did they overcome the uncertainty and chaos through their creative language?

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**The times they are a-changin'**

The world is dynamic, and businesses have to keep pace

**ODD & EVEN**

ROHIT PHORE

**QuickPicks****Biden invites 40 world leaders to virtual summit on climate**

US PRESIDENT JOE Biden has invited 40 world leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to the Leaders' Summit on Climate to underscore the urgency and the economic benefits of stronger climate action, the White House said. The two-day summit will be held virtually on April 22-23 and will be telecast live for public viewing. "It will be a key milestone on the road to the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) this November in Glasgow," the White House said on Friday.

**Digital tax: USTR for retaliatory trade actions against India**

THE UNITED STATES Trade Representative (USTR) has proposed retaliatory trade actions against India and certain other countries that have imposed or are considering equalisation levy/digital services tax on e-commerce companies. It has issued notices seeking public comments on proposed trade actions against six countries, including India. The USTR, in a statement, said it "is proceeding with the public notice and comment process on possible trade actions to preserve procedural options before the conclusion of the statutory one-year time period for completing the investigations." **PAGE 14**

**COVID SURGE****Covovax trials on, launch likely by Sept: Poonawalla**

● In Aug 2020, Novavax had announced licence pact with SII for NVX-CoV2373

**BIG NUMBERS**

Total active cases 4,52,647

Daily new cases 62,258

**NEW CASES IN**

Maharashtra 36,902

Punjab 3,122

Chhattisgarh 2,665

CoV2373, its Covid-19 vaccine candidate, in low and middle-income countries and India.

**Maha bans gatherings; malls, eateries to be shut after 8 pm**

MUMBAI: STRUGGLING TO arrest the fresh surge in cases, the Maharashtra government on Saturday announced a complete ban on holding of all types of gatherings, including political and religious. It ordered that restaurants, gardens, malls will remain shut between 8 pm to 7 am beginning Saturday night. —PTI

**Increase testing: Centre tells states, UTs with surge**

NEW DELHI: THE Centre on Saturday advised 12 states and UTs reporting a surge in cases to significantly increase testing and ensure people follow Covid-appropriate behaviour. These 12 states and UTs are Maharashtra, Gujarat, Haryana, TN, Chhattisgarh, MP, Bengal, Delhi, J&K, Karnataka, Punjab and Bihar. —PTI

**₹4.6K-CR DEAL**  
**IndiGrid seals power network buy in N-E**

FE BUREAU  
Mumbai, March 27

INDIA GRID TRUST (IndiGrid), India's first power-sector infrastructure investment trust (InvIT), completed acquisition of a transmission network in the northeastern states of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura from Sterlite Power at an enterprise value of ₹4,625 crore, the firm said on Saturday.

With this acquisition, the largest in the segment, IndiGrid's asset under monetisation (AUM) has risen 34% to around ₹20,000 crore. The platform's asset portfolio now consists of 13 power transmission projects, with a total network of 38 power transmission lines and 11 substations extending over around 7,570 circuit kilometres.

NER-II Transmission Ltd (NER-II) that has been acquired is part of the inter-state transmission scheme network, with a build, own, operate and maintain contract of 35 years. It provides electricity to around 5.3 crore people in the three states.

With this acquisition, which is valued at an enterprise value of ₹3,370 crore,

**ENTERPRISE VALUE ₹3,370 CR**  
**ATL to acquire Warora-Kurnool Transmission**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
New Delhi, March 27

ADANI TRANSMISSION (ATL) ON Saturday said it has entered into a pact with Essel InfraProjects to acquire Warora-Kurnool Transmission (WTKT) for an enterprise value of ₹3,370 crore.

The acquisition is in sync with Adani Transmission's strategy to enhance the value for its stakeholders, through organic as well as inorganic opportunities, ATL said in a statement.

ATL, India's largest private sector power transmission and retail distribution company, has signed definitive agreements with Essel InfraProjects (EIP) for the acquisition, it said. The regulatory approval for substitution of original awardee in the contract by ATL has already been received from the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission. The lenders consent and other necessary regulatory approvals shall be obtained before closure of transaction, the company said.

With this acquisition, which is valued at an enterprise value of ₹3,370 crore,

"Covovax trials finally begin in India; the vaccine is made through a partnership with @Novavax and @SerumIn-India. It has been tested against African and UK variants of #COVID19 and has an overall efficacy of 89%. Hope to launch by September 2021," Poonawalla said in a tweet.

The development and commercialisation pact between Novavax and SII excludes major upper-middle and high-income countries, for which Novavax continues to retain rights.

In January this year, Poonawalla had said SII expected to launch Covovax by June 2021.

"Our partnership for a COVID-19 vaccine with @Novavax has also published excellent efficacy results. We have also applied to start trials in India. Hope to launch #COV-OVAx by June 2021," Poonawalla had said in a tweet.

In West Bengal, 4 out of 5 vote; heavyweights face voters in Assam

SWEET KUMARI & ABHISHEK SAHA  
Kolkata/Guwahati, March 27

THE FIRST PHASE of polling in 30 Assembly constituencies spread across five districts in West Bengal on Saturday was marred by sporadic incidents of violence, complaints of rigging and snags in Electronic Voting Machines. Till 5 pm, the state recorded almost 80% (79.79%) voting.

**DoT INITIATIVE**  
**5G trial review meet on April 1**

KIRAN RATHEE  
New Delhi, March 27

THE DEPARTMENT of telecommunications (DoT) is scheduled to undertake a review meeting with mobile operators on April 1 regarding 5G trials. The meeting has been called to clear doubts and clarify issues raised by the industry around the trials. According to sources, the industry is also likely to seek clarity around participation of Chinese players Huawei and ZTE in the trials.

Last month also, there was a meeting between DoT officials and telecom industry around the trials. The DoT has also given an update to PMO about the progress in conducting trials after being pulled up by the standing committee on information technology, chaired by Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, for not doing sufficient preparatory work to launch 5G services.

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**FE LINES****A cryptic world**

Digital works and cryptocurrencies are transforming the landscape of art **Page 8**

**SPOTLIGHT****THE UNSTOPPABLE GOLFER**

Jeev Milkha Singh talks about his plans for 2022 and more **Pages 6-7**

**VOTERS' DAY OUT**

Clockwise from top: Voters take a selfie; CM Sarbananda Sonowal after casting vote in Assam's Dibrugarh and voters in Bengal's East Midnapore

EXPRESS PHOTO: PRADIP DAS

**PHASE I OF POLLING****Violence in WB; 72% turnout in Assam**

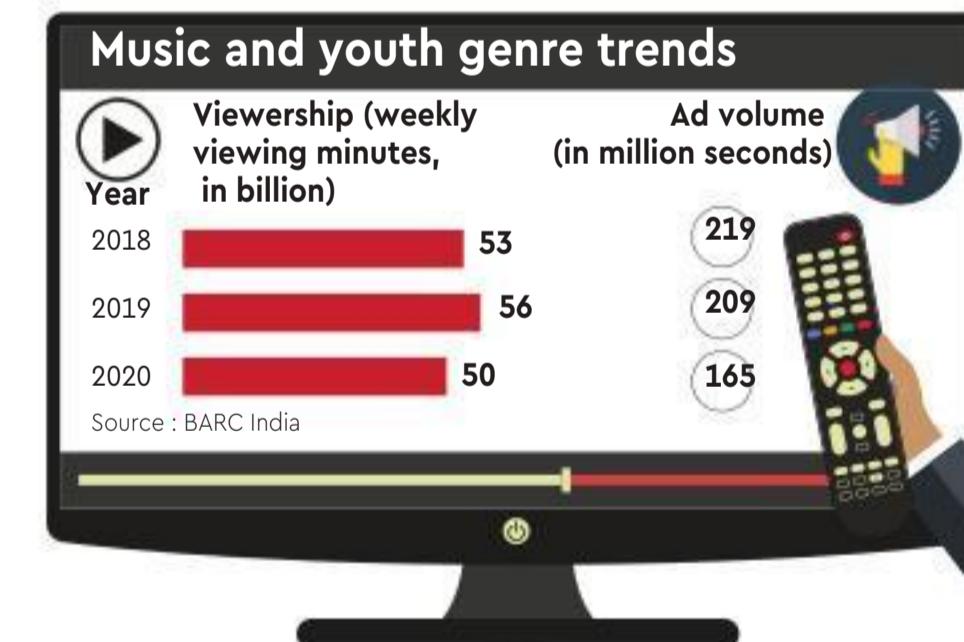
Voters at a polling station in Assam's Dibrugarh PHOTO: PTI

In West Bengal, four out of five eligible voters cast their ballot in each of the five districts: Purba Medinipur (82.51%), Jhargram (80.55%), Paschim Medinipur (80.12%), Bankura (79.9%) and Purulia (77.13%).

As many as 191 candidates, including 21 women, are contesting in the first phase. Of the electorate size of 73.8 lakh, female voters number 36.27 lakh and male 37.52.

Both the BJP and the Trinamool are contesting 29 seats each out of the total 30. In Assam, a total of 264 candidates, including 23 women, are in the fray in this phase, which has a total of 81.09 lakh eligible voters.

Continued on Page 11

**RISE OF STREAMING PLATFORMS**  
**For the youth, TV channels are passé**

Music, youth TV channels lost 21% ad volumes in 2020

VENKATA SUSMITA BISWAS  
Mumbai, March 27

THE PANDEMIC HAS dealt a severe blow to music and youth channels on Indian television. As per BARC India, in 2020, youth and music TV channels lost 11% in cumulative viewership and 21% in advertising volumes. Individually, music and youth channels suffered ad volume loss of 20% and 34%, respectively.

In metros and Tier-1 cities where high-speed broadband internet is accessible, music streaming apps and video streaming platforms like YouTube have emerged as alternatives to music channels. The relevance of these channels has dropped over time. Viewership of these channels has dropped by 60-70% since their heyday.

Analysts at Crisil Research say Mumbai and Delhi-NCR account for nearly 50% of the organised restaurant market.

In fact, Anurag Katriar, president, National Restaurant Association of India, says sales had touched well over 70% of pre-Covid levels even with restricted seating capacities in place.

But the emerging second

Continued on Page 11

Continued on Page 11

**Second wave unpalatable for restaurants in Maharashtra**

With night curfew from today, business will be hit harder

ASMITA DEY

New Delhi, March 27

AS IF RISING coronavirus cases in Maharashtra were not enough to threaten business recovery of restaurants, the night curfew starting today will surely sound a death knell for the industry. "The physical

occupancy of restaurants as it remains erratic, with heavy reduction in diners during weekdays and lunch hours," says Jaaisjot Surri, CEO & co-founder at Mumbai-based SJI Hospitality and Foods, which owns brands like Miniya Turk, Pachino Cafe and Roti Republic.

There was temporary relief with dine-in services picking up in January, but the second wave has started "pulling things back drastically," says Anees Khan, chef & founder of Mumbai-based Staranise Cafe & Patisserie. Revenues were down by at least 20% at the

**BITTER TASTE**  
■ Mumbai, Delhi-NCR account for nearly 50% of total organised restaurant market

■ Over 40% restaurants in Maharashtra may have had to shut down post first lockdown

■ Prescribed seating capacity of 50% mandated by state government unchanged till date

last count and walk-ins have declined by over 30%, says



■ Now hotels looking for additional revenue streams, micro-markets and catering to varied customer needs

Khan. Restaurants have been registering some bookings

during the weekends, but they are not sure if things will remain the same amid fresh curbs.

Restaurateurs in Maharashtra, which was one of the last regions to allow resumption of dine-in services, had been fairly quick to get their businesses back in shape, probably driven by the sheer size of the market.

In fact, Anurag Katriar, president, National Restaurant Association of India, says sales had touched well over 70% of pre-Covid levels even with restricted seating capacities in place.

But the emerging second

wave is worrisome, he says. To be sure, the prescribed seating capacity of 50% mandated by the state government at the time of allowing the sector to open up in October has stayed unchanged till date.

Analysts at Crisil Research say Mumbai and Delhi-NCR account for nearly 50% of the organised restaurant market.

AD Singh, founder & MD at Olive Group of Restaurants, which shut a few outlets last year, says the worst could be ahead. "We are hoping that we do not have to cut more jobs."

Continued on Page 11

# Opinion

SUNDAY, MARCH 28, 2021

**DEMOCRACY IS GOVERNMENT** of the people, by the people and for the people, said Abraham Lincoln. That remains the simplest and most comprehensive definition of democracy. At the centre of the government are the **people**. Representative democracy is only a matter of convenience when the numbers are large.

India is a federal state. Delhi is the National Capital of India. It is acknowledged that the government of Delhi has to be different from the governments of states; yet, if that government must be a democratic government, it must put the people at the centre of the government.

The Supreme Court, as the final interpreter and arbiter of the Constitution, said in *State (NCT of Delhi) v Union of India: (2018) 8 SCC 501*: "The exercise of constituent power is meant to confer democratic, societal and political powers on the citizens who reside within the National Capital Territory of Delhi that has been granted a special status." The Court quoted with approval Jaganmohan Reddy J who had said in *Kesavananda Bharati* that democratic form of government is part of the basic structure of the Constitution.

#### Constituent power

The powers and functions of the Delhi government were finally settled by the exercise of the *constituent power* of Parliament. The Constitution of India was amended in 1991 and Article 239AA was inserted to provide "Special provisions with respect to Delhi". The Statement of Objects and Reasons made it clear that "Delhi should continue to be a Union Territory and provided with a Legislative Assembly and a Council of Ministers responsible to such Assembly with appropriate powers to deal with matters of concern to the common man."

Article 239AA used words and phrases that had acquired a meaning in every democratic country. Among them were 'direct election from territorial constituencies', 'the Legislative Assembly shall have the power to make laws...with respect to any of the matters enumerated in the State List or in the Concurrent List' and, most importantly, 'There shall be a Council of Ministers...with the Chief Minister at the head to aid and advise the Lieutenant Governor in the exercise of his functions....' The Government of the National Territory Act, 1991, was made under Article 239AA to give effect to the provisions contained in that Article.

#### The dog and the tail

In the last 20 years, there were instances when the tail (LG) tried to wag the dog (the council of ministers), but such attempts were put down with a firm hand. Attitudes changed after 2014. The BJP government in Delhi could not tolerate a non-BJP government in Delhi. In particular, the Prime Minister could not tolerate a Chief Minister sharing the political space in Delhi. Hence, a determined effort was made to resurrect the long-buried controversy of who exactly has the real power in the Delhi government.

The attempt was thwarted by the Supreme Court, in *State (NCT of Delhi) v Union of India*. On July 4, 2018, the Supreme Court declared that the "meaning of 'aid and advise' employed

#### ACROSS THE AISLE

P Chidambaram



## Go back, Viceroy of Delhi



Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal address a protest against the Government of NCT Delhi (Amendment) Bill 2021, at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi

#### INSIDE TRACK

COOMI KAPOOR

#### Security blues

Morning joggers on Altamont Road and Carmichael Road are miffed over the presence of the CRPF, Bombay Police, and sniffer dogs outside the Ambani home Antilia long after a Scorpio with explosives was seized near it. They are concerned it may lower the tone of the posh neighbourhood perched on a hillock, the tenth most expensive street in the world. Carmichael Road residents are particularly aggrieved as skyscrapers like Antilia and Lodha Altamont — which boasts that one of its apartments is the most expensive in India — are on the Altamont Road side, and feel Carmichael Road has been dragged in just because the Scorpio was found on the Carmichael Road border. Many of the older residents on Carmichael Road regard the new skyscrapers as eyesores, compared to heritage buildings such as the residences of the general manager of the Bombay Port Trust, the RBI governor, the municipal commissioner, the old Parsi bungalows and the stately mansion of Sir Homi Mody's descendants.

Some wonder if the excessive, in-your-face security presence on the street is to reinforce the demand for additional enforcements for India's richest family. Incidentally, only the post-office seems aware that the roads were long ago re-named S K Barodawala Marg and M L Dahanukar Marg.

#### Politician cop

The Maha Vikas Aghadi alliance accuses Devendra Fadnavis of using Param Bir Singh, who was promoted out of turn as Thane police commissioner when Fadnavis was the Chief Minister, to destabilise the state government. Param Bir, whose son, incidentally, is married to former Congressman-turned BJP leader Datta Meghe's granddaughter, acted more like a savvy politician than a government official. He dispatched his letter not just to the CM but also to the governor, and hence the matter could not be hushed up. His WhatsApp messages were cleverly framed to get ACP Sanjay Patil, among others, to corroborate his version of events.

#### Trusted lieutenants

Rahul Gandhi continues to ignore G-23 dissidents, even though Sonia Gandhi has given the go-ahead to Ambika Soni to attempt to broker peace. Meanwhile, Rahul is leaning more and more on Jitendra Singh, apart from trusted lieutenants KC Venugopal, Randeep Surjewala and Ajay Maken. Singh, 49, is a Doon school alumnus and scion of the Alwar royal family. Like the three others, Singh is a political lightweight, having lost the last two Lok Sabha elections. The pleasant, if reserved, Singh was appointed general secretary-in-charge of Assam in September and has been travelling extensively. He is also credited with finalising the alliance with the AIUDF's Badruddin Ajmal. It is the first time the Congress has tied up with the AIUDF, though it has been accused earlier of having a tacit understanding with Ajmal, who has a large following among Bengali-origin Muslims. Singh could get kudos or brickbats depending on how the alliance fares.

#### A single unit

Political analysts are unanimous that Dattatreya Hosabale, who last week took over as general secretary of the RSS, will have a smooth working relationship with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Hosabale is affable and younger than Modi. Both are on the same page on key matters concerning the Sangh Parivar.

Pundits often take up the prickly relationship between Atal Bihari Vajpayee and S Sudarshan to make the case that it is the RSS which pulls the BJP's strings. They are out of date, the narrative has changed. The BJP and RSS are today practically a single unit.

Most of the chief ministers, governors, Cabinet ministers and a large number of BJP MPs are RSS products. Government policies on education, Kashmir, Article 370, the CAA or 'love jihad' mirror RSS thinking. Differences in the economic sphere, especially concerning foreign investments, genetically modified brinjal, privatisation, etc, have not caused major hiccups. The RSS may have also had reservations on the farm sector reforms, but in all these matters Modi seems to have the last word.

#### Pawar point

The confrontation between former Mumbai police commissioner

attempt to overrule the judgement of the Supreme Court.

#### Patently unconstitutional

The Bill amends the law by stipulating that the expression 'Government' shall mean the Lieutenant Governor. Thus, by definition, the tail is the dog and the dog is the tail! The Bill also provides that "before taking any executive action...to exercise powers of Government...the opinion of the Lieutenant Governor shall be obtained on all such matters as may be specified..." By legislative legerdemain, the Modi government has installed its Viceroy in Delhi!

Mr Arvind Kejriwal and his ministers have been reduced to footmen to fetch and carry for the Viceroy.

Mr Kejriwal should have known that this day was coming when, in another constitutional coup, Jammu & Kashmir was dismembered and reduced to two

Union Territories. Yet, Mr Kejriwal supported that assault on democracy in the name of 'nationalism'. Today, it is his day of reckoning and humiliation. Nevertheless, my sympathies are with him if he chooses to fight the Modi government.

