

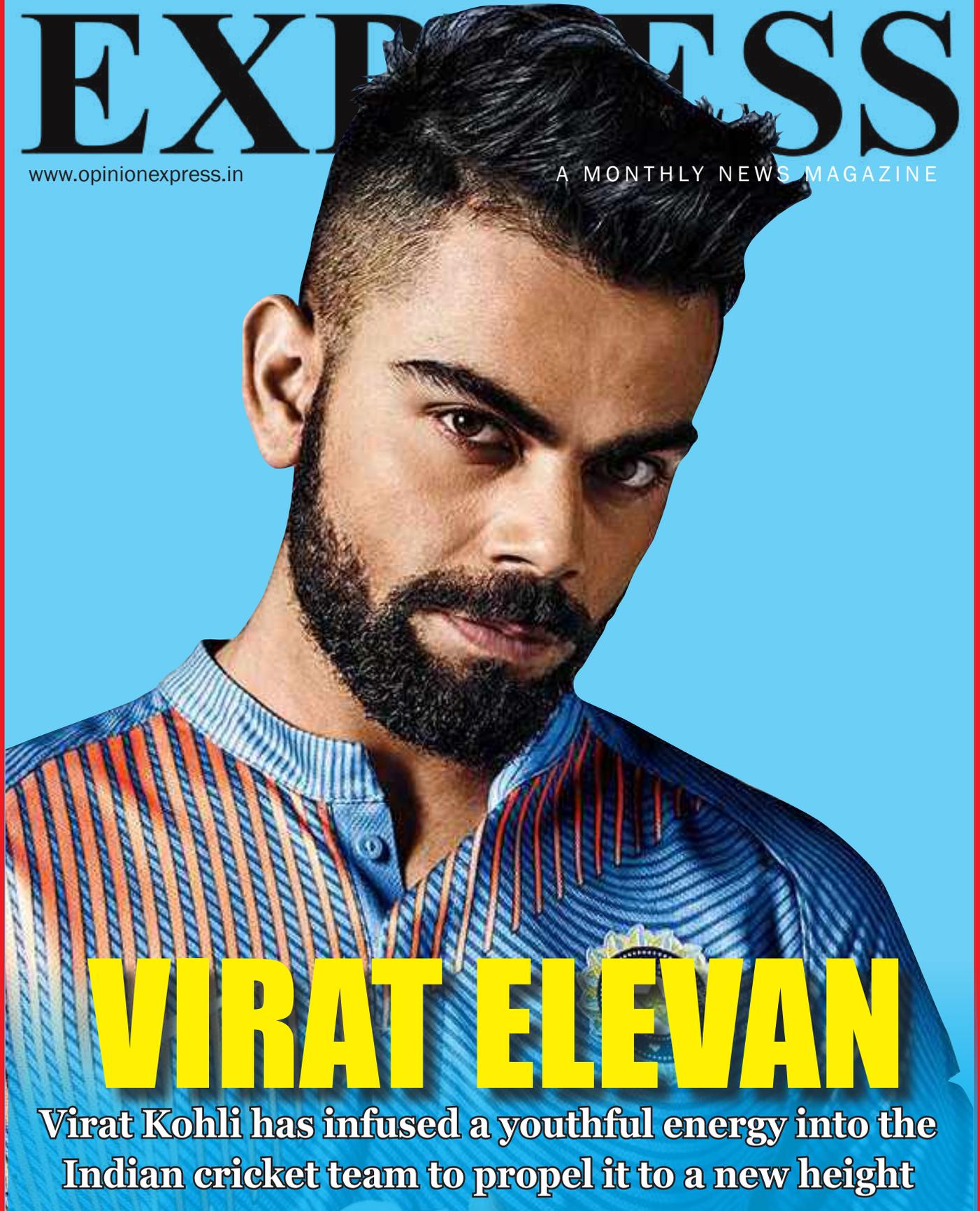
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VIRAT ELEVAN

Virat Kohli has infused a youthful energy into the Indian cricket team to propel it to a new height



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Virat Kohli is pushing Indian cricket to a new high

A country of 1.3 billion people just blindly follows Politics, Cricket and Bollywood. Just watch any TV channel for an hour; the content will have political news, prominent leader speech, and commercial with cricketer or a film star. The amazing transformation was pushed by the advent of television in



the 1990's and it became bigger and bigger with huge money chasing politics, cricket and bollywood. Narendra Modi, Virat, Sachin, Shahrukh Khan, are household names in any part of the country courtesy TV, Radio, Newspaper and social media. The personality cult surrounds superstars is phenomenal story for the people following them, the pressures to keep up the demands of over billion people are huge too. Leadership can transform a country, so the team of eleven men can be motivated by aggressive competent leadership. Virat Kohli is outstanding sportsman and huge influence on the Indian cricket team. The Indian Men's Cricket Team is in the recent times seems to possess a Midas touch. It appears that everything that team under Virat's command touches turns into gold. With the recent conclusion of One Day Internationals (ODIs) series against Australia, India has/the team has finished on the top of the Cricket Ratings in both the Test Matches as well as ODIs. The phenomenal success of the team has been attributed to many/several factors, one such being the smooth transition of the captaincy in the hands of Virat Kohli's hands. In the test cricket, India has quite successfully clinched last eight test match series in a row. It is just one short to equal/level the record of Australia, nine consecutive victories on a roll. The formidable form of the team must be decoded in detail and also the roles of young players especially Hardik Pandya and Jasprit Bumrah being pivotal to achieve the desired goals on a consistent basis.