Democracy in India is diminished every day. The world has taken note of the fact that India is only 'partly free'. The goal of the BJP is to establish one-party rule, an over-sized and rubber-stamping Parliament, a compliant judiciary, an officially sponsored media, obedient corporates, and a subservient people who will be happy with material progress. That India will be no different from China. It is *deja vu* 1935, the Government of India Act, 1935, and 'Go Back Simon'.

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## The United rebuild

Is Manchester United planning a long-term future under manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer?

#### RINGSIDE VIEW



Shamik Chakrabarty

LAST SUNDAY, AFTER Manchester United lost to Leicester City in the FA quarterfinal, #OleOut was trending on Twitter. It was United's first loss after a 29-game unbeaten run in domestic competitions. A couple of weeks previously, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's team had beaten Pep Guardiola's all-conquering Manchester City in their lair in the Premier League derby. United are still unbeaten away from home in the league this season, placed second with 57 points from 29 matches. For the first time since Sir Alex Ferguson's retirement in 2013, they are poised to secure a top-four finish in consecutive seasons. Social media, though, hardly cares about perspective.

But when professionals and pundits – a section of them – try to drag down a manager on the basis of a bad performance, then that looks somewhat agenda-driven. The FA Cup quarterfinal came on the heels of United's Europa League Round of 16

game against AC Milan at San Siro. They had only two days to recover. In a Covid-induced manic season, matches are coming thick and fast, forcing the players to carry an unbelievable workload. Solskjaer duly rested the likes of Luke Shaw and Bruno Fernandes. Paul Pogba, still regaining his full fitness, was substituted on the hour mark. But the naysayers were out in full force, tearing into the United manager for his "wrong" team selection and "poor" in-game management.

A quote from Solskjaer's pre-quarterfinal press conference was taken out of context to stick the knife into him. What did he say? "I have been here for two-and-a-half years and coming in, as I have said so many times, I felt a big rebuild had to be made."

He added: "In the league position you see if there's any progress, that's always the bread and butter of the season that you see how capable you are. The cups are sometimes an ego thing for managers and clubs to finally win something."

"But we need to see progress and if we perform well enough the trophies will end up at the club again. It's not like a trophy will say 'we are back', no. It's gradual progression at the top of the league."

He never spoke about trophies/Cups are being irrelevant. Rather he has always



maintained that winning a trophy can serve as a springboard, like the 1990 FA Cup triumph did for Sir Alex. Post the Leicester City loss, Solskjaer was 'lectured' on how four semifinal defeats and a quarterfinal exit in two years weren't good enough for a club of United's size. The Norwegian came to United as a player in 1998 and received his testimonial in 2008. A low-profile managerial career (before the United job) notwithstanding, he is privy to the requirements at a club of United's size. He was mentored by a serial winner, the greatest manager in the history of the game.

Louis van Gaal helmed United to the 2016 FA Cup glory. Two days later he was sacked, because the club had failed to secure Champions League football. Matchgoers at Old Trafford would attest how the team was losing its identity under the Dutchman, playing some ridiculously boring football. Jose Mourinho, always great at massaging his ego through the number of trophies he has won, annexed the League Cup and the Europa League as United

manager. In December 2018, he was handed the pink slip because a top-four finish in the league became well-nigh impossible and a fractured dressing-room made his position untenable. As is his wont, Mourinho had left a scorched earth behind. Solskjaer inherited a mess when he came in as Mourinho's successor. It wasn't the United he knew. The club needed a serious rebuild. Restoring the United-way was the top item on the agenda.

The situation was arguably worse than November 1986, the time of Sir Alex's arrival at United as Ron Atkinson's replacement. It took him four years to win his first silverware. The initial focus was about rebuilding the club's culture that served as a platform for an unabashed success for the next two decades. Thank goodness, social media didn't exist back then.

A lot of people, including this correspondent, were deeply sceptical about Solskjaer's success at United. After all, he was a successful manager at Molde, a Norwegian football club. As far as English top-flight football is concerned, he is a Cardiff City discard. Then again, managing one of the biggest clubs on the planet calls for a lot more than just being a tactical genius. A big club manager has to have the ability to manage politics, bureaucracy, red-tape and the immense pressure to ensure that players can just focus on playing football. This is a reason why a lot of promising and tactically astute managers fail at big clubs. David Moyes at United was a case in point,

done in by the enormity of the club.

"He (Solskjaer) takes the pressure off the lads and takes it all himself. Sometimes it's not fair, because we are the ones on the pitch and we need to take out fair share too," Luke Shaw recently said. The left-back has been a revelation this season and a huge amount of credit goes to Solskjaer's man-management.

After the Leicester City loss, some people claimed that Solskjaer was tactically outsmarted by his counterpart Brendan Rodgers. United conceded two goals in that game from silly individual errors, while the other one was scored from a set-piece. Solskjaer got tactically outsmarted!

The good thing is that he has the full backing of the club. Respect would be the more appropriate word; otherwise the much-needed reforms that were pending for years wouldn't have happened. The appointment of John Murtough as football director and Darren Fletcher as technical director has Solskjaer's imprint. He has earned himself a new and improved contract. In a pandemic-hit market, very few clubs can spend big on transfers. But Solskjaer is walking the extra mile to create a structure that will eventually usher in a sustained period of success for his beloved club. He isn't doing it for money. The club hierarchy and the hardcore fans know that. Solskjaer doesn't have a magic wand. He isn't backed by petrodollars either. Patience is the need of the hour. Meanwhile, the club legend deserves respect.

# PM Modi holds talks with Sheikh Hasina; India, B'desh sign 5 MoUs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
Dhaka, March 27

**PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA**

Modi met his Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina on Saturday and discussed the progress achieved in areas like connectivity, energy, trade, health and developmental cooperation following which the two countries signed five MoUs covering a number of areas of bilateral cooperation. Modi, who is visiting Bangladesh on his first trip to a foreign country since the outbreak of the coronavirus, held one-on-one talks with Hasina which was followed by delegation-level meeting which continued for over an hour.

"Relationship going from strength to strength! Prime Minister @narendramodi and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina discussed the progress achieved in areas of health, trade, connec-



Prime Minister Modi during a meeting with Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina in Bangladesh on Saturday

tivity, energy, developmental cooperation and many more," ministry of external affairs spokesperson Arindam Bagchi tweeted after the talks.

The two sides signed five memorandum of understandings (MoUs) covering areas such as connectivity, commerce, information technology and sports. In a humanitarian gesture, Prime Minister Modi handed over a representational

key of 109 ambulances to his counterpart Hasina. He also handed over a representative box to her as a symbol of India's gift of 1.2 million Covid vaccine doses to Bangladesh.

Hasina presented a gold and a silver coin released on the occasion of the birth centenary of her father and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to Modi. She also handed over a silver coin released on the occasion

of the 50th anniversary of Bangladesh's independence.

The two leaders also jointly opened some projects virtually.

Modi's visit is taking place at a time Bangladesh is commemorating Mujib Borsho, the birth centenary of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and 50 years of the country's war of liberation. The two countries are also celebrating 50 years of the establishment of diplomatic ties.

On Friday, Modi attended the celebrations of the golden jubilee of the country's independence, the birth centenary of 'Bangabandhu' in Dhaka.

On Saturday, he also visited the mausoleum of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and paid floral tributes to him, becoming the first-ever foreign Head of State or Head of Government to pay homage at the grave of 'Bangabandhu' at Tungipara in southwestern Bangladesh.

**Facebook services down in Bangladesh amid protests against Modi visit**

REUTERS  
Cox's Bazar, March 27

**FACEBOOK SAID ITS** services in Bangladesh were shut down on Saturday, as hundreds of hard-line Islamists marched across the country, angered by the police killing of their supporters who had protested against a visit by Narendra Modi. The government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina did not comment if it had blocked Facebook and its messenger app, but it has previously used internet shutdowns as a tool to curb the spread of protests.

Four supporters of the Islamist group Hefazat-e-Islam were killed on Friday after police opened fire when protesters allegedly attacked a police station in the southeastern town of Chittagong.

**India records 62,258 new coronavirus infections**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
New Delhi, March 27

according to Union health ministry data updated on Saturday.

Registering a steady increase for the 17th day in row, the highest single day rise so far this year, taking the nationwide Covid-19 tally to 1,19,08,910,

dropped to 94.85%, the data stated. The 62,258 new cases were reported in a span of 24 hours, the highest since October 16, 2020, while the death toll increased to 1,61,240 with 291 daily new fatalities, the highest in around three months.

## Disinvestment target of FY'22 achievable; LIC IPO to bring in ₹1 lakh cr: CEA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
New Delhi, March 27

**ASSERTING THAT THE** disinvestment target of ₹1.75 lakh crore for 2021-22 was "imminently achievable", chief economic advisor (CEA) KV Subramanian on Saturday said the proposed initial public offering (IPO) by LIC itself could garner ₹1 lakh crore for the government.

He also said retail inflation targeting by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has helped in bringing down the volatility and level of inflation. The RBI's Monetary Policy Committee has been mandated to maintain annual inflation at 4% until March 31, 2021, with an upper tolerance of 6% and lower limit of 2%.

Speaking at a virtual conference by Jana Small Finance Bank, Subramanian said the disinvestment target of ₹1.75 lakh crore for 2021-22 is actually a

carry over of the ₹2.10 lakh crore target set for the current fiscal ending March 31.

"Of this, BPCL privatisation and LIC listing were important contributors. There are estimates suggesting ₹75,000-80,000 crore or even higher can just come from the privatisation of BPCL itself. LIC IPO could bring in ₹1 lakh crore approximately," he said.

The government is selling its entire 52.98% stake in BPCL in the nation's biggest privatisation till date. Vedanta Group and private equity firms Apollo Global and I Squared Capital's Indian unit Think Gas have put in an expression of interest for buying the government's stake.

With regard to LIC's listing, the government has already got amendments in the LIC Act passed through Finance Bill 2021 in Parliament earlier this week.

POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)						
S. No.	Name of the branch	Name of the Account	Name of the borrower (Owner of the property)	Description of the property mortgaged	Date of demand notice	Date of possession notice affixed
1.	Dadri, Greater Noida	Shri Veer Pratap Singh & Kusum Singh S/o Sajjan Pal Singh	Shri Veer Pratap Singh & Kusum Singh S/o Sajjan Pal Singh	All that part and Parcel of the property consisting of EM of Property Unit No. Tulip-12A 3rd Floor, Eldeco Residency, Green Plot No. 12, Pocket-B, Sec. PI Greater Noida (U.P.)	20.11.2019	25.03.2021
2.	Sadopur Ki Jhal, G.B. Nagar	Sh. Omprakash Bhati S/o Netram Singh	Sh. Omprakash Bhati S/o Netram Singh	All that part and Parcel of the property consisting of EM of H. No. 390 Block-G, Sector Gamma 02, Greater Noida G B Nagar UP on 60.00 sq. Mtr. Covered Area 49.97 Sq. Mtr. Registered as Bahi No. 1 Jild No. 15849 Page No. 365-416 At Sr. no. 14777 Dt. 08.05.2014 at Sub-Registrar sadar Gautam Budh Nagar Owned and Processed by Shri Om Prakash Bhati S/o Netram Singh (Mortgagor & Guarantor)	26.07.2019	25.03.2021
3.	Commercial Belt Alpha 1	Mr. Krishan Kumar S/o Shri Rajender Singh & Rajender Singh	Mr. Krishan Kumar S/o Shri Rajender Singh & Rajender Singh	All that part and Parcel of the property consisting of EM of Flat No. 1102, 11th Floor, Block-4, of United Cascades at Plot No. 8 Sector-PI-2 Allstonia Estate, Greater Noida, UP	03.08.2017	25.03.2021

Date : 26.03.2021, Place : New Delhi

Authorized Officer, Punjab National Bank

dropped to 94.85%, the data stated. The 62,258 new cases were reported in a span of 24 hours, the highest since October 16, 2020, while the death toll increased to 1,61,240 with 291 daily new fatalities, the highest in around three months.

according to Union health ministry data updated on Saturday. Registering a steady increase for the 17th day in row, the highest single day rise so far this year, taking the nationwide Covid-19 tally to 1,19,08,910,



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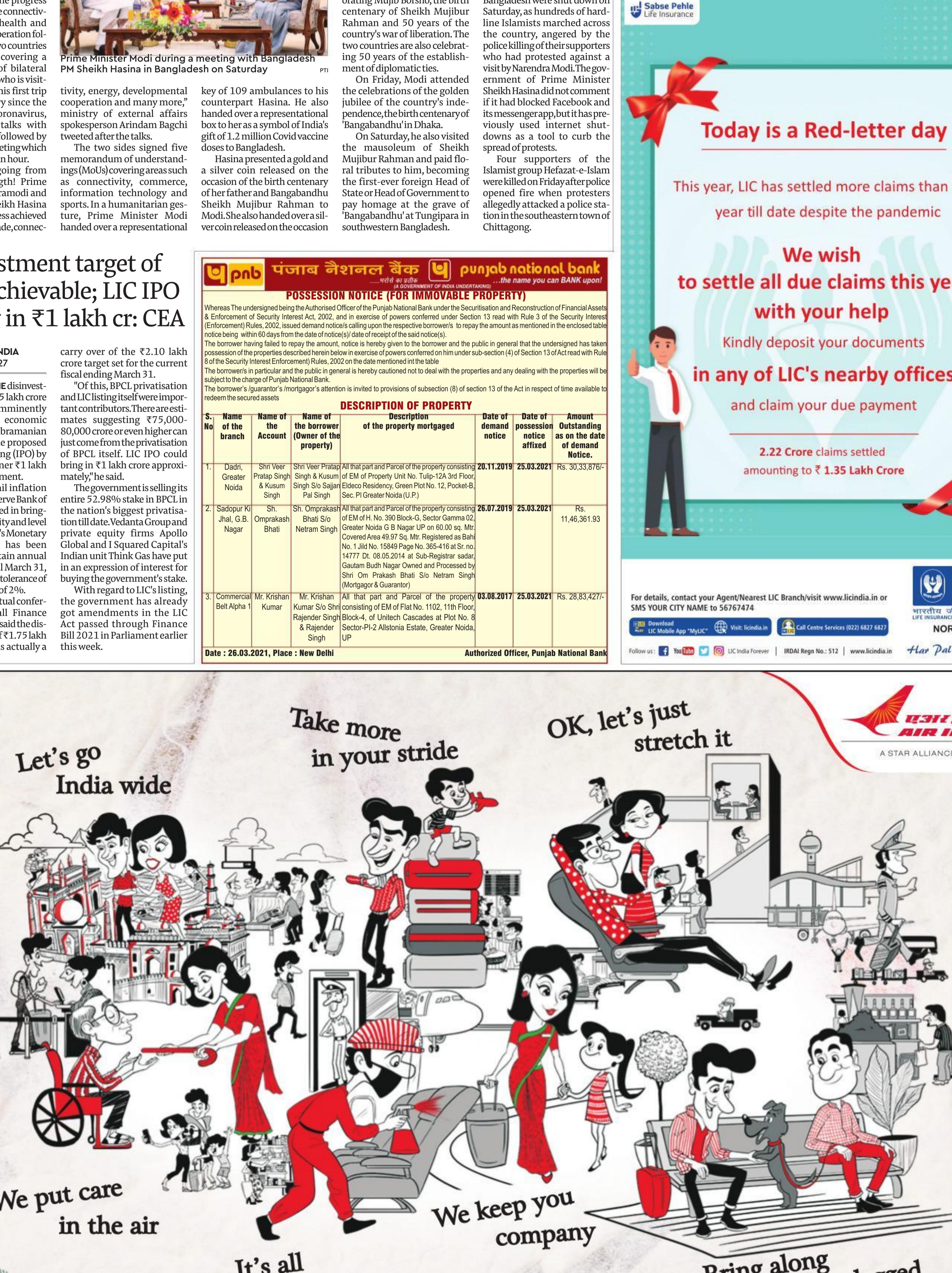
2.22 Crore claims settled amounting to ₹ 1.35 Lakh Crore

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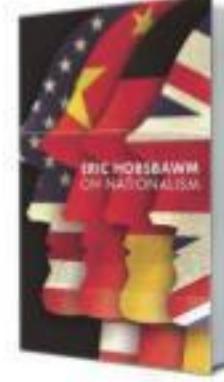
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# Words Worth

SUNDAY, MARCH 28, 2021

ON THE SHELF



ON NATIONALISM  
Eric Hobsbawm Hachette Pp400, ₹799

## The times they are a-changin'

The world is dynamic, and businesses have to keep pace, especially with technology

MADAN SABNAVIS

**T**HETHOUGHTTHAT we should be forward-looking is more than a philosophical advice for an individual and holds for companies too. We have seen how several companies were not able to predict the future of their businesses and hence had multitude problems when change came. Rohit Bhargava, the author of *Non-Obvious Trends*, talks on the same lines in this book on how enterprise should be able to predict these changes, if not be the agent of transformation, so that one remains in business.

This is not easy, as one needs to understand what the final customer wants and how she adapts to these new products or services. Also, technology, which is simultaneously a blessing and challenge, has to be handled with delicacy. One would never have thought that it is possible to have a holiday without going to a hotel and this is where the homestay concept caught on. We all know that e-commerce has caught on, but this is not just a deal between the individual and an e-commerce platform, as the final product is being dispatched through the supplier who has to create structures to maintain business.

Bhargava, who has been the author of the signature *Non-Obvious Trend Report* for over 10 years, talks of 10 mega trends that will transform the way we work and live. There are also caveats everywhere that point to what we should watch out for. For example, we all are more conscious of the environment and what appeared to be a fad today is a real fear as we see what ecological damage can do to our lives. The recent tragedy in Chamoli in Uttarakhand just reinforces this thought process as people are more cognisant of how we produce and deliver goods and services. Therefore, sustainability has caught on, as there is a palpable fear that those companies or products which pollute the environment will not just affect future generations but also us in our lifespan.

Corporates are hence more cognisant of how they do business as their customers are more discerning.

Another mega trend that we can associate with is the 'plethora of data' that is now available for doing not just analysis, but also has the potential to influence us. The recent controversy on how social media was tracked to find our preferences, which were then fed by political parties, is not just American but is present everywhere. Hence the question is where does your privacy end and how do we control the misuse of such data?

Interestingly, the author points out that gone are the days when we left feedback on hotels or restaurants or even an Uber ride. Just like how we leave our view behind, the same is done by the supplier of the good to the extent that misbehaviour with a taxi operator multiple times can have us blocked from using the services forever. We have seen this happening already for something like air travel where airlines bar people who misbehave from travelling. The same can happen with other services as technology transcends all frontiers. Hence while technology has eased our lives, we need to know we are being tracked every moment and such information has potential of being misused.

THE PLETHORA OF DATA THAT IS NOW AVAILABLE FOR US TO DO ANALYSIS ALSO HAS THE POTENTIAL TO INFLUENCE US



A file photo of a worker assembling commercial data servers for cloud computing at a Hewlett-Packard manufacturing facility in Houston, US

REUTERS



**Non Obvious Mega Trends**  
Rohit Bhargava  
Ideapress  
Pp 258, ₹599

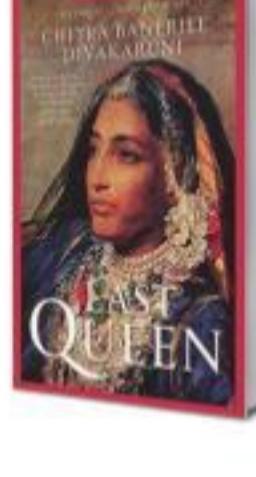
In fact, an interesting point raised by the author is that since our attention span is coming down thanks to this new-age technology where we look for immediate gratification, media has been exploiting the same by filling our vision with so-called breaking news which can be meaningless but works to make it addictive so that we view the channel, thus garnering advertising revenue for the channel. This is something we all can identify with given the recent developments in the media space in India.

Another mega trend that is emerging is the concept of ungendering, which is moving away from stereotypes. This is actually necessary as several products that are designed are for men and women have to adjust and the most glaring example is cars, where the height and leg space have not really kept women in mind as the target is men. It holds for other products and services too and this is changing quite fast. This starts from the children's toys range where products are meant specifically for boys or girls. Here, too, mindsets are changing because often genders do what they were traditionally told to do.

At the individual level, too, there has been growth in individualism where we all work towards projecting an identity which gets buttressed on social media where we get judged. This influences the way people see and judge us. Therefore, even this micro trend is important when companies do their research that goes into future planning.

Bhargava also tells us about the attributes required for spotting such trends. We need to have a particular type of mindset that can be developed if we do not have these qualities that go into making this framework. As a reader, you can pose these questions to oneself. Are you observant? Are you curious? Can you be fickle in the sense of being able to move on? Are you thoughtful? Can you craft beautiful ideas? We need to cultivate these traits or rather trends in our way of thinking before we can look outside and be successful in picking up what is required to build a successful business idea.

*Madan Sabnavis is chief economist, CARE Ratings*



**The Last Queen**  
Chitra Banerjee  
Divakaruni  
HarperCollins  
Pp 372, ₹599

RITIKA SHARMA

**I**N HARPER LEE'S *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Atticus Finch remarks that "we never really understand a person until we consider things from their point of view, until we climb inside their skin and walk around in it". Perhaps, this is what Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni intends when she retells stories of the past from women's perspective.

Divakaruni has narrated the lives of mythical characters of Sita and Draupadi with diligence in the past. In her latest novel, *The Last Queen*, she writes the trials of a relatively recent queen, Punjab's Jindan Kaur. While we have a rich literature on the warrior men from Punjab of the 19th century, women have not got a fair deal. Divakaruni corrects the anomaly as she focuses on the favourite and last queen of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, who displayed the traits of both her husband and his son Daleep Singh. While Ranjit was a fierce heart, the son was a gullible man trapped in the machinations of British.

Jindan was a rare queen who manoeuvred through politics of the zenana, stood



The 1845 Battle of Ferozeshah, part of the first Anglo-Sikh War, which is chronicled through the protagonist's eyes in the book

## A warrior woman

The story of a Punjabi queen with politics, nostalgia and courage at the centre

up to the onslaught of British colonisation and lived as an exiled freedom fighter before going to England in her later years to reclaim her son. *The Last Queen* maps her journey as she confronted the British while braving two daunting tasks — staying relevant for the king lest she plummet the zenana's hierarchical ladder, and securing her son's heritage from the onslaught of Britain's

colonisation of India.

Though several women form the pivot around which revolves the narrative, at no point does it turn against men. In Ranjit Singh, the author has presented a ruler, a husband and, most importantly, a teacher for Jindan who not only inducts her into royalty but also in statecraft. He was a ruler who was not insecure of buttressing his queen's growth beyond the

quotidian affairs. Their relationship itself makes Jindan's life a relevant read for our times. It would help our patriarchal society to take cues from history.

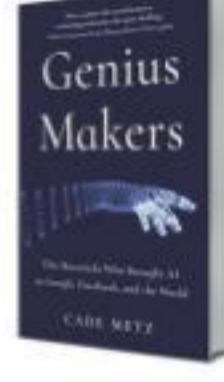
Women from across the hierarchical order of the zenana, ranging from maids like Mangla, to queens like Rani Guddan, Chand Kaur and Pathani, who were denied their share in history, find their rightful place in the book and epitomise resilience

Ritika Sharma is academic resource officer, Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla

New Delhi

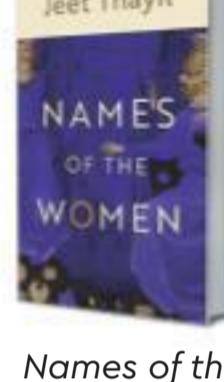


In the last two decades the use of the term 'nationalism' has increased steeply with the rising tide of nationalist parties. In this collection of Hobsbawm's writing on nationalism, one can read some of the critical historical insights he brings to this contentious subject, which is more than ever relevant as we stand on the doorstep of an age when internet and globalisation of capital threaten to blow away national boundaries.



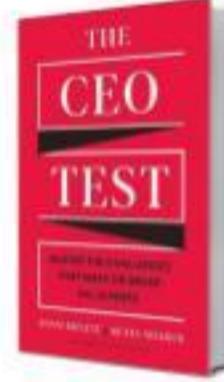
**THE GENIUS MAKERS**  
Cade Metz  
Penguin  
Random House  
₹799

Long dismissed as a technology of the distant future, artificial intelligence was a project once consigned to the fringes of the scientific community. Then two researchers changed everything. One was a 64-year-old computer science professor with a back problem. The other was a 36-year-old neuroscientist. Though they took different paths, together they helped catapult AI to the forefront of our daily lives.



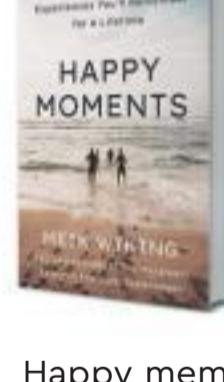
**NAMES OF THE WOMEN**  
Jeet Thayil  
Penguin  
Random House  
₹699

*Names of the Women* begins with Christ on the Cross, addressing Mary of Magdala, asking her to bear witness to his death. As the novel unfolds, it tells the stories of 15 women whose lives overlapped with the life of Christ. Lydia and Asia, Martha and Mary of Bethany, Junia the Widow of Jerusalem, Susanna the Barren, Ariamne, the Canaanite, and others whose names have been spoken only in passing or not at all.



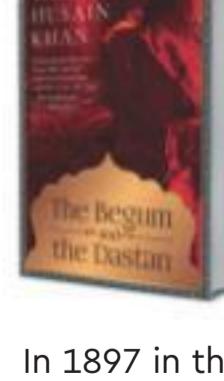
**THE CEO TEST**  
Adam Bryant & Kevin Sharer  
Penguin  
Random House  
₹1,250

*The CEO Test* is a guide to navigating leadership's toughest challenges. Adam Bryant has conducted in-depth interviews with more than 600 CEOs. Kevin Sharer spent more than two decades as president and then CEO of Amgen, where he led its expansion from \$1 billion in annual revenues to nearly \$16 billion. He has served on many boards and is a sought-after mentor for CEOs.



**HAPPY MOMENTS**  
Meik Wiking  
Penguin  
Random House  
₹499

Happy memories do not have to be reserved for big life events. Drawing on global surveys, behavioural science experiments and data gathered by The Happiness Research Institute in Copenhagen, Wiking shows how we can turn ordinary experiences into something extraordinary. This book will help you find the magic in the every day, and create memories you will cherish forever.



**THE BEGUM AND THE DASTAN**  
Tarana Husain Khan  
Westland

In 1897 in the princely state of Sherpur, Feroza Begum, beautiful and wilful, defies her family to attend the *sawani* celebrations at Nawab Shams Ali Khan's Benazir Palace. Feroza is kidnapped and detained in the Nawab's glittering harem, her husband is forced to divorce her, and her family disowns her. Reluctantly, Feroza marries the Nawab, and is compelled to negotiate the glamour and sordidness of the harem.

All books available as e-books

# Leisure

SUNDAY, MARCH 28, 2021

REYA MEHROTRA

**K**HOL DO. THESE are mere words until one reads Saadat Hasan Manto's great work by the same name, considered a pioneer in partition literature. The strikingly shocking and bitterly true account of crimes on women during partition sends shivers down the spine, jolting one out of their stupor. Such is the power of art. It moves you, making you undergo a sort of catharsis.

Though not as great in stature as colonial, partition or post-colonial literature, the art being churned out in the pandemic and post-pandemic era is nothing short of iconic itself, as it captures the psychological, emotional and economic upheaval of these times. As for the people behind this art, they remain one of the most severely impacted, with many artists having lost their stage, audience, as well as their livelihoods. And that's what 'Art in Isolation', a conference at the Bihar Museum's first-ever Museum Biennale (which started on March 22 and concludes today) delved upon, discussing the impact of the pandemic on artists and enquiring how they overcame the uncertainty and chaos through their creative language.

Times and culture have always influenced art and literature. Think of the dark political influence on Shakespeare's tragedies or Vincent van Gogh's famous *Starry Nights*, which the artist painted during his time in a mental asylum. Though not as severe, but current times have also impacted artists in a multitude of ways.

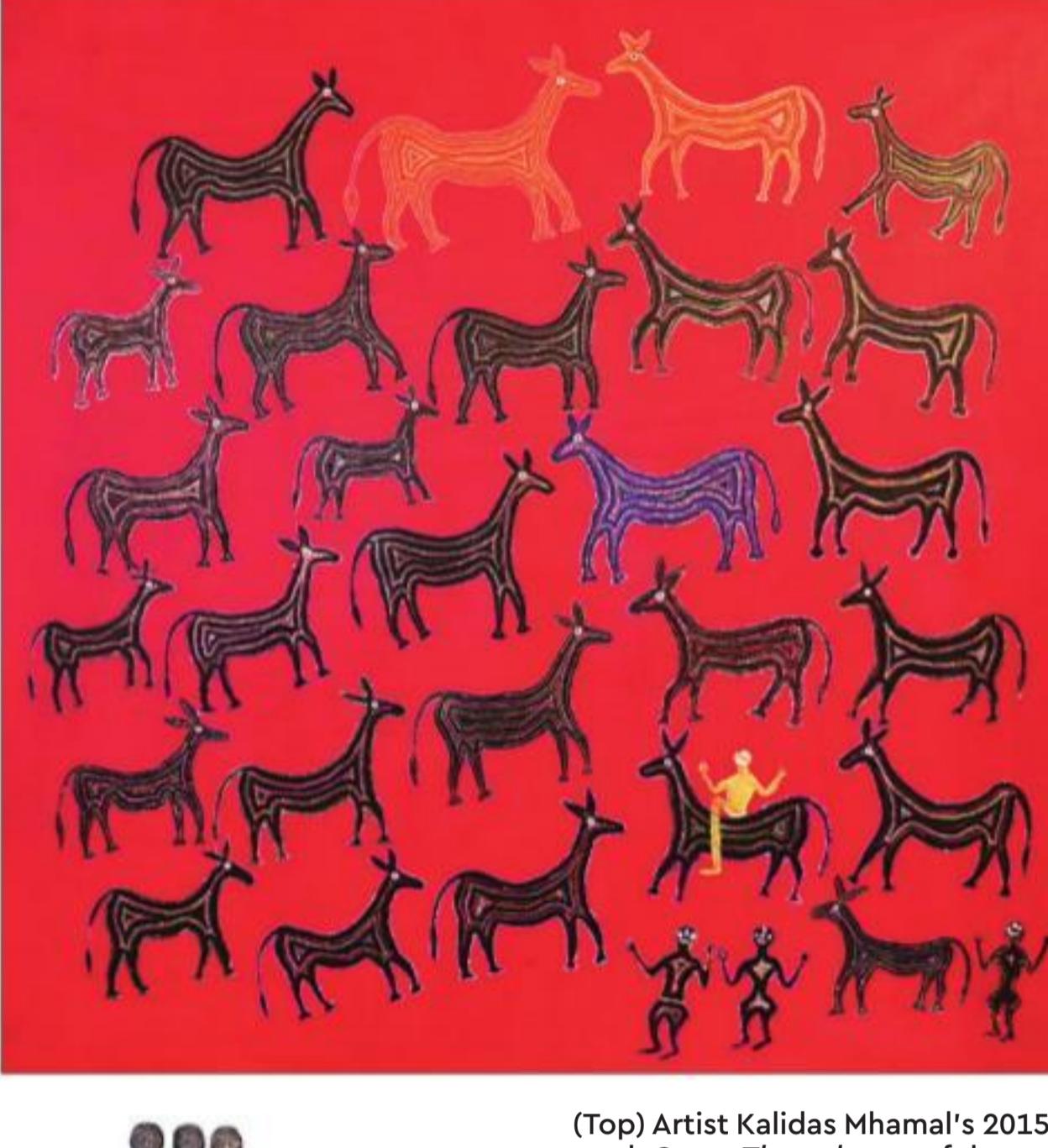
## Art in pandemic

The pandemic has been both a boon and curse for artists, feels Delhi-based Alka Pande, project director and curator, Bihar Museum Biennale. "For certain people, isolation has given them time to reflect and think, which they never had earlier with pressures of everyday living. Art created in isolation has its own energy and gravitas. For writers, visual artists, painters and sculptors who work in solitary confinement... their work has become more intense and thoughtful. It has been a great period of creativity because they have the luxury of time to create work," offers Pande.

But there's been a downside as well and it's too prominent to ignore. "Many artists in isolation have had a change in mental landscapes—they have anxiety, insecurity about whether they will be able to survive. Before the pandemic, it was a happy time, the economy was buoyant. In India, particularly, there was an upsurge of hope, but with the pandemic, there's uncertainty of future, conflict, anxiety and mental health issues, so this is definitely going to reflect in their work," explains Pande, who has taken a two-year sabbatical to come out of the pandemic.

Not everyone, however, has been so fortunate. "It is tragic that artists, weavers and performing artistes have lost their livelihoods and have had to adapt to other means," says Pande. "There's no money for the arts. The economy is in a shambles, money is being used for sustenance and health and essential services like food, so how can you look at the creative process that is innovative? Innovation happens both in times of strife and in times of great booming economies. But at this time, when people have had to look for alternative livelihoods, we must live in gratitude to be able to have access to those alternative livelihoods."

Pande believes the pandemic's impact on the human psyche will reflect in creative works in the long term. "Many have even started writing about food and diets during the pandemic—all immediate issues. But we'll just have to wait and watch and let the whole thing sink through the layers of memory of imagination. A whole new literature is going to evolve from this

(Top) An installation at Bihar Museum; and (above) Krishen Khanna's oil on canvas, *A Far Afternoon*, at Piramal Museum of Art

(Top) Artist Kalidas Mhamal's 2015 work *Caste Thread*, part of the collection of Museum of Goa; and (above) artist Ladoo Bai's acrylic on canvas, *Pithora Horses*, at Kanha Museum of Life and Art, Madhya Pradesh

(Left) *Banam*, a string instrument designed as a human body in wood and leather, at Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, Bhopal



A WHOLE NEW LITERATURE IS GOING TO EVOLVE FROM THIS EXPERIENCE OF THE PANDEMIC

ALKI PANDE  
Project director & curator,  
Bihar Museum Biennale

## New curriculum

For a nation obsessed with medical and engineering degrees, there's good news for those inclined towards the arts. There could soon be a university of arts in the country for those looking at probable career options in the field of arts. The university is being planned by Bihar's art, culture and youth depart-

ment to support the art and cultural history of the state and its local artists. Calling it great news, Pande, who has been in the field for the last 35 years, says, "When I say I am doing fine arts, people say, 'Finance?' Art history is a subject which many people don't know. They understand history, but art history is something which is still new. So it is important to have a university for arts. I believe art is all about innovation and new ideas."

The dynamics have completely changed today, feels Pande. As compared to the earlier days when one chose arts if one could not get into commerce, law or science colleges, art today is becoming more and more significant. "A university for liberal arts is very important for our country to relook at our heritage, culture and practices of art... these can only be relooked at when we look at art education. It needs complete overhauling. The art school still comes under the department of technical education. Pedagogy is very much required for the establishment of an art course in post-independence India."

Pande calls for a renaissance of our learning philosophy, literature, ideas, performing arts and traditional arts to create a new language, stressing upon the need for a university where people can take pride in their national identity. "What we need is a contemporary practice that has both tradition and modernity, which is a part of India's culturally diverse landscape. We need to relook at our Indic wisdom, which is being ignored and has gone into oblivion," says Pande.



Didarganj Yakshi, a sculpture at Bihar Museum, Patna

same flavourful richness. Few stick with the real stuff and merely cut down the overall intake, which is the smarter thing to do. Sugar may not have many properties when it comes to health (well, it does, but let's tuck that away for now), but its one chief property is to convey flavour. Too little and a dessert can seem too bland.

The same happens when one is stingy with salt or the sour element. These are basic catalysts for our sensory receptors and, without them, other flavours (which are primarily olfactory) feel weak and diluted. Chocolate is more chocolatey when tinged with salt, watermelon juice is enhanced with a touch of lemon juice. The same way, sugar brings many flavours to the front. These aren't just grandma tricks, there's biochemical science behind it.

So it is with ice creams, shakes, sodas, mixers, chocolates and desserts—all these need sugar. Some more, some get by with lesser, but to limit the sugar content not by taste, but by measuring on a calorie scale is the dullest way to design a product. Sadly, many brands out there seem intent on doing precisely that. The protein sachets from the new brand Habbit are the only ones which didn't taste like a lab cocktail of

amino acids. However, with their ice cream (sold under the trying-too-hard moniker of "Wise Cream" "shudder\*"), in the thrill of being sub-40 calories per serving, I think they forgot to actually taste the final product, which, although creamy, had the flavour intrigue of cardboard. Frankly, I would rather get a good gelato with all its sugary and creamy calorific goodness (Naturals comes to mind; Venezia is another brand I recently tried at the Italian embassy and highly recommend). But instead of gorging on it everyday, I'd reduce it to once a week (or fortnight) and have a proper full-blown treat rather than some compromised cup of "looks like ice cream".

The same logic I extend to colas and desserts. Have the real deal. Just have lesser and less frequently. To think you can eat more of something just because it packs in fewer calories is not the right way to approach health. The joy of enjoying something and how it shows best, even if it be so with sugar or salt, might become a limited indulgence. The dropped frequency will make it much anticipated and that joy, at best ephemeral, will at least be real.

The writer is a sommelier



SUGAR  
MAY NOT HAVE  
MANY PROPERTIES  
WHEN IT COMES TO  
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CHIEF PROPERTY IS  
TO CONVEY  
FLAVOUR

## The sweet riddle

Sugar may be the enemy as per many diet fads, but to eschew it entirely is not a good idea

### BETWEEN SIPS



Magandeep Singh

THE TROUBLE WITH fad diets is that often they're backed by hollow research. The word 'fad' precedes such habits and yet that doesn't stop millions from flocking to it, as if some magic mantra will do to their bodies what thousands of years of empirical proof has shown to behave contrarily otherwise. The body works a certain way and attempts to tinker with it in the extreme sense produce drastic and sudden results. But most often, while these results are shortlived, the repercussions can fester for much longer, surfacing even decades after.

One such trend is to eschew sugar entirely. Now, hold on to your carb-riddled angst and allow me to elucidate. Sugar is, I admit, the world's most legal drug, one with a considerable lead on the second-most legal drug: caffeine. There are no checks on how much one adds to their products even while alcohol and nicotine get taxed. And cannabis? Let's not even start. But sugar and caffeine march through all doors, not even surreptitiously, but brazenly and unabashedly, as if their names were on top of the VIP list.

In a world growing more obese with each century, and especially in our country, one that is plagued by malnutrition and diseases of affluence at the same time, conscious consumption is the only way to prevent long-term harm. So I understand the need to reduce sugar, watch that caffeine and take steps to eat and live healthier.

But to remove all sugar is not a good idea for multiple reasons. First of all, some is not bad, we just need to be mindful of how much we consume. It's worse when people substitute it with alternatives like aspartame and think they are doing their bodies a favour by guzzling cans of zero-cal sodas and drinks. Others switch to Stevia, which may be better, but doesn't deliver the

same flavourful richness. Few stick with the real stuff and merely cut down the overall intake, which is the smarter thing to do. Sugar may not have many properties when it comes to health (well, it does, but let's tuck that away for now), but its one chief property is to convey flavour. Too little and a dessert can seem too bland. The same happens when one is stingy with salt or the sour element. These are basic catalysts for our sensory receptors and, without them, other flavours (which are primarily olfactory) feel weak and diluted. Chocolate is more chocolatey when tinged with salt, watermelon juice is enhanced with a touch of lemon juice. The same way, sugar brings many flavours to the front. These aren't just grandma tricks, there's biochemical science behind it.

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# Spotlight

SUNDAY, MARCH 28, 2021



## TEETING OFF

Before tees, a stand used to support and elevate a stationary ball prior to striking, golf players would shape mounds of sand and place the golf ball on top. Tees were finally popularised in the 1920s

VAISHALI DAR

**L**EWITHALL sports, post-pandemic golf is a little different. Common sights like bunker rakes, water coolers, trashbins, ball washers, etc., are now completely avoided. There is no exchange of score cards as players mark their own scores. Hugs and handshakes have been replaced by tapping putters. Air five works best to celebrate strokes. The intention is to minimise touch, but get the maximum out of the spirit of the game. And the spirit of the game is certainly not lost.

Amid all the social distancing norms, the rules of the game may have been slightly twisted, but the sport is thriving and how. In fact, in a nation that worships cricket, golf is gradually getting a clear advantage. And it's easy to see why, as golf allows social distancing in a natural environment. One doesn't have to share clubs or balls and open areas facilitate and help maintain pandemic rules. Many golf clubs have even implemented a one-rider per-cart policy to avoid contact. "Despite Covid-19, this is one outdoor sport which was permitted and still has the best advantage. Participants don't have to mesh together," says 77-year-old golfer Ravinder Singh Bedi, former president, Delhi Golf Club. "With a number of events cancelled last year, new people got into playing, so they saw it as a relatively safe activity. They eagerly took advantage of this game, as it takes you away from a depressing environment," he adds.

## Surging interest

With more Indian amateurs turning professional, there are high hopes for the future and popularity of the game. Youngsters started taking to the game in droves over the last decade or so, buoyed by the international success of players like Anirban Lahiri, Shubhankar Sharma, who inspired many of them. "I was inspired by the first lot of Indian golfers who made it big—Jyoti Randhawa, Arjun Atwal and Jeev Milkha Singh—and have gone on to play at the highest level. The interest is on the rise, especially when youngsters see a future in it. Especially with Tiger Woods, who was among a few players to take off in the game and caught the imagination of the younger generation," says Delhi-based golfer Rohit Sahdev. "The club responded its renovated course in November 2019 to attract national and international golf opportunities."

Agrees Pune-based Sampath Chari, tournament director, Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI)—the controlling body for professional golf in India. "It's more an old man's game. It has a lot to do with fitness and hitting the ball straight. Woods is impeccable when it comes to achieving play and performance, especially for the young generation," says Chari, who has been part of the Indian golf scene for more than two decades.

Talking about the increasing number of golf players in the country, Kolkata-based Shrin Shankar Prasad Chawrasia, the two-time winner of Hero Indian Open (in 2016 and 2017), says, "In the past decade, the game has been upwards. There are more Indian players coming from various clubs, say, about 15-20 players unlike one or two every year."

There are about 5,300 members in the DLF Golf and Country Club, one of the most prestigious golf clubs in Asia-Pacific; there's been an increase in demand for membership and regular usage by existing members. There has been a change in perception in the last decade, says Gurugram-based Ashish Ohr, senior executive director, DLF Home Developers, which manages DLF Golf and Country Club. "About a decade ago, it was thought of as the game for the older and the elite. Today, it has changed perception, as it is one of the new sports that brings together players of all ages and abilities. Newcomers, who belong to the younger age groups and from varied sections of society, have access to the game now more than before," says Ohr.

Nevertheless, 2020 was a watershed year for golf, with many events and tournaments being canceled. Individual participation, however, hasn't been impacted. Many, in fact, describe the game as an heirloom that passes down generations and a



EXPRESS PHOTO



In the past decade, the graph has been upwards. There are more Indian players coming from various clubs, say, about 15-20 players unlike one or two every year

— GOLFER SHIV SHANKAR PRASAD CHAWRASIA, TWO-TIME WINNER OF THE HERO INDIAN OPEN



Though there are a few upcoming courses in India, it is still far away from equalising the golfing standards in other Asian countries. If the game has to grow, it should be accessible to the common man

— SAMPATH CHARI, TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR, PROFESSIONAL GOLF TOUR OF INDIA, THE CONTROLLING BODY FOR PROFESSIONAL GOLF IN INDIA

infrastructure and better funding. It is still an unorganised sport," says Delhi-based golfer Sahdev.

As most professionals come from affluent backgrounds, it becomes difficult for those with humble backgrounds to get a break. Kolkata-based golfer Chawrasia, however, is an exception. Known in the circuit as SSP, he is the son of a greens keeper, who picked up the game while staying at Kolkata's Royal Calcutta Golf Club (RCGC) when he was six. "There are few courses in the country largely run by private players. The state governments must show interest in constructing public courses, so that more amateurs and those not so privileged have access to play," asserts Chawrasia. Last year, in December, he started the SSP Foundation, in association with the RCGC, to impart training to 20 underprivileged kids.

Besides golf's development, Chawrasia is looking forward to back-to-back events this year. "We just had the Qatar Masters and Kenya Open... this will be followed by Spain in May and then the Indian Open in Delhi. I am looking forward to a good game in 2022," he says.

## Purse strings

In 2020, golf was majorly hit as top corporate tournaments—Asian Tour's Royal Cup 2020 in Thailand, European Tour's Kenya Open in Kenya—were called off. Industry experts projected a loss of ₹100 crore with European Tour's flagship ₹1.75-million Hero Indian Open, PGTI events and corporate tournaments (Audi Quattro Cup, Mercedes Trophy, BMW International Cup, Volvo World Golf Challenge, among others) being called off.

But things have improved steadily over the years when it comes to purse money, with most entities involved in sponsoring tournaments looking to improve the environment. Events with prize money of ₹3-6 lakh in the early 2000s have now scaled up to a range starting from ₹30 lakh and going up to ₹2 crore in professional golf. The purse money also depends on the size of the tournament, shares Utam Singh Mundy, CEO, PGTI. "A lot of youngsters are coming to play the game and make a living. As more people take interest, that helps the game to grow. We are making strides slowly but steadily," says Mundy, who organised four events in November and December 2020 in Panchsheel, Chandigarh and Jalandhar amid safety precautions. The sponsors were Tata Steel and Tata Solutions. "We expect two tournaments every month in various places in India, but it's tough to get sponsorship as companies are affected. With the introduction of new sponsors and brands like Gujarat Tourism and Glade One, a golf course and resort based in Ahmedabad, it is good news for the sport," shares Mundy.

Golf is also an expensive sport to play regularly. The cheapest club starts at around ₹15,000 and goes up to over ₹2 lakh, excluding shoes, gloves, etc. The estimate of green fee for a non-member (fee paid for the privilege of playing on a golf course per session) starts at about ₹1,500 and goes up to ₹6,500 per session at a private or exclusive club.

The PGTI has been struggling for a while now and the pandemic has certainly not helped, says Delhi-based golfer Meenaj Shah, who also writes about the game. "Player sponsorships are lacking and it's wealthy kids or children of people in the armed forces and caddies, who continue to dominate the player pool. Despite the game being included in the Olympics, there has been little initiative by the government to promote the game. For instance, Delhi has one municipal golf course in Qutab and one driving range at Siri Fort, where people can pick up the game relatively inexpensively. Club memberships are not coming down, only going up, and sponsorship is only likely to increase with more public interest in the game," says Shah.

All said and done, 2021 is the year to look forward to as this year three big tournaments are back-to-back and pro will be able to attend all in one go. In October, there is the Asian PGA tour with three tournaments—DLF Indian Open, Panasonic Open and Delhi Golf Club Open—which will give a big fillip to the game in India.

Asian countries like China, Malaysia, Thailand and Japan, if the game has to grow, it should be accessible to the common man," says Chartan International referee certified by The Royal & Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews, Scotland, who has officiated in tournaments on the PGTI calendar, Asian Tour and joint European Tour events since 2006.

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Lack of professional training, infrastructure and funding are also major issues. "The purse in India is not huge yet. Also, we lack in factors like government policies,

# THE UNSTOPPABLE GOLFER

With six Asian, four European and four Japan Tour titles, Jeev Milkha Singh is India's most decorated golfer. In a candid chat, Singh, who turns 50 this year, talks about his plans for 2022, eyeing the senior circuit and why he wants to continue playing the game



SINGH HOPES  
2021 WILL GIVE HIM  
TIME & OPPORTUNITIES  
TO PURSUE THE GAME IN  
2022 WHEN HE TOURS FOR  
THREE MAJORS—BRITISH  
SENIOR OPEN, US SENIOR  
OPEN AND SENIOR  
PGA CHAMPIONSHIP

VAISHALI DAR

**L**AST YEAR, MANY Indian golfers were looking forward to realise their dream of playing in the US Open, one of the world's most prestigious tournaments and the toughest major tour. But its cancellation in the aftermath of the pandemic left many disappointed. For Jeev Milkha Singh, who has played in the US Open five times, the major holds a special place too.

"This year is crucial for my health and practice since I am preparing to play in the world's top events in the senior circuit which start in January 2022," says the veteran golfer. Singh, who turns 50 this year in December, is eligible for the seniors and, as a result, spends hours on his practice, play and productivity. Extremely cautious of his playoff, he wants to continue playing the game in the later days of his life, calling golf the sport of a lifetime where professionals can earn for life. "Unlike other sports, the best thing about this game is the future prospect and the incredible opportunities to earn a decent prize money even when one is in their 50s. I wish to remain competitive and play for another decade or so. Once I turn 50 this year, I become eligible to compete

in the seniors' circuit and I have already started preparing for it. I try to do quality practice nowadays and play 18 holes. If you are not fit and your body is not working, you can't perform on the senior tour. That's why I emphasise on fitness. I have to continue working on my body, so I can play good golf," says Singh, adding, "I didn't have the right guidance when I was young, especially with my shoulder injuries. I didn't know the right exercise and what I was supposed to follow. But today's generation has special guidance in institutes, clubs, so they know what muscle works in golf and can last for years. If I would have worked on muscle, I wouldn't have been injured that much. Now, I make sure my core is strong enough, as it is important in the game... and especially after 40, when muscles shrink, one has to work on muscle mass, do lightweight training along with working on enough flexibility for the game. All this should last till the decade."

Continuing the sporting legacy of his parents—father Milkha Singh, India's greatest sprinter, and mother Nirmal Kaur, former captain of the Indian women's volleyball team—Singh has imbibed the practice of good habits. For young players, he advises three things set high standards, have the goal of winning a major championship, and believe in yourself. "It's a young sport. If you're not in your 20s and going after winning big championships, then you can't win. There's so much competition in today's day and age that one needs to start young. Have a goal, set high standards... that's the only way you can win," he signs off.

## POWER DRIVE

In a nation that worships cricket, golf is gradually getting its due with many finding it to be the safest sport in view of the pandemic. But there are still many challenges to be overcome



(Above) Golfers Shubhankar Sharma and Anirban Lahiri (right) have inspired many youngsters

between the ears', golf is a challenging sport due to the mental strength and physical resilience required to cover the massive yards of turf. There are other challenges as well. For starters, there are just around 100 courses in India with minimal access to the public. There is also the lack of officials and referees. "We have approximately 40-50 officials and referees in India as compared to countries like the US with more than 1,000 qualified referees. Also, the government should focus on opening more public golf courses. In countries like the US, Korea and Japan, there are plenty of public driving ranges and golf courses. Though there are a few upcoming courses in India, it is still far away from equalising the golfing standards in other

countries like China, Malaysia, Thailand and Japan. If the game has to grow, it should be accessible to the common man," says Chartan International referee certified by The Royal & Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews, Scotland, who has officiated in tournaments on the PGTI calendar, Asian Tour and joint European Tour events since 2006.



Obstacle course  
Predominantly played in 'the six inches'

SUNDAY, MARCH 28, 2021

# Fe Lines

STORIES AND TRENDS FROM INDIA AND AROUND THE WORLD THAT CAUGHT OUR FANCY



Everydays: The First 5000 Days by digital artist Beeple

REUTERS

## A cryptic world

Art has always created new possibilities, making us think beyond our imaginations. The latest are digital works and cryptocurrencies which are transforming the landscape of art

VAISHALI DAR

**T**ECHNOLOGY OR AESTHETICS are not binary opposites. The pencil and the pixel are both valid and valuable instruments to manifest an artistic impulse," says Mumbai-based artist Jitish Kallat. There is no doubt that the future of art lies in both technology and aesthetics. "Art is always a combination of serious inquiry and play... the studio is at once a laboratory, a silent sanctuary and a funhouse," adds Kallat.

He is right, as art has always created new possibilities—complex and brilliant—making us think beyond our imagination. Last year, the banana duct tape artwork, for instance, was a brilliant example of how the meaning and importance of objects change depending on the context—sometimes irreverent, sometimes whimsical.

This year, it's Beeple's digital art piece *Everydays: The First 5000 Days*, which has introduced the world to the changing art landscape, where crypto art is a big hit. US-based Mike Winkelmann, also known as Beeple, created a drawing every single day for the last thirteen-and-a-half years. From starting with a pen and paper to now computer software (such as the program Cinema 4D), the jpeg file collage was offered as a single-lot sale and realised \$69.3 million (roughly ₹503 crore).

Christie's became the first major auction house to offer a purely digital work with a unique NFT (non-fungible token)—effectively a guarantee of its authenticity—and to accept cryptocurrency (in this case, Ether) in addition to standard forms of payment for the singular lot. "Christie's had never offered a

new media artwork of this scale or importance before," says Noah Davis, specialist in post-war and contemporary art at Christie's in New York. "Acquiring Beeple's work is a unique opportunity to own an entry in the blockchain, itself created by one of the world's leading digital artists."

As per reports, Vignesh Sundaresan (a Singapore-based blockchain entrepreneur, coder and angel investor), who identified himself as 'Metakovan', is the buyer of Beeple's art piece.

So if blockchain becomes the future of art, can artists find better ways to sell their work? Aparajita Jain, co-owner and director, Nature Morte, a Delhi-based contemporary art gallery, feels the need to think of new provenance and authentication methods by using better means of technology is important. "We are seeing newer media art coming like blockchain-based art, artificial intelligence-based art, and an influx of both as the future of Indian art," she says.

Does blockchain technology make art collection easy and unique? NFTs, for one, are cryptographic tokens—unique pieces of information—that are used for

WITH BEEPLE'S DIGITAL ART, CHRISTIE'S BECAME THE FIRST MAJOR AUCTION HOUSE TO OFFER A PURELY DIGITAL WORK WITH A UNIQUE NFT—EFFECTIVELY A GUARANTEE OF ITS AUTHENTICITY

ownership records, digital items or domain names. This helps digital artists evaluate and sell their original works, which are bought by collectors with a record of ownership. While an authentic signature can be registered on a blockchain, there are, however, chances that the crypto-art market could be infiltrated by fakes or scammers.

Sotheby's, too, announced a partnership that will see it hold a sale of NFT-based digital art from an anonymous artist. In an interview with CNBC, Charles Stewart, CEO of Sotheby's, said his firm has been following the non-fungible token space for some time.

The music world is also hopeful of NFTs as a valuable revenue stream. An AFP report states that musicians are minting millions. For collectors, it's the right to ultimate ownership even if the work can be endlessly copied. For investors, it's a new commodity to be traded. This month, US rock band Kings of Leon raised more than \$2 million by auctioning NFT versions of its new album, as per Rolling Stone magazine. A quarter of the amount went to a solidarity fund for live event workers.

In India, though, there is uncertainty around cryptocurrencies since the government plans to bring in laws to ban digital money and fine people trading in it. A Reuters report says the new Bill proposes to criminalise possession, issuance, mining, trading and transferring crypto-assets, including Bitcoin, Dogecoin and other cryptocurrencies. The move has come after Bitcoin witnessed a surge in prices, as Tesla invested \$1.5 billion in it. Instead of a ban, cryptocurrency exchanges suggest the government should put them in the highest tax bracket.

## BOLLYWOOD & POLITICS

There is something about Bollywood and politics. The latter draws the biggest names from the film industry, the most recent being Mithun Chakraborty who has joined the BJP. But stars who shine bright on the big screen often fail in politics. Here are some who tried their hand at politics, but failed to succeed. By Reya Mehrotra



The actor had joined Congress in March 2019 and contested the Lok Sabha elections from the Mumbai North seat, but was unsuccessful. Later, in September of the same year, merely five months after joining the party, she quit, citing "petty politics" as the reason. Now, the actor says she wants to focus on good scripts and her career as an actor, and is experimenting with web shows. She joined the Shiv Sena in 2020.

Rekha

Known for her versatility and grace, actor Rekha has won many awards for her notable performances in movies like *Umrao Jaan* and *Khubsoorat*, and been part of critically- and commercially-acclaimed films like *Jyaazat*, *Silsila*, *Khoon Bhari Maang* and so on. Owing to her decades of contribution to cinema, she was nominated as a Rajya Sabha member in 2012 and still serves as one. However,

### Amitabh Bachchan

Bollywood's biggest star, too, had his share of failure in politics. In 1984, he took a break from films to join politics to support his long-time friend Rajiv Gandhi. He contested for the 8th Lok Sabha from Allahabad's seat and won, too, by a great margin. However, his political career was shortlived as he resigned after three years, following which he was implicated in the Bofors scandal. He was later found not guilty. He started supporting Samajwadi Party for his long-term friend Amar Singh, but did not join it.



in all these years, she has had one of the lowest attendances in the Rajya Sabha and has not asked many questions in the very few sessions she has attended.

### Sunny Deol

The Bollywood star turned to politics after a successful run at the silver screen for years. He is currently a member of parliament from Gurdaspur constituency of Punjab. He has often

been in controversies in his political career. In February 2020, at a rally in Pathankot, he said, "I do not believe in making controversial remarks, but everyone knows no one is better than me when it comes to beating up someone." He also drew flak when he hired a representative in Gurdaspur to attend meetings and follow important matters in his absence. He was called out for his short attendance in the 17th Lok Sabha.



### Shatrughan Sinha

He was a Lok Sabha member from 2009 to 2014 and a Rajya Sabha member from 1996 to 2008 for two terms. In the Vajpayee government, he served as the minister for health and family welfare and shipping and later between 2014 and 2019, a member of the standing committee and consultative committee in the ministry of external affairs and overseas Indian affairs. When he was not given a seat after the 2019 elections by BJP, he joined Congress.

### Javed Jaffrey

The actor, who has several movies and shows to his credit, joined the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in 2014. He contested the 2014 general election from Lucknow constituency, but finished fifth. He lost to Rajnath Singh after securing 41,429 votes. He has not been very active in politics after that. In 2014, he said that he had entered politics to "remove the shortcomings in

the system prevailing in the country."

### Mahesh Manjrekar

Mahesh Manjrekar has had a successful Bollywood career both as an actor and director. He is known for directing films like *Astitva*, *Vaatav* and *Viruddh*. In 2014, he joined politics by entering Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS), led by Raj Thackeray. He contested the 2014 elections from the Mumbai North West constituency. However, he lost to Shiv Sena's Gajanjan Kirtikar. He has continued his stint in films with the latest being *Mumbai Saga*.

### Shekhar Suman

The actor has managed his career successfully in films and TV. In fact, he won many accolades for his TV show *Movers & Shakers*. He fought the Lok Sabha election in 2009 from Patna Sahib as a part of Congress, but lost to Shatrughan Sinha who was contesting from the BJP. Later in 2012, he said a strict no to politics.

### Gul Panag

Actor Gul Panag wears many hats. She is a certified pilot, acclaimed actor, model, former beauty queen, half-marathon runner, biker and a social activist. In 2014, she was the candidate from Chandigarh for the AAP for the general elections. However, she secured the third position and lost to Kirron Kher. Her father HS Panag, a retired Lieutenant General in the Indian army, also joined AAP in 2014 after his retirement from the armed forces, but quit later.

# Footloose

SUNDAY, MARCH 28, 2021

## MUSICAL CULTURE

Sudan has a rich and unique musical culture that has been through chronic instability and repression during the modern history of Sudan. Northern Sudan listens to different music than the rest of Sudan



## Glimpses of Sudan's forgotten pyramids

**Desecrated by plunderers, threatened by floodwaters and largely overshadowed by their Egyptian counterparts, Sudan's ancient archaeological sites may finally be poised to receive broader recognition**

PHOTOGRAPHS & TEXT  
BY ALESSIO MAMO

**T**HE SITE WAS nearly deserted. A few locals were tidying up after recent restoration work, and young camel drivers were out looking for clients. In the mid-day heat, the bright glow of the desert helped focus my attention on the pyramids themselves. Situated on the east bank of the Nile, some 150 miles by car northeast of Sudan's capital, Khartoum, the Meroe pyramids — around 200 in total, many of them in ruins — seemed to be in perfect harmony with the surrounding landscape, as if the wind had smoothed their edges to accommodate them among the dunes.

Throughout the 30-year dictatorship of Omar Hassan al-Bashir, who led Sudan through a long series of wars and famines, the pyramids of Meroe saw few international visitors and remained relatively unknown. But among the many consequences of the revolution that led to al-Bashir's ouster in 2019 was the hope that the country's archaeological sites might receive broader attention and protections, not simply from researchers and international visitors but also from Sudanese citizens themselves.

I travelled to Sudan in February and March of 2020, just a few days before pandemic lockdowns fell into place in my home country of Italy. I was attracted to a nation that had managed — through the strength, creativity and determination of its people — to free itself from a dictator-



ship. And I was keen to meet and photograph the protagonists and young actors of this historic moment.

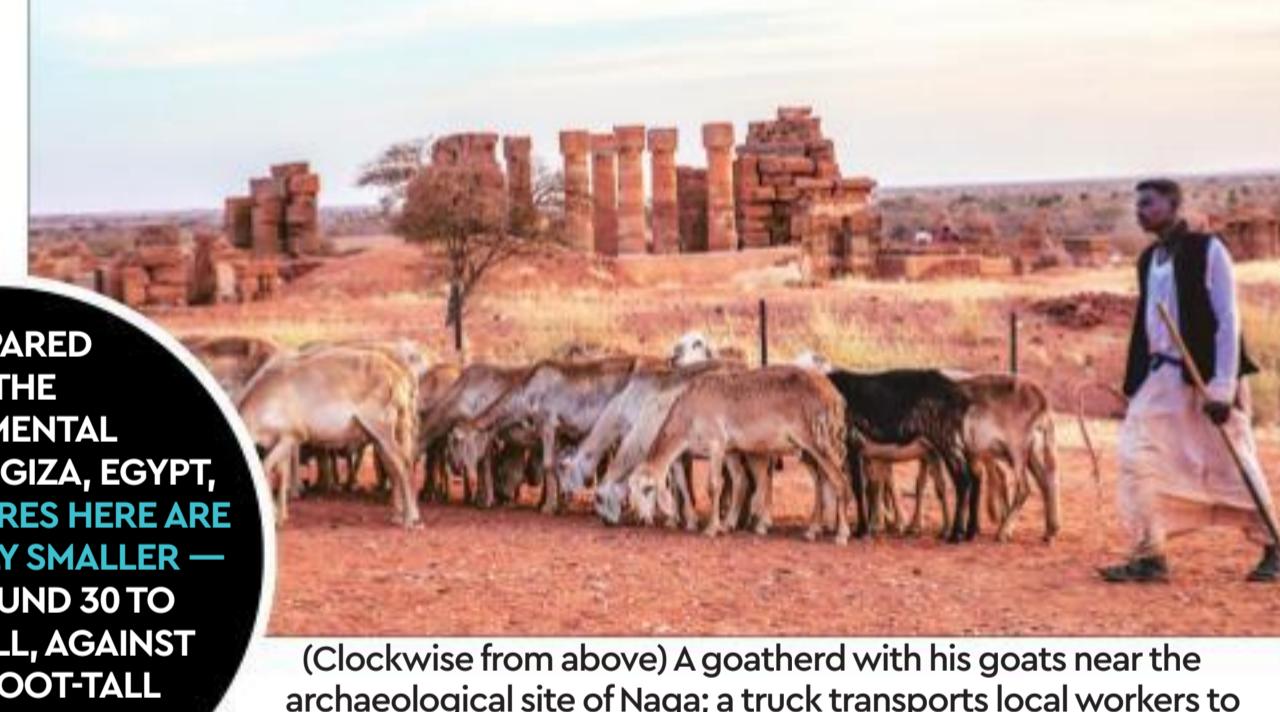
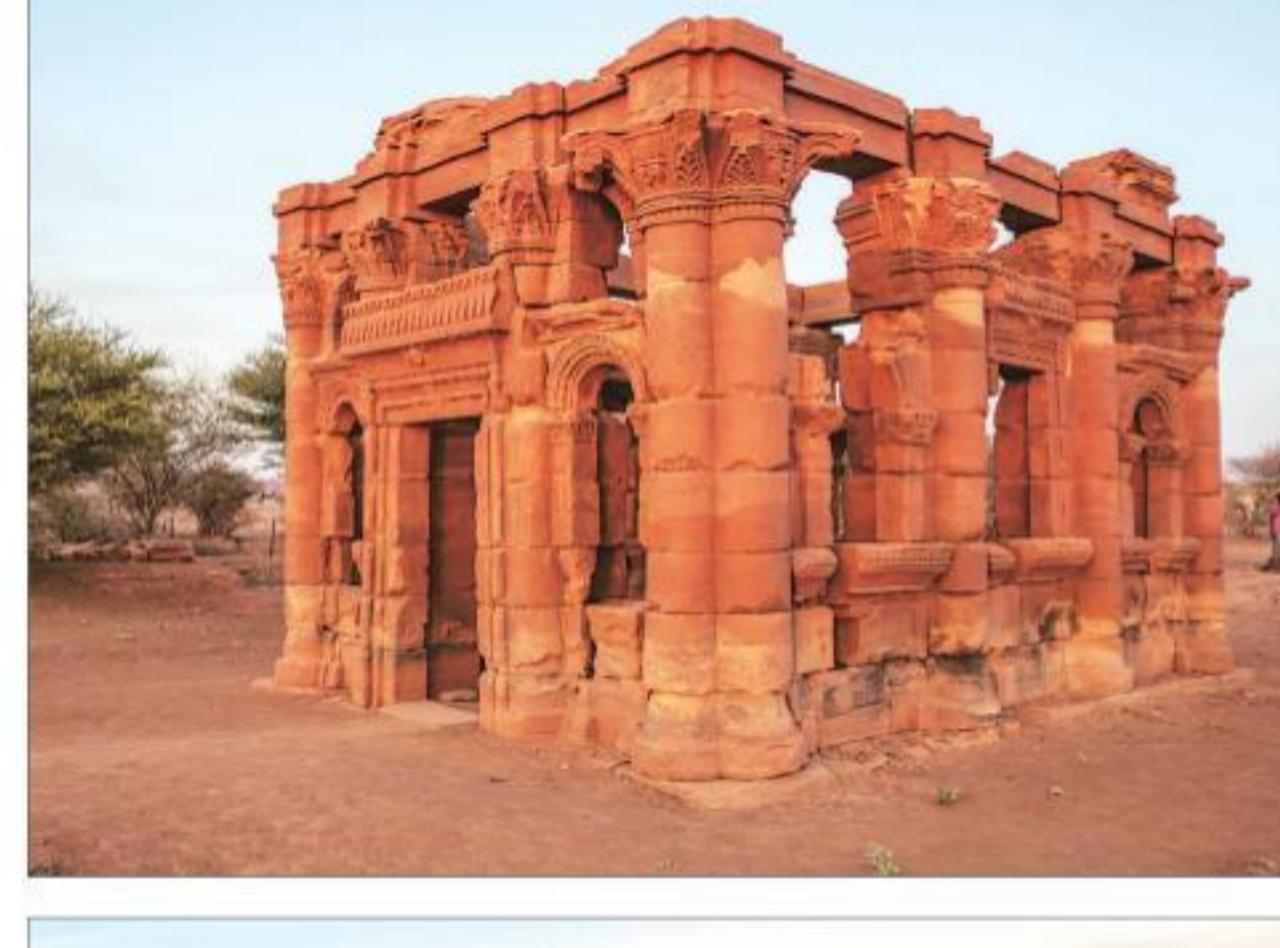
Late in 2018, al-Bashir, the former dictator, had ended subsidies on fuel and wheat, leading to a surge in prices. The reaction of the people, exhausted by economic crises, was not long in coming. A wave of demonstrations filled the streets of several towns, far beyond the capital Khartoum. These were Sudanese of all ethnicities, classes and generations — but above all students and young professionals.

During my visit, Amr Abdallah and Tawadia Abdalaziz, two young Sudanese doctors in their 20s, led me through the streets of Khartoum to see the symbolic sites of the

revolution, showing me mile after mile of public art — graffiti, murals, verses — that marked the sites of the protests. When they told me about Meroe and Ancient Nubia, the name of the region that stretches between Egypt and northern Sudan, I discovered that the majority of Sudanese had never had the opportunity to visit these sites — including the doctors themselves.

For me, as an Italian, it equated to never having had the chance to visit the Colosseum in Rome. The ancient city of Meroe — part of a UNESCO World Heritage site since 2011 — is a four-hour drive from Khartoum, northeast along the Nile River.

COMPARED TO THE MONUMENTAL PYRAMIDS IN GIZA, EGYPT, THE STRUCTURES HERE ARE SIGNIFICANTLY SMALLER — FROM AROUND 30 TO 100 FEET TALL, AGAINST THE 455-FOOT-TALL GREAT PYRAMID



(Clockwise from above) A goatherd with his goats near the archaeological site of Naqa; a truck transports local workers to Meroe; tourists at Musawwarat es-Sufra, one of three archaeological sites — alongside Meroe and Naqa — known collectively as the Island of Meroe; and a structure known as the Roman Kiosk at Naqa

The pyramids here, built between 2,700 and 2,300 years ago, stand as a testament to the grandeur of the Kingdom of Kush, a major power from the eighth century BC to the fourth century AD.

Compared to the monumental pyramids in Giza, Egypt, the structures at Meroe are significantly smaller — from around 30 to 100 feet tall, against the 455-foot-tall Great Pyramid — and their slopes steeper. As in Egypt, though, the pyramids serve as royal burial sites. In recent years,

the pyramids at Meroe — as well as other Sudanese archaeological sites up and down the Nile, including the pyramids at Nuri, farther north — have been threatened by rising floodwaters, as well as the continuing effects of wind and sand erosion.

Plans for new hydroelectric dams also threaten certain archaeological sites in Sudan — as they have in the past, when the construction of the Merowe Dam displaced tens of thousands of residents and led to a frenzied archaeological hunt for

(Above, far left) Pyramids and temples at the ancient city of Meroe; and (above) one of the pyramids at Meroe. Many of the structures were destroyed by plunderers in search of artefacts — most notably by Giuseppe Ferlini, an Italian treasure hunter

artefacts before they were submerged by the dam's reservoir. Perhaps the most infamous act of destruction at Meroe, however, is attributed to the Italian treasure hunter Giuseppe Ferlini, who in the 1830s destroyed several of the pyramids in a ruthless search for ancient artefacts.

With one hand on the steering wheel and the other holding his phone, Nour, our driver, was accustomed to bringing visitors to Meroe. Still, in his four-wheel-drive Toyota, we sometimes lost our way as we moved from one site to another, through vast stretches of deserts. Local tour guides at the entrance to Meroe invited us to take camel rides, eager to remind us that this is a time-tested, if often neglected, tourist site. At the Naqa archaeological site, some 50 miles southwest of Meroe, the atmosphere was very different.

We walked alone among the buildings, including a temple devoted to Apedemak, a lion-headed warrior god worshipped in Nubia. On the opposite side of the site, ram-shaped sculptures accompanied us to the entrance of the Amun temple, built around the first century AD and considered one of the most important archaeological structures and tourist attractions in Sudan.

A stone's throw from the temple of Amun, a golden sunset illuminated a small herd of goats, which were followed by a young goatherd. Dusk would soon settle in. The drive back to Khartoum was a long one, and our driver warned me to speed up. Back in Khartoum, where the Nile River's two main tributaries — the White Nile and the Blue Nile — meet, Amr and Tawadia, along with their friends, gathered to celebrate a birthday. Amid the songs and dances, Tawadia approached me to ask what I thought of her country's archaeological beauties — and to discuss Sudan's future. "The Sudanese people have the right to reclaim their country," she said, adding that she and her friends long for a democratic society that can be open and accessible to everyone. And, she added, they want a country that can showcase its treasures to its visitors and its people.

NYT

## Traffic cops return to landmark piazza, bring joy in Rome

While motorists in Rome are known for their chaotic driving, the return of police officers directing traffic at the intersection is being greeted by many as a sign of normality at a difficult time

ELISABETTA POVOLEDO

paved, set off a media frenzy — even if there was little traffic to direct given the widespread lockdown that began recently to contain an upsurge of coronavirus cases.

"In this difficult period, I think that it was seen as a sign of something returning to normal," said Fabio Grillo, 53, who, with 16 years under his belt, is the senior member of the team of four or five municipal police officers who direct traffic from the Piazza Venezia pedestal. In rain or sleet, or sweltering through Rome's sultry summers, officers have directed traffic from the Piazza Venezia pedestal near the mouth of



FOR MANY, THE TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS ARE AS MUCH A SYMBOL OF THE ETERNAL CITY AS THE COLOSSEUM OR PANTHEON

the Via del Corso, one of Rome's main streets, for as long as anyone can remember. And the gestures they make with their white-gloved hands is something that all Italian motorists dutifully memorise for their driver's tests. (Important note: Two hands straight out with palms facing motorists is equivalent to a red light.)

"It's been compared to conducting an orchestra," said Grillo. Apart from regular traffic, Piazza Venezia is also a crossroads that leads to City Hall, the Parliament, Italy's presidential palace and a national monument where visiting heads of state routinely pay homage — which all contributes to the chaos at the hub. "This piazza is the aortic epicentre of the country," said Angelo Galliachio, 62, who has managed a newspaper kiosk in the square since 1979. "Every person of note who comes to Rome has to pass through Piazza Venezia — you can't avoid it."

For many years, Roman traffic controllers were instructed by Mario Buffone, whose three decades on the pedestal — making him one of the city's most recognisable figures — was immortalised in a book. He retired in 2007. "He was an icon for us," said Grillo. Giuseppe Battisti, 47, an officer who has been on the pedestal for 12 years, said that all that's required to do the

job well is passion and "a little elegance." Though the traffic signals are enshrined in the driver's code of conduct, "every agent personalises it," he said.

Pierluigi Marchionne's elegance on the pedestal is likely what grabbed Woody Allen's eye when he was scouting locations for his 2012 movie, *To Rome With Love*. After seeing Marchionne in action, he was so taken with the traffic officer that he rewrote the beginning of his script so that he could cast him in the movie, Marchionne said. "He saw me, and then we did a screen test, but let's say he'd already chosen me for the role," said Marchionne, 45, who went on to take courses at the Actor's Studio in New York and still occasionally directs traffic from the pedestal. He is also the artistic director of a production company that organises an Italian film festival under the stage name Pierre Marchionne.

Working on Allen's film "was a unique experience," he said. Now, with the work done on the piazza this year, the officers say they are keen to get back to a job they love and hopefully become a focus of tourists' cameras. "Maybe we weren't as famous as the Fountain of Trevi, but we were a tourist attraction," Battisti said with a smile. "I bet there are even photos of us in North Korea." NYT

# Mind & Games

SUNDAY, MARCH 28, 2021

## What's good for the ocean may also be good for business



**Music to my elephant ears**

**Companies are trying to prove that conservation, sustainable fishing and carbon sequestration are profitable**

TATIANA SCHLOSSBERG

**M**ARTY ODLIN, WHO grew up and lives on the Maine coast, remembers what the ocean used to be like. But now, he said, "It's like a desert and just within my lifetime." In the last few years, he said, he has seen lots of sea grass and many other species virtually disappear from the shoreline. Odlin, 39, comes from a fishing family and has a passion for the history of the ocean and the coast, both of which have informed his sense of the ocean's decline, a small part of the catastrophic deletion of marine life over the last several hundred years.

Using his training as an engineer, Odlin has decided to try to reverse that decline with his company, Running Tide, which is based in Portland. Using a combination of robotics, sensors and machine learning, he is building an aquaculture operation that is selling oysters now and eventually clams. He is also using that system to grow kelp, with the goal of producing enough of this seaweed to pull carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and permanently sequester it by burying it on the ocean floor, and sell carbon offsets. The company also plans to seed oyster reefs and clam beds along the shoreline, and restore kelp forests and sea grass, to help the coastal ecosystem by bringing back biodiversity and improving water quality, among other benefits.

Odlin's plans are one of a number of efforts in the "blue economy," a term used to describe commercial activity on the oceans, seas and coasts. He and others are trying to prove that ocean conservation, sustainable fishing and carbon sequestration can be good for business, especially as global shipping, aquaculture and the appetite for wild seafood increases around the world. Odlin and his team build everything: boats, oyster floats, sensors and more, all with very high sensitivity to their environment. They measure the amount



**REDUCING THE AMOUNT OF FISH CAUGHT BY MISTAKE COULD HAVE IMPORTANT CONSEQUENCES FOR THE BIODIVERSITY OF OCEANS**

of feed in the water and the growth rate of the various species and send that information into a database that they use to make all sorts of decisions: whether to change the feed, reposition the shellfish floats or make bigger changes about the varieties they're growing. They also use the hard-won knowledge of commercial fishermen — there are about a dozen on staff — which Odlin said was a huge advantage.

The climate crisis demands technological innovations and "hard hats and steel toes," he said. Dan Watson, the chief executive and co-founder of SafetyNet Technologies, also has recognised the benefits of working alongside industry and demonstrating profitability. His company builds high-tech fishing nets for trawling boats: Attached to the nets are LED lights that flash in various patterns and levels of brightness to signal emergency escape hatches (right-size holes) for those species that fishing boats aren't trying to catch, known collectively as bycatch.

Studies have shown that LED lights can significantly reduce the amount of unwanted species that end up in fishing

nets. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, about 9.1 million tons, or just over 10% of all of the fish caught every year, are thrown away, with nearly half coming from trawling nets. In an era of overfishing and shifting habitats because of climate change that defy international regulations, reducing the amount of fish or other marine animals that are caught by mistake could have important consequences for the health of various populations as well as ocean biodiversity as a whole, Watson said.

"When I started all of this, I was a student, and I had the attitude of, 'This is going to save the world and everyone should do it,'" Watson said. "I had to turn more towards, 'Here is the value proposition, and there is a strong financial argument for catching the right fish,'" he added. "We can show crews, 'Here is what you save on fuel, here is what you save on regulatory fines.'" Others, too, see the value of working with industry groups. Whale Safe is an initiative from the University of California Santa

Barbara to help big ships avoid hitting whales as they travel through ports around Los Angeles. The programme came, in part, as a response to shipping companies asking for help, according to Douglas McCauley, a professor of ocean science at UCSB. Ship strikes, as they are known, are among the leading causes of death for whales, and 2018 and 2019 were the worst years on record for collisions on the West Coast, with 27 total resulting in 22 deaths, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Scientists estimate that the actual number of whales killed by ships could be much higher — as many as 80 a year off the West Coast, according to one study — because not all of the bodies are discovered.

McCauley helped bring together ocean technologists working at UCSB to build a near real-time detection system for whales in the Santa Barbara Channel, combining three inputs: an artificial intelligence algorithm that analyses whale sounds, classifies them by species, and sends the data for

review; a remote sensing system that predictively forecasts whale presence; and plain old citizen science, where trained whale watchers log whales into a mobile app. "It's not helpful if you're only able to say, 'Southern California is forecast to be cloudy with a chance of blue whales,'" and this model forecasts at a much finer scale, McCauley said.

The system delivers the information to ships in a simplified rubric of low, medium, high and very high, so that they can slow if whales are around, which can significantly reduce the number of ship strikes. Whale Safe provides data about only this particular stretch of the California coast, but McCauley said they were planning to expand to San Francisco and possibly elsewhere in North America. When ships reduce their speed they use less fuel, resulting in fewer greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants; the global shipping industry accounts for nearly 3% of global greenhouse gas emissions.

Cargo ships burn dirty fuel that releases pollutants like nitrous oxide and sulfur dioxide, which can cause cancer and childhood asthma. Air pollution in general also disproportionately affects communities of colour. In only six months, slower speeds in the Santa Barbara and San Francisco areas helped reduce pollution from nitrous oxide by more than 530 tons and greenhouse gas emissions by 17,000 metric tons. But saving the whales could also have huge climate benefits, McCauley said. During their lives and when they die, whales help sequester enormous amounts of carbon dioxide in two ways. When alive, whales supply phytoplankton (which suck up carbon dioxide) with the nutrients they need to grow. When whales die, their bodies sink to the bottom and become part of the marine sediment layer, where they can over time sequester the carbon dioxide they have accumulated, an average of 33 tons for a great whale species, keeping it out of the atmosphere for years. Any of these projects require a more hands-on approach and a more deliberate overlap of business and conservation, which have historically been at odds, said Odlin, the founder of Running Tide.

"We have to take a more active role in solving the problem that we're seeing," he said. "And how do you take a more active role? The moral imperative is that you have to build something at the scale of the problem." Otherwise, he said, "generations in front of us are not going to forgive us."

"We still have a chance right now, so I'm working as hard as I can."

NYT

■ Every Sunday, Jos Pimentel-Cardoso, a 22-year-old, plays music for her dozens of houseplants. She often plays Mort Garson's 1976 *Mother Earth's Plantasia*.

■ And she has plenty of company. The self-released album—featuring 10 wordless tracks created on a Moog synthesiser to play for your plants—saw a sharp resurgence in 2019 when it was rereleased by Sacred Bones Records.

■ When Garson created his album of "warm earth music for plants and the people that love them," it wasn't nearly as popular as it is today.

■ But now *Plantasia* can autoplay following countless other ambient electronic music streams. This allows it to reach new, younger audiences, since streaming services like Spotify and YouTube use recommendation algorithms based on users' prior viewing or listening habits—and can integrate songs from *Plantasia* into playlists like "Music for Plants," which has more than 66,000 likes.

■ Since the pandemic began, people have been stuck at home more than ever, and plant sales have soared.

■ Though the idea that music might help plants grow has been heavily criticised, proponents of the practice don't seem to mind. "It felt nice to be doing something for my plants, kind of as an extension of self-care," said Pimentel-Cardoso.

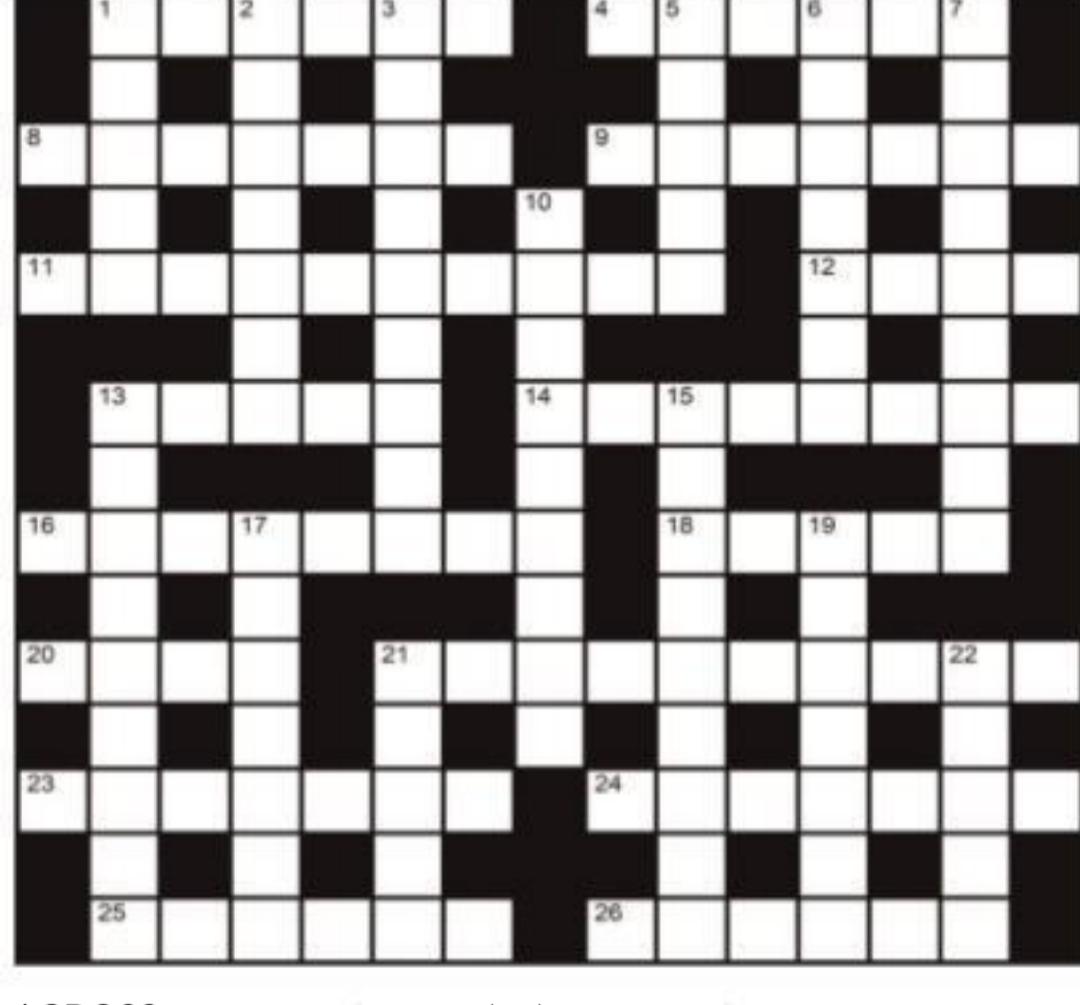
JULIA CARMEL/NYT

## CROSSWORD

## KAKURO

## BRIDGE BOUTS L SUBRAMANIAN

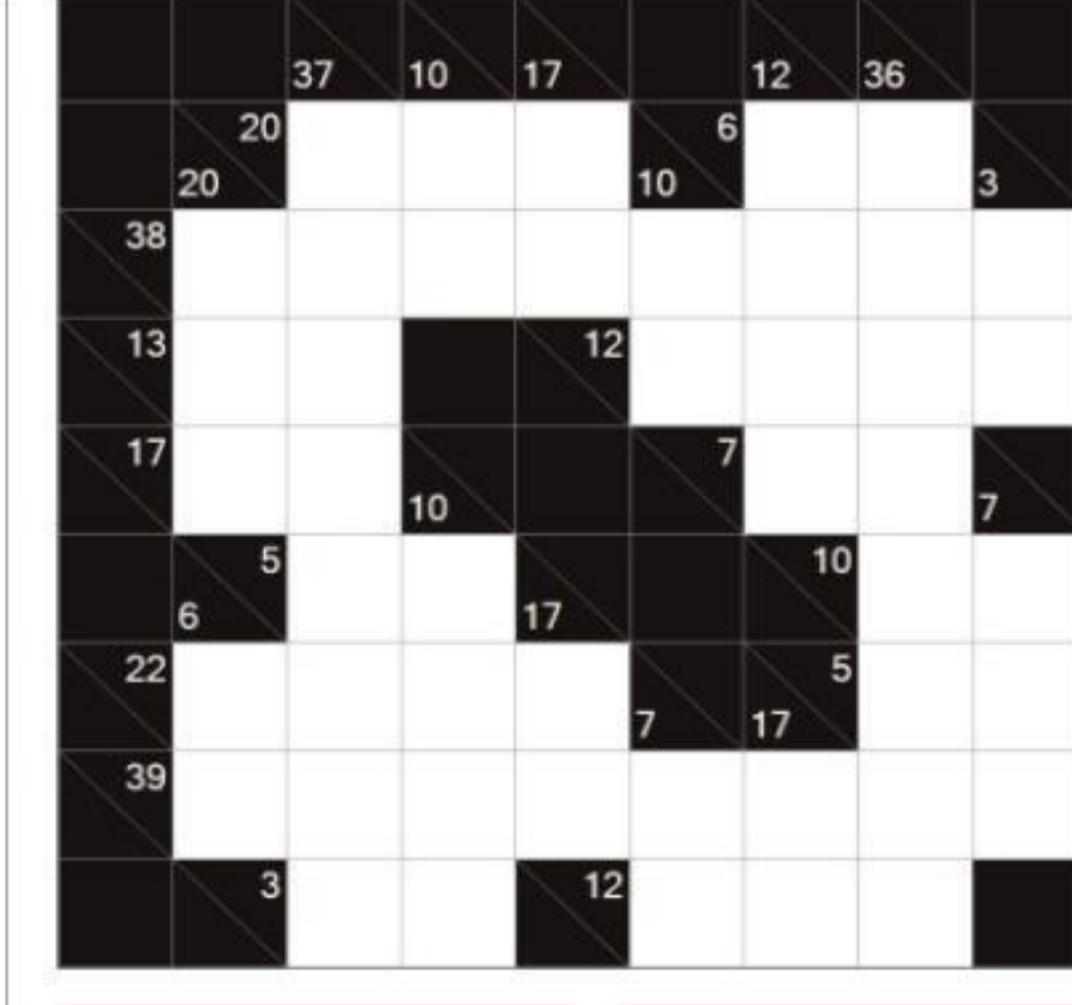
## LEXICON



**ACROSS**  
1 Niche in wall (6)  
4 Minor difficulty (6)  
8 Colloquially a question of method or surprise? (3,4)  
9 Programs that appear desirable but actually contains something harmful (7)  
11 Facility given by VISA, for example (6,4)  
12 Big name in Handy-cams (4)  
13 A strong tightly twisted cotton thread (5)  
14 Professions, trades or vocations? (8)  
16 Bombay \_\_\_ Stores Ltd : retailer company on the BSE (8)  
18 OPEC member-country (5)  
20 Precious or semi-precious stones (4)  
21 Retire - with a golden handshake (9)  
13 In a uncivil and

maybe (7,3)  
23 As a rule (7)  
24 Sword or bayonet or pistol? (7)  
25 Cricket ball pitched under bat (6)  
26 Main ingredient of plaster of Paris? (6)

**DOWN**  
1 Love affair (5)  
2 Loud insects (7)  
3 Chairman of IBS Software (1,1,7)  
5 Making a loss, owing money (2,3)  
6 Rural Development Minister in Dr Manmohan Singh's cabinet (1,1,5)  
7 Location of Tata Motors' plant in Uttarakhand (4,5)  
10 They may be imposed on an errant nation by other nations (9)  
13 In a uncivil and



In Kakuro sum puzzles, the numbers in the black squares refer to the SUMS of the digits, which you are to fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the black square containing the number. No zeroes are used here, only the digits one through nine. An important point: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination.

## BIZ QUIZ

1. India recently participated in the first historic virtual summit of which association in March 2021?  
2. ISRO has partnered with which country's space agency for air quality monitoring using satellite data?  
3. APEDA was established under which Union ministry?

## BUZZ WORD

The Buzz Word is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is

by trial and error.

Today's clue: MGE equals COY  
Fgy'l bjij kyegyjake egv myk'y  
fg cl.  
- Zgqy Cbqky



## REVERSE JUMP - PART I

We saw in our last column that a jump to 3D after a 1C opening and a one over one in a major, is called 'reverse jump'.

Is a reverse jump forcing to game? The answer is a definite No. It is forcing only to the three level in the major.

On what hands the reverse jump is made? You may ask. There are basically two types:

1) Unbalanced hands of 16-17 points. This is usually referred to as 'mini splinter'.  
S Q-x-x H x D A-Q-x C A-K-J-x. After a 1S response to your 1C opening, jump to 3D.  
S A-Q x H K-x-x D x C A-K-Q-x. After a 1H response to your 1C, jump to 3D.

Typically, they come on 5-4-3-1 hands with the singleton in the other major or in diamond.

2) Balanced/semi-balanced hands of 18-19 points. They are referred to as 'Power raise'. The bid is based on sheer power of the high cards and hence the name.

After a 1S response to your 1C opening, jump to 3D on:

a) S K-J-x-x H A-K-x-x C A-K-x-x  
b) S Q-T-x-x H K-x D A-x C A-K-Q-x

**Discussion:** What do we do with 18+ and unbalanced hand with a four-card support? Simple. Splinter at the four level.

After a 1S response to a 1C opening, splinter with 4D on S K-J-x-x H A-K-x D x C A-K-x-x.

What do we do with 15-17 point semi-balanced hand with four-card support? You have guessed it. Raise partner to the three level.

After a 1S response to a 1C opening, jump to 3S on S K-x-x H A-x D Q-x C A-Q-J-x. You will agree this has less game potential than the mini-splinter hand.

Is there any other reverse jump situation? Of course, yes. A jump to 3H by opener after 1D p 1S is another situation that comes to the mind. However, there are some who like to play a jump to 3H after 1m p 1S as 6-5 in the with non-reversing values (12-15). You can play either as both make sense.

We shall see responder's rebids after the reverse jump in our next week's column.

## GOOGLE DORKING

■ pp. Using advanced Google search commands to gain unauthorized access to sensitive or private information on a web server.

Google dorking, or Google hacking, is one way malicious hackers can gain access to valuable information about a company. It involves using advanced commands in Google to find specific data sets that companies, as well as government agencies, have unwittingly made accessible by storing them on public-facing web servers.

—Chris Hadnagy, "How Dorkable Is Your Business?", Entrepreneur, May 4, 2015

## 5G trial review meet on April 1

The committee has said that at a time when many countries are swiftly moving towards 5G technology, India is likely to witness its deployment only by the end of 2021 or early part of 2022, that too partially.

"So, it is very likely that after missing the 2G, 3G, and 4G bus, India is going to miss on 5G opportunities, unless time-bound action is taken in core areas where governmental intervention is required. It is disappointing to note that the department has hardly learnt from the past delays...," the panel noted.

Although telecom operators had submitted their applications in January last year, the trials have not been conducted so far. One of the reasons for the delay include concerns around participation of Chinese players Huawei and ZTE.

Telecom operators have submitted multiple applications for the trials with multiple vendors. To start with, approvals will be given to those applications termed as priority by telecom operators. The government will allocate 3.5 GHz spectrum for the trials to the operators.

The trials will give an opportunity to Reliance Jio to test its locally developed 5G solution. The company had earlier sought approval from DoT for lab testing of its solution.

Globally there are 118 operators in 59 countries that have deployed 5G network. Currently, the 5G network covers around 7% of the world population and it is expected that by 2025, 20% of the world population will be covered by 5G. Countries where 5G has been launched include USA, Canada, UK, European Union nations, China, Japan, South Korea, Thailand, Australia, New Zealand, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain.

## For the youth, TV channels are passé

Advertising rates on music and youth channels are considerably low and decreased further in 2020. A 10-second spot on a music channel could cost anything between ₹500-1,800. Marquee shows on these channels claim up to ₹5,000 per 10-seconds. "The low entry cost makes this a favourable genre for advertisers," says Jaihkhani.

Pureplay music channels get a wide variety of advertisers as they attract not just youth but women and children too," says Kathuria. Youth channels tend to have a niche appeal and find favour among automotive brands or brands that target young women, young professionals, etc.

Leveraging digital platforms for cross-platform viewership has gained importance

## From the Front Page

over the years. For instance, 9XM's YouTube channel hosts podcasts, video interviews with celebrities, and clips from TV shows. "Brands leverage our YouTube and Facebook presence and our digital revenue stream does rather well for us," says Jaihkhani.

### ATL to acquire Warora-Kurnool Transmission

With this enhanced scale of operations, ATL will enjoy substantial benefits in terms of cost optimisation and shared resources and will also fortify its position of being the largest private sector transmission company in India, the statement said.

Anil Sardana, MD and CEO, Adani Transmission, said, "The acquisition of WKTL will bolster ATL's pan-India presence, consolidating further its position as the largest private sector transmission company in India. This strategic West to South 765 KV interconnector with substation in southern India completes ATL's presence in all regions of the country." This asset will not only increase ATL's size and scale but will also take ATL closer to its target of setting up 20,000 ckt km of transmission lines by 2022, he said.

### IndiGrid seals power network buy in N-E

Harsh Shah, chief executive officer at IndiGrid, said FY21 has been a transformational year for IndiGrid with ₹7,500-crore acquisitions across inter-state transmission, intra-state transmission, and regulated tariff transmission projects as well as a solar project.

The acquisitions will enable the InvIT to increase its dividend distribution per unit (DPU) further. The DPU is currently ₹12.40 per annum.

"Going forward, with a robust acquisition pipeline and proposed equity infusion via rights issue, IndiGrid is in steadfast position to capitalise on the growth opportunities..," the firm said. "The acquisition of NER-II was envisaged as part of the framework agreement signed with Sterlite Power in April 2019. The investment manager of IndiGrid had signed a definitive share purchase agreement for the acquisition of NER-II on March 5, 2021," it added.

KKR and GIC together hold around 45% in IndiGrid, while Sterlite Power holds 40% in the investment manager arm of IndiGrid.

Cyril Amarchand and Mangaldas, PriceWaterHouse Coopers, L&T-S&L and J Sagar

Posing with his family after casting his vote in Gohpur, the Congress leader Bora told the media that people wanted a

change and a Congress-led government in the state.

Polling in West Bengal began under heavy deployment of Central forces — 732 companies in the five districts.

Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi appealed to the people to vote. "Today, Phase 1 of the West Bengal Assembly elections begin. I would request all those who are voters in the seats polling today to exercise their franchise in record numbers," he tweeted.

A massive clash erupted in Patashpur in East Medinipur last night between TMC and BJP workers in which two security personnel suffered serious injuries. During the day, the Trinamool Congress accused the BJP of capturing booths in Medinipur, and the Central forces of not allowing people to vote. Such complaints emerged from Kanti Dakshin under Purab Medinipur and Garbeta in Paschim Medinipur. TMC supporters also alleged that in the South Contai Assembly constituency, despite voting for TMC, votes were registered in BJP's favour.

The BJP, on the other hand, accused Trinamool of malpractices, and also claimed the current Assembly elections to be less violent in comparison with those in the past.

In Contai, BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari's brother Soumendu's vehicle was attacked after he alleged that people were being stopped from casting their vote in the area. "TMC goons were rigging three booths. When we protested they ransacked my car. I was inside and somehow not injured," said Soumendu Adhikari.

A delegation led by BJP National General Secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya met the CEO after the incident. "I have been working in Bengal for the last six years. Have seen panchayat polls, Assembly polls, Lok Sabha election and again this Assembly election. This is the first election in six years with fewer instances of rigging and violence. To avoid even 10 per cent of such cases in Phase 2, we demanded that the EC round-up anti-social elements. We thank the Commission for successfully conducting a free and fair poll in 90 per cent of the booths," he said.

The BJP has provided a list of alleged criminals and appealed to the EC to arrest them before the next phase.

A nine-member Trinamool delegation led by MP Sudip Bandyopadhyay too met the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) at 12 noon and raised objections over the existing procedure on booth agents. "We have submitted a memorandum saying that the previous system: the polling agent must be a voter of the concerned booth, and the IDs must reflect his booth," said Bandyopadhyay.

## 'Condition of President Kovind stable, being shifted to AIIMS'

**THE CONDITION OF** President Ram Nath Kovind is stable and he is being referred to the AIIMS for further investigation, the Army's Research and Referral hospital said. The Rashtrapati Bhavan in a statement said Kovind has been under observation after a routine medical check up and has thanked all who enquired about his health and wished him well.



### NOTICE CUM ADDENDUM NO. AD/06/2021

THIS NOTICE CUM ADDENDUM SETS OUT THE CHANGES TO BE MADE IN THE STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (SAI), SCHEME INFORMATION DOCUMENT ("SID") AND KEY INFORMATION MEMORANDUM ("KIM") OF THE SCHEMES OF MIRAE ASSET MUTUAL FUND ("MAMF")

#### 1. Change in the name of dividend option(s) of the schemes of MAMF

NOTICE is hereby given to the investors / unitholders that pursuant to SEBI Circular no. SEBI/HO/IMD/DF3/CIR/P/2020/194 dated October 05, 2020 ("SEBI Circular") on 'Review of Dividend option(s) / Plan(s) in case of mutual fund schemes', the nomenclature of Dividend option(s) of all the existing schemes of Mirae Asset Mutual Fund shall change with effect from April 01, 2021 as under:

Sr. No.	Existing Plan / Option Name	Revised Plan / Option Name
1.	Direct Plan - Dividend Payout Option	Direct Plan - Payout of Income Distribution cum capital withdrawal option ("Direct Plan - Payout of IDCW")
2.	Direct Plan - Dividend Re-investment Option	Direct Plan - Reinvestment of Income Distribution cum capital withdrawal option ("Direct Plan - Reinvestment of IDCW")
3.	Regular Plan - Dividend Payout Option	Regular Plan - Payout of Income Distribution cum capital withdrawal option ("Regular Plan - Payout of IDCW")
4.	Regular Plan - Dividend Re-investment Option	Regular Plan - Reinforcement of Income Distribution cum capital withdrawal option ("Regular Plan - Reinforcement of IDCW")

In line with SEBI Circular, dividend option / facility available under all schemes will be replaced as Income Distribution cum capital withdrawal option (IDCW). Accordingly, all existing schemes offering various dividend options viz. Daily, Weekly, Fortnightly, Monthly, Quarterly, Half yearly, Annual etc. shall be renamed in accordance with the aforesaid revised nomenclature.

Further, the following text will be inserted under the heading "Plans / Options offered" under section III A "New Fund offer" and under section IIIB "Ongoing Offer Period" under Units and Offer in the SID of all Schemes of Mirae Asset Mutual Fund:

"Amounts can be distributed out of investors' capital (Equalization Reserve), which is part of sale price that represents realized gains."

It may be noted that necessary / incidental changes, if any, shall be made in the SID / KIM of the schemes of Mirae Asset Mutual Fund in this regard.

#### 2. Discontinuation of email address as Official Point of Acceptance for Transaction Processing

Investors are requested to refer to our notice dated March 22, 2020 wherein we had enabled acceptance of email requests pertaining to transactions over transact@miraasset.com in lieu of closure of the collection centres / branch offices of the AMC and the Investor Service centres ("official points of acceptance / OPAT") of the Registrar and Transfer Agent i.e., KFin Technologies Pvt. Ltd.

In this regard, Investors are requested to note that since all the Official Points of acceptance are now functional, the email address transact@miraasset.com shall be discontinued with effect from close of business hours of March 31, 2021.

It may be noted that the email address viz insti.care@miraasset.com for institutional investors shall continue to act as OPAT till further notice.

#### 3. Designating Mr. Siddharth Srivastava as Fund Manager, Key Personnel of Mirae Asset Investment Managers (India) Pvt. Ltd. ("AMC")

Notice is hereby given that Mirae Asset Trustee Company Private Limited have approved appointment of Mr. Siddharth Srivastava, as Fund Manager, Key Personnel of the AMC, with effect from March 26, 2021.

Consequently, the following details of Mr. Siddharth Srivastava shall be added under the paragraph on "INFORMATION ON KEY PERSONNEL" in the SAI of the Fund:-

Name	Designation / Years of experience	Qualification / Age	Experience & Background (during last 10 years)
Mr. Siddharth Srivastava	Fund Manager / 11 years	MBA (Tech), BTech / 34 years	Mr. Siddharth Srivastava has more than 10 years of experience in the field of financial services and stock markets. He has been associated with Mirae Asset Investment Managers (India) Private Limited from 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2020 till date with overall responsibilities of leading passive investment products. He has been associated with Mirae Asset Global Investments (India) Private Limited from 17 <sup>th</sup> Oct, 2018 - 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2019 with overall responsibilities of leading passive investment products of the company. Prior to this assignment, he was Senior Manager at NSE Indices Limited from September 2014 - October 2018 and was associated as Senior Associate at Morgan Stanley Capital International from November 2010 - August 2014.

#### 4. Designating Ms. Smita Vermani as Key Personnel of the AMC

Notice is hereby given that Mirae Asset Trustee Company Private Limited have approved appointment of Ms. Smita Vermani, as Key Personnel of the AMC, with effect from March 15, 2021.

Consequently, the following details of Ms. Smita Vermani shall be added under the paragraph on "INFORMATION ON KEY PERSONNEL" in the SAI of the Fund:-

Name	Designation / Years of experience	Qualification / Age	Experience & Background (during last 10 years)
Ms. Smita Vermani	National Head - Institutional Sales / 27 years	B-Tech, MBA-Tech (Finance) / 52 years	Ms. Smita Vermani has around 27 years of experience in the field of financial services. Prior to this assignment, she was associated with UTI Asset Management Company Ltd. as Senior EVP and Country Head - Institutional Sales and with ICICI Prudential Asset Management Company Limited as National Head - Institutional Sales.

This notice cum addendum forms an integral part of SAI, SIDs and KIMs of the Scheme(s) of MAMF, as amended from time to time. All the other terms and conditions of SIDs and KIMs of the Scheme(s) will remain unchanged.

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors of MIRAE ASSET INVESTMENT MANAGERS (INDIA) PVT. LTD. (Asset Management Company for Mirae Asset Mutual Fund)

Sd/- AUTHORIZED SIGNATORY

MIRAE ASSET MUTUAL FUND (Investment Manager: Mirae Asset Investment Managers (India) Private Limited)

(CIN: U65990MH2019PTC324625)

Registered & Corporate Office: 606, Windsor, Off CST Road, Kalina, Santacruz (E), Mumbai - 400098.

Call 1800 2090 777 (Toll free), Email: customercare@miraasset.com, Website: www.miraasset.com

Mutual Fund investments are subject to market risks, read all scheme related documents carefully.



**L&T Financial Services**  
Mutual Fund

### L&T Mutual Fund

6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Brindavan, Plot No. 177  
C. S. T. Road, Kalina  
Santacruz (East), Mumbai 400 098

call 1800 2000 400

email investor.line@lntmf.co.in

www.ltfs.com

### Notice (No. 55 of F.Y. 2020-21)

#### Notice for change in nomenclature of the dividend option of the schemes of L&T Mutual Fund :

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the SEBI circular no. SEBI/HO/IMD/DF3/CIR/P/2020/194 dated October 05, 2020, with effect from April 01, 2021, the Dividend option(s) in the schemes of L&T Mutual Fund shall be renamed in the following manner:

Sr. No.	Existing name under dividend option	Revised name under dividend option
1	Dividend Payout	Payout of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal option
2	Dividend Re-investment	Re-investment of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal option
3	Dividend Transfer Plan	Transfer of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal plan

Investors may note that the amounts can be distributed out of investors' capital (Equalization Reserve), which is part of the sale price that represents realized gains, as may be declared by the Trustee at its discretion from time to time (subject to the availability of distributable surplus as calculated in accordance with the SEBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 1996).

Investors are requested to refer the addendum no. 56 dated March 26, 2021 uploaded on the website of the AMC i.e. www.ltfs.com for details of the existing and the revised names of the dividend options under the schemes of L&T Mutual Fund.

Further, the investors may note that with effect from April 01, 2021, all the new subscriptions/systematic registrations in the dividend option of the schemes of L&T Mutual Fund shall be in the revised name as mentioned in the aforesaid addendum dated March 26, 2021.

This Notice forms an integral part of the Scheme Information Document (SID) & Key Information Memorandum (KIM) of the schemes of L&T Mutual Fund.

All the other terms and conditions of the respective SID and KIM except as specifically modified herein above shall remain unchanged.

Investors are requested to take note of the above.

**For L&T Investment Management Limited**  
(Investment Manager to L&T Mutual Fund)

Sd/- Authorised Signatory

## CANARA ROBECO

**Canara Robeco Mutual Fund**

Investment Manager : Canara Robeco Asset Management Co. Ltd.  
Construction House, 4th Floor, 5, Walchand Hirachand Marg, Ballard Estate, Mumbai 400 001.  
Tel. : 6658 5000 Fax: 6658 5012/13 www.canararobeco.com CIN No.: U65990MH1993PLC071003

**NOTICE CUM ADDENDUM NO. 50**

**Modification to Dividend option(s)/Plan(s) in case of Canara Robeco Mutual Fund ("CRMF") Schemes**

As per the provisions of SEBI circular no. SEBI/HO/IMD/DF3/CIR/P/2020/194 dated October 05, 2020, investors are requested to take a note of the following points w.e.f. April 01, 2021:

**1. Change in Nomenclature of Dividend Option(s) under Regular Plan and Direct Plan**

The Dividend option(s) of the following existing schemes of CRMF shall be renamed as under:

Sr.No.	SCHEME NAME	EXISTING OPTION/PLAN	REVISED OPTION/PLAN
1	Canara Robeco Flexi Cap Fund	<b>Dividend Option</b> Regular Plan - Dividend Reinvestment Option Regular Plan - Dividend Payout Option Direct Plan - Dividend Reinvestment Option Direct Plan - Dividend Payout Option	<b>Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option</b> Regular Plan - Reinvestment of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Regular Plan - Payout of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Direct Plan - Reinvestment of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Direct Plan - Payout of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option
2	Canara Robeco Blue Chip Equity Fund	<b>Dividend Option</b> Regular Plan - Dividend Reinvestment Option Regular Plan - Dividend Payout Option Direct Plan - Dividend Reinvestment Option Direct Plan - Dividend Payout Option	<b>Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option</b> Regular Plan - Reinvestment of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Regular Plan - Payout of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Direct Plan - Reinvestment of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Direct Plan - Payout of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option
3	Canara Robeco Emerging Equities	<b>Dividend Option</b> Regular Plan - Dividend Reinvestment Option Regular Plan - Dividend Payout Option Direct Plan - Dividend Reinvestment Option Direct Plan - Dividend Payout Option	<b>Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option</b> Regular Plan - Reinvestment of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Regular Plan - Payout of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Direct Plan - Reinvestment of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Direct Plan - Payout of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option
4	Canara Robeco Infrastructure	<b>Dividend Option</b> Regular Plan - Dividend Reinvestment Option Regular Plan - Dividend Payout Option Direct Plan - Dividend Reinvestment Option Direct Plan - Dividend Payout Option	<b>Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option</b> Regular Plan - Reinvestment of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Regular Plan - Payout of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Direct Plan - Reinvestment of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Direct Plan - Payout of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option
5	Canara Robeco Consumer Trends Fund	<b>Dividend Option</b> Regular Plan - Dividend Reinvestment Option Regular Plan - Dividend Payout Option Direct Plan - Dividend Reinvestment Option Direct Plan - Dividend Payout Option	<b>Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option</b> Regular Plan - Reinvestment of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Regular Plan - Payout of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Direct Plan - Reinvestment of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Direct Plan - Payout of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option
6	Canara Robeco Equity Tax Saver Fund	<b>Dividend Option</b> Regular Plan - Dividend Payout Option Direct Plan - Dividend Payout Option	<b>Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option</b> Regular Plan - Payout of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Direct Plan - Payout of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option
7	Canara Robeco Small Cap Fund	<b>Dividend Option</b> Regular Plan - Dividend Reinvestment Option Regular Plan - Dividend Payout Option Direct Plan - Dividend Reinvestment Option Direct Plan - Dividend Payout Option	<b>Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option</b> Regular Plan - Reinvestment of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Regular Plan - Payout of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Direct Plan - Reinvestment of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Direct Plan - Payout of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option
8	Canara Robeco Overnight Fund	<b>Dividend Option</b> Regular Plan - Daily Dividend Reinvestment Option Direct Plan - Daily Dividend Reinvestment Option	<b>Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option</b> Regular Plan - Daily Reinvestment of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Direct Plan - Daily Reinvestment of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option
9	Canara Robeco Liquid Fund	<b>Dividend Option</b> Regular Plan - Daily Dividend Reinvestment Regular Plan - Weekly Dividend Reinvestment Regular Plan - Monthly Dividend payout Regular Plan - Monthly Dividend Reinvestment Regular Plan - Daily Dividend Reinvestment Direct Plan - Weekly Dividend Reinvestment Direct Plan - Weekly Dividend payout Direct Plan - Monthly Dividend Reinvestment Direct Plan - Monthly Dividend payout Direct Plan - Daily Dividend Reinvestment	<b>Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option</b> Regular Plan - Daily Reinvestment of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Regular Plan - Weekly Reinvestment of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Regular Plan - Monthly Reinvestment of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Regular Plan - Payout of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Regular Plan - Monthly Payout of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Regular Plan - Daily Reinvestment of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Regular Plan - Payout of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Direct Plan - Daily Reinvestment of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Direct Plan - Weekly Reinvestment of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Direct Plan - Monthly Reinvestment of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Direct Plan - Payout of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Direct Plan - Monthly Payout of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Direct Plan - Payout of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option
10	Canara Robeco Ultra Short Term Fund	<b>Dividend Option</b> Regular Plan - Daily Dividend Reinvestment Regular Plan - Weekly Dividend Reinvestment Regular Plan - Monthly Dividend Payout Regular Plan - Monthly Dividend Reinvestment Regular Plan - Payout Direct Plan - Daily Dividend Reinvestment Direct Plan - Weekly Dividend Reinvestment Direct Plan - Weekly Dividend Payout Direct Plan - Monthly Dividend Reinvestment Direct Plan - Monthly Dividend Payout Direct Plan - Payout	<b>Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option</b> Regular Plan - Daily Reinvestment of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Regular Plan - Weekly Reinvestment of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Regular Plan - Monthly Reinvestment of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Regular Plan - Payout of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Regular Plan - Monthly Payout of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Regular Plan - Daily Reinvestment of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Regular Plan - Payout of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Direct Plan - Daily Reinvestment of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Direct Plan - Weekly Reinvestment of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Direct Plan - Monthly Reinvestment of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Direct Plan - Payout of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Direct Plan - Monthly Payout of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Direct Plan - Payout of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option
11	Canara Robeco Savings Fund	<b>Dividend Option</b> Regular Plan - Dividend Reinvestment Regular Plan - Dividend Payout Option Regular Plan - Daily Dividend Reinvestment Option Regular Plan - Weekly Dividend Payout Regular Plan - Monthly Dividend Payout Regular Plan - Monthly Dividend Reinvestment Option Direct Plan - Dividend Reinvestment Direct Plan - Dividend Payout Option Direct Plan - Daily Dividend Reinvestment Option Direct Plan - Weekly Dividend Payout Direct Plan - Weekly Dividend Reinvestment Option Direct Plan - Monthly Dividend Payout Direct Plan - Monthly Dividend Reinvestment Option	<b>Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option</b> Regular Plan - Reinvestment of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Regular Plan - Payout of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Regular Plan - Daily Reinvestment of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Regular Plan - Weekly Reinvestment of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Regular Plan - Monthly Reinvestment of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Regular Plan - Payout of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Regular Plan - Monthly Payout of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Regular Plan - Daily Reinvestment of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Regular Plan - Payout of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Regular Plan - Weekly Reinvestment of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Regular Plan - Monthly Reinvestment of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Regular Plan - Payout of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Regular Plan - Monthly Payout of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Direct Plan - Reinvestment of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Direct Plan - Payout of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Direct Plan - Daily Reinvestment of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Direct Plan - Payout of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Direct Plan - Weekly Reinvestment of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Direct Plan - Monthly Reinvestment of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Direct Plan - Payout of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Direct Plan - Monthly Payout of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option
12	Canara Robeco Short Duration Fund	<b>Dividend Option</b> Regular Plan - Monthly Dividend Payout Regular Plan - Monthly Dividend Reinvestment Option Regular Plan - Quarterly Dividend Payout Regular Plan - Quarterly Dividend Reinvestment Option Direct Plan - Monthly Dividend Payout Direct Plan - Monthly Dividend Reinvestment Option Direct Plan - Quarterly Dividend Payout Direct Plan - Quarterly Dividend Reinvestment Option	<b>Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option</b> Regular Plan - Monthly Payout of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Regular Plan - Monthly Reinvestment of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Regular Plan - Quarterly Payout of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Regular Plan - Quarterly Reinvestment of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Direct Plan - Monthly Payout of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Direct Plan - Monthly Reinvestment of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Direct Plan - Quarterly Payout of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Direct Plan - Quarterly Reinvestment of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option
13	Canara Robeco Income Fund	<b>Dividend Option</b> Regular Plan - Quarterly Dividend Reinvestment Option Regular Plan - Quarterly Dividend Payout Option Direct Plan - Quarterly Dividend Reinvestment Option Direct Plan - Quarterly Dividend Payout Option	<b>Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option</b> Regular Plan - Quarterly Reinvestment of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Regular Plan - Quarterly Payout of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Direct Plan - Quarterly Reinvestment of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Direct Plan - Quarterly Payout of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option
14	Canara Robeco Dynamic Bond Fund	<b>Dividend Option</b> Regular Plan - Dividend Reinvestment Option Regular Plan - Dividend Payout Option Direct Plan - Dividend Reinvestment Option Direct Plan - Dividend Payout Option	<b>Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option</b> Regular Plan - Reinvestment of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Regular Plan - Payout of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Direct Plan - Reinvestment of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Direct Plan - Payout of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option
15	Canara Robeco Corporate Bond Fund	<b>Dividend Option</b> Regular Plan - Dividend Reinvestment Option Regular Plan - Dividend Payout Option Direct Plan - Dividend Reinvestment Option Direct Plan - Dividend Payout Option	<b>Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option</b> Regular Plan - Reinvestment of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Regular Plan - Payout of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Direct Plan - Reinvestment of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Direct Plan - Payout of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option
16	Canara Robeco Gilt Fund	<b>Dividend Option</b> Regular Plan - Dividend Reinvestment Option Regular Plan - Dividend Payout Option Direct Plan - Dividend Reinvestment Option Direct Plan - Dividend Payout Option	<b>Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option</b> Regular Plan - Reinvestment of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Regular Plan - Payout of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Direct Plan - Reinvestment of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Direct Plan - Payout of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option
17	Canara Robeco Conservative Hybrid Fund	<b>Dividend Option</b> Regular Plan - Monthly Dividend Payout Regular Plan - Monthly Dividend Reinvestment Option Regular Plan - Quarterly Dividend Payout Regular Plan - Quarterly Dividend Reinvestment Option Direct Plan - Monthly Dividend Payout Direct Plan - Monthly Dividend Reinvestment Option Direct Plan - Quarterly Dividend Payout Direct Plan - Quarterly Dividend Reinvestment Option	<b>Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option</b> Regular Plan - Monthly Payout of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Regular Plan - Monthly Reinvestment of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Regular Plan - Quarterly Payout of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Regular Plan - Quarterly Reinvestment of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Direct Plan - Monthly Payout of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Direct Plan - Monthly Reinvestment of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Direct Plan - Quarterly Payout of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Direct Plan - Quarterly Reinvestment of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option
18	Canara Robeco Equity Hybrid Fund	<b>Dividend Option</b> Regular Plan - Monthly Dividend Payout Regular Plan - Monthly Dividend Reinvestment Option Regular Plan - Payout Direct Plan - Monthly Dividend Payout Direct Plan - Monthly Dividend Reinvestment Option	<b>Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option</b> Regular Plan - Monthly Payout of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Regular Plan - Monthly Reinvestment of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Regular Plan - Payout of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Direct Plan - Monthly Payout of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Direct Plan - Monthly Reinvestment of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option
19	Canara Robeco Capital Protection Oriented Fund - Series 9	<b>Dividend Option</b> Regular Plan - Dividend Payout Option Direct Plan - Dividend Payout Option	<b>Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option</b> Regular Plan - Payout of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Direct Plan - Payout of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option
20	Canara Robeco Capital Protection Oriented Fund - Series 10	<b>Dividend Option</b> Regular Plan - Dividend Payout Option Direct Plan - Dividend Payout Option	<b>Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option</b> Regular Plan - Payout of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Direct Plan - Payout of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option
21	Canara Robeco Dual Advantage Fund - Series 1	<b>Dividend Option</b> Regular Plan - Dividend Payout Option Direct Plan - Dividend Payout Option	<b>Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option</b> Regular Plan - Payout of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Direct Plan - Payout of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option
22	Canara Robeco Fixed Maturity Plan - Series 8	<b>Dividend Option</b> Regular Plan - Dividend Payout Option Direct Plan - Dividend Payout Option	<b>Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option</b> Regular Plan - Payout of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option Direct Plan - Payout of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Option

Note: 1. All the existing provisions applicable for Growth Option shall remain unchanged. 2. NAVs will continue to be declared at Plan level of the schemes of CRMF.

**2. Other Terms**

Further, in terms of the above referred SEBI circular:

- (i) The following clauses shall be added in the Statement of Additional Information ("SAI"), Scheme Information Document ("SID") and Key Information Memorandum ("KIM") of the Scheme(s) of Canara Robeco Mutual Fund under paragraph titled as "Dividend Policy".
- Dividend can be distributed out of the investor's capital (Equalization Reserve), which is part of sale price that represents realized gains.
- Whenever the whole or part of the distributable surplus will be distributed, a clear segregation between income distribution (appreciation on NAV) and capital distribution (Equalization Reserve) shall be suitably disclosed in the Consolidated Account Statement provided to investors as required under Regulation 36(4) of SEBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 1996 and SEBI Circular No. CIR/MRD/DP/31/2014 dated November 12, 2014.

(ii) The Dividend Transfer facility appearing under paragraph titled as "Special Products / facilities available" in the SID of eligible schemes of CRMF shall be renamed as Transfer

of Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal Plan. Rest of the details of the said facility shall remain unchanged.

(iii) The aforesaid changes shall not be treated as Fundamental Attribute change in terms of Regulation 18 (15A) of SEBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 1996.

This addendum shall form an integral part of SAI/SID and KIM of the Scheme(s) of CRMF as amended from time to time.

Unit holders are requested to visit [www.canararobeco.com](http://www.canararobeco.com) to claim their amounts remaining unclaimed or unpaid and follow the prescribed procedure thereon.

For and on behalf of Canara Robeco Asset Management Company Ltd. (Investment manager for Canara Robeco Mutual Fund)

Date: 27-03-2021  
Place: Mumbai

sd/-  
Authorised Signatory

Mutual Fund investments are subject to market risks,  
read all scheme related documents carefully.

# World Bank signs fresh loan pacts worth \$1.336 bn with Pakistan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
Islamabad, March 27

THE WORLD BANK has signed agreements with Pakistan to provide \$1.336 billion worth of assistance to boost the cash-strapped country's foreign exchange reserves and help support social sector programmes.

A total of six project agreements, worth \$1.336 billion in loans, including a \$128-million grant, were signed on Friday to support the government's initiatives in social protection, disaster and climate risk management, improving infrastructure for resilience, agriculture, food security, human capital development and governance sectors, the Dawn newspaper reported.

Secretary of Ministry of Economic Affairs Noor Ahmad, signed the financing agreements on behalf of the government of Pakistan, while representatives of the provincial governments of Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan

signed their respective agreements online.

Najib Benhassine, Country Director of the World Bank, signed the agreements on behalf of his organisation. Minister for Economic Affairs Khurshid Bakhtiar also attended the ceremony.

The newspaper reported that the first \$600 million loan agreement pertained to the Crisis-Resilient Social Protection Programme (CRISP) to support the development of a more adaptive social protection system that will contribute to future crisis-resilience



Six project agreements were reportedly signed to support Pakistan's initiatives in social protection, disaster and climate risk management, etc

ers through an innovative, hybrid approach that blends social assistance with promotion of increased savings that informal workers, particularly women, can depend on in the event of economic shocks.

Earlier in the week, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) agreed to release the next tranche of \$500 million loan for Pakistan after approving four pending reviews of the country's economic progress.

For the first time in 68 years, Pakistan's economy contracted in the outgoing fiscal year with a negative 0.38 % due to the adverse impact of the Covid-19 pandemic coupled with the already weak financial situation before the pandemic hit the country.

## Iran and China sign 25-year strategic long-term cooperation agreement

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
Tehran (Iran), March 27

IRAN AND CHINA on Saturday signed a 25-year strategic cooperation agreement addressing economic issues amid crippling US sanctions on Iran, state TV reported.

The agreement dubbed the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, covers a variety of economic activity from oil and mining to promoting industrial activity in Iran, as well as transportation and agricultural collaborations, according to the report.

No additional details of the agreement were revealed as

Iran's foreign minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and Chinese counterpart Wang Yi took part in a ceremony marking the event.

The deal marked the first time Iran has signed such a lengthy agreement with a major world power. In 2001, Iran and Russia signed a 10-year cooperation agreement, mainly in the nuclear field, that was lengthened to 20 years through two five-year extensions.

Before the ceremony Saturday, Yi met Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and special Iranian envoy in charge of the deal Ali Larijani. Saeed Khatibzadeh, spokesman for Iran's foreign ministry, on Friday

## KERALA CASHEW BOARD LIMITED (KCB)

T.C-29/4016, Women's College/Biju Junction Road, Vazhuthacaud, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India-695014  
Tel: +91 471 4252855, 4852855 email: kcb@keralacashewboard.com Web: [www.keralacashewboard.com](http://www.keralacashewboard.com)

No:KCB/26/280/2021/IVC(3) Date: 26.03.2021

FE SUNDAY

13

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Registered office: Landmark, Race Course Circle, Vadodara 390 007.  
Corporate office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Mumbai 400 051.

**GOLD AUCTION CUM INVITATION NOTICE**

The below mentioned borrowers have been issued notice to pay off their outstanding amount towards the facility against gold ornaments ("Facility") availed by them from ICICI Bank Limited ("ICICI Bank"). We are constrained to conduct an auction of pledged gold ornaments on **08. 03. 2021** as they have failed to repay the dues. ICICI Bank has the authority to remove account/change the auction date without any prior notice. Auction will be held online - <https://www.auctionprocureit.com> between **12:30 pm to 3:30 pm**. For detailed terms and conditions, please log into given website. In case of deceased borrower, all conditions will be applicable to legal heirs.

**Loan A/C No.** **Customer Name**  
Branch Name: **Agra**  
628705012989 Rajesh Kumar  
628705013153 Ajay Kumar Gautam

**Branch Name: Agra - Shamshabad**

422205000342 Kishan Kishan

222050003499 Kishan Kishan

**Branch Name: Agra-Hinglajimandi**

156605001063 Aryan Gautam

**Branch Name: Agra-Sadarbazar**

035105003848 Ravinder Singh

035105004114 Ranjeet Singh

035105004108 Adnan Khan

**Branch Name: Agra-Shahgahani**

105005001939 Bhawna Malhotra

**Branch Name: Agra-Sikandra**

156805001214 Ramavtar Ramavtar

**Branch Name: Allahabad**

628205026935 Rohit Singh

628205026939 Mukul Srivastav

628205026936 Sugandh Kumar Gaur

**Branch Name: Allahabad-Chowk**

030805004937 Anuradha Saxena

**Branch Name: Allahabad-Tellarganj**

352805000334 Mohammad Sabir

**Branch Name: Amethi**

089205001002 Shobha Shobha

**Branch Name: Aursiya**

254705000488 Alok Dubey

**Branch Name: Azamgarh**

051605003299 Prashant Kumar Dubey

**Branch Name: Baghpat**

176705000124 Vipin Thakur

176705000164 Prasanna Chandan

176705002180 Sreeram Bhattacharya

176705002511 Hasmim Hassan

**Branch Name: Bahraich**

230205001294 Mo Jahir

**Branch Name: Balrampur**

101505000997 Nafees Ahmad

**Branch Name: Banda**

241305000431 Kamlesh Kumar

**Branch Name: Bareilly**

019205006971 Hitendra Singh

**Branch Name: Baskhri, Uttar Pradesh**

318905001294 Pappi Pathak

**Branch Name: Basti**

066205003526 Akancha Tripathi

666205003592 Khushboo Baro

**Branch Name: Behat**

321205001169 Tariq Tariq

**Branch Name: Bilaspur - Rampur Road**

321105000832 Dev Singh

**Branch Name: Bodhna**

178305001696 Sunil Kumar

178305002460 Maharo Maharo

178305002467 Gulshan Gulshan

178305002678 Raj Singh

178305002701 Anses Anses

**Branch Name: Dardri**

191705001342 Gaurav Gaurav

**Branch Name: Deoria**

066405000950 Bharat Singh

**Branch Name: Dhampur**

178505001283 Naresh Naresh

178505001999 Sharad Ahmad

178505002184 Sonal

**Branch Name: Etawah**

081105003698 Ram Mohan Dixit

081105003703 Anant Dutt

Date : 29.03.2021

Place : Baghpat, Bareilly, Basti, Bhind, Bijnor, Bulandshahar, Deoria, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Ghazibabad, Gorakhpur, Hapur, Kannauj, Kishanganj, Bijnor, Meenab, Moradabad, Muzaffarnagar, Pancholi Nagar, Sf

Pilaih, Prabudh Nagar, Pratapgarh(up), Prayagraj, Rampur, Saharanpur, Shahjahanpur, Agra, Aligarh, Ambbedkar Nagar, Amethi, Aursiya, Azamgarh, Bahraich, Balrampur(up), Banda, Barabanki, Chandauli, Etah, Etawah

Sd/ For ICICI Bank Limited

## SUEZ CANAL BLOCKED

# New attempts planned to free stuck vessel

**Giant container ship remained stuck sideways in canal for a fifth day Saturday**

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
Suez (Egypt), March 27

A GIANT CONTAINER ship remained stuck sideways in Egypt's Suez Canal for a fifth day Saturday, as authorities prepared to make new attempts to free the vessel and reopen a crucial east-west waterway for global shipping.

The Ever Given, a Panama-flagged ship that carries cargo between Asia and Europe, ran aground Tuesday in the narrow canal that runs between Africa and the Sinai Peninsula.

The massive vessel got stuck in a single-lane stretch of the canal, about 6 km (3.7 miles) north of the southern entrance, near the city of Suez.

Peter Berdowski, CEO of Boskalis, the salvage firm hired to extract the Ever Given, said

the company hoped to pull the container ship free within days using a combination of heavy tugboats, dredging and high tides.

He told the Dutch current affairs show Nieuwsuur on Friday night that the front of the ship is stuck in sandy clay, but the rear "has not been completely pushed into the clay and that is positive because you can use the rear end to pull it free."

Berdowski said two large tugboats were on their way to the canal and are expected to arrive over the weekend. He said the company aims to harness the power of the tugs, dredging and tides, which he said are expected to be up to 50 cm (20 inches) higher Saturday.

"The combination of the (tug) boats we will have there, more ground dredged away and the high tide, we hope that will be enough to get the ship free somewhere early next week," he said. If that doesn't work, the company will remove hundreds of containers from the front of the ship to lighten it, effectively lifting the ship to make it easier to pull free, Berdowski said.



Ever Given, a Panama-flagged ship that carries cargo between Asia and Europe, is seen wedged across the Suez Canal on Saturday

PHOTO: AP

A crane was already on its way that can lift the containers off the ship, he said.

An official at the Suez Canal Authority said the authority planned to make at least two attempts Saturday to free the vessel when the high tide goes down. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorised to brief journalists. Egyptian authorities have prohibited media access to the site. The salvage mission was turning its focus to the ship's lodged bow,

after some progress was made towards freeing the ship's stern, the canal service provider Leth Agencies said Saturday. Egypt's Prime Minister Mustafa Madbouly called the ship's predicament "a very extraordinary incident," in his first public comments on the blockage in a press conference in Cairo. He said the head of the canal authority, Lt Gen Osama Rabie, would hold a news conference Saturday in the city of Suez to share more details of the operation.

**Supplied more shots globally than vaccinated own people: India at UN**

## Digital tax: USTR for retaliatory trade actions against India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
Washington/New Delhi,  
March 27

**THE UNITED STATES** Trade Representative (USTR) has proposed retaliatory trade actions against India and certain other countries that have imposed or are considering equalisation levy/digital services tax on e-commerce companies. It has issued notices seeking public comments on proposed trade actions against six countries, including India.

The USTR, in a statement, said it "is proceeding with the public notice and comment process on possible trade actions to preserve procedural options before the conclusion of the statutory one-year time period for completing the investigations."

According to a USTR document pertaining to India, it has requested "written comments from the public notice and comment process on possible trade actions to preserve procedural options before the conclusion of the statutory one-year time period for completing the investigations."

"Consequent to the determination and findings, now USTR has proposed a retaliatory action under Section 301 against India's equalisation levy, along with other countries," a source said.

action with the stakeholders concerned and would take suitable measures, keeping in mind the trade and commercial interest of the country and overall interest of its people.

In June 2020, the US initiated an investigation under Section 301 of the US Trade Act, 1974 against the taxation on digital services adopted or under consideration by India, Italy, Turkey, UK, Spain and Austria. The report of this investigation in January this year concluded that India's equalisation levy, by its structure and operation, discriminates against US digital companies.

It was strongly opposed by India. The US had requested for bilateral consultations in this matter, and India had submitted its comments to the USTR on July 15, 2020. It had also participated in a bilateral consultation held on November 5, 2020.

"In particular, USTR proposes to impose additional tariffs of up to 2.5% ad valorem on an aggregate level of trade that would collect duties on goods of India in the range of the amount of DST (digital services tax) that India is expected to collect from US companies," it said.

According to the USTR document, the proposed action includes imposition of additional ad valorem tariffs on certain products from India, such as sea food, bamboo products, semi-precious and precious stones, furniture, cork and cigarette papers.

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