On the economic front, Demonetization and GST has become the main political agenda of the present political scene. But the principle agenda that needs immediate focus is NPA of the banks in India. There's no doubt that the UPA left poison pills behind; but the Government must get tough. The Indian banking sector is in crisis and someone needs to call out the culprit, the UPA Government, which allowed ridiculous loans to be approved. If facts are investigated, it will emerge that several gold-plated loans were given to favoured businessmen. It is, therefore, not surprising that journalists, friendly to the previous regime, are flying kites and are trying to discredit legitimate business loans given to people close to the current administration. When Congress leaders attack the Modi Government for allowing defaulters such as Vijay Mallya to 'escape', one cannot but be astounded at the hypocrisy of such spokespersons. It was the UPA that gave massive loans which did not have a semblance of logic. Anybody with a modicum of intelligence could see that Mallya's airline was in a tailspin and was going to be crushed under the one-time liquor baron's immense ego. The problem is beyond Mallya and it has reached to many known corporate houses where the amount of toxic loans are higher than the Mallya golden benchmark bad loans. Surely Gujarat and HP state elections are important for both the national parties but the main reason why the Indian economy is bleeding is never addressed by political elites, the reason is simple - industrialists taken loans are close to both the parties so debate is conveniently transferred to GST and demonetization. Healthy economy can ride on healthy banking system but the state of banking in India is pathetic. NPA has broken the backbone of banks in India; it is high time that policy makers must get serious about the most serious issue that has paralyzed Indian economy.

—Prashant Tewari, Editor-in-Chief

COVER STORY

Formidable Indian Cricket team of Virat Kohli

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Creativity is a key for
innovative cinema –
Ravi K Chandran



Super Srikanth becomes first Indian to win four Super Series titles in a calendar year

Shuttler Srikanth continues with his Super run

Kidambi Srikanth became the first Indian and only fourth male shuttler in history to lift four Super Series titles in a calendar year as he beat Japan's Kenta Nishimoto in the men's singles final at French Open. In just 34 minutes, Srikanth beat Nishimoto 21-14, 21-13 to lift the French Open Super Series titles.

This is Srikanth's fourth Super Series title this year after he won the Denmark Open Super Series Premier last Sunday and the Indonesia Super Series Premier and Australian Open Super Series in June earlier this year.

Twice this year, Srikanth has won back-to-back Super Series titles -- Denmark and French this month and Indonesia and Australia consecutively in June. Only Lee Chong Wei has done that before.

The 24-year-old surpassed Saina Nehwal's record of three Super Series

in a year (2010) and with the achievement; he is all set to reach his career-high of world No. 2 in BWF Rankings.

Srikanth was unstoppable and superior to the opponent. He won the first point of the match with Nishimoto putting the shuttle wide. Thereafter, the Japanese displayed some excellent intent coupled with good resistance and cross court strokes to take a 9-5. It was the difference in points that seemed to have triggered something in Srikanth and he took over the mantle from there to show the kind of strokes he has been playing since two weeks. Srikanth took six consecutive points to lead 11-9 at the break.

Srikanth didn't let the momentum drop from there. He played his classic smashes and coupled with Nishimoto's inability to handle the pressure, Srikanth raced to a 15-10 lead. Srikanth varied the pace of his strokes and kept it simple to

force errors from Nishimoto -- the Japanese unable to control the shuttle started sending it long. Within 16 minutes, Srikanth took the first game 21-14.

The second game began similarly with the Indian racing off to a 4-0 lead. A similar pattern followed with Nishimoto gifting points to Srikanth. Despite a mini fightback, Srikanth lead 11-5 at the breather. Srikanth began playing around with the Japanese thereafter moving him all over the court. With stunning control over the shuttle and brilliantly accurate smashing, Srikanth opened up an 18-12 lead. Nishimoto managed just one more point after which Srikanth won three points in a row to clinch the title. It is a great achievement by an Indian sportsman; it must be rejoiced by Indians.

Report filed by OE News Desk, UK Bureau





FORMIDABLE INDIAN CRICKET TEAM OF VIRAT KOHLI

By Prashant Tewari

Leadership can transform a country, so the team of eleven men can be motivated by aggressive competent leadership. Virat Kohli is outstanding sportsman and huge influence on the Indian cricket team. The Indian Men's Cricket Team is in the recent times seems to possess a Midas touch. It appears that everything that team under Virat's command touches turns into gold. With the recent conclusion of One Day Internationals (ODIs) series against Australia, India has/ the team has finished on the top of the Cricket Ratings in both the Test Matches as well as ODIs. The phenomenal success of the team has been attributed to many/several factors, one such being the smooth transition of the captaincy in the hands of Virat Kohli's hands. In the test cricket, India has quite successfully clinched last eight test match series in a row. it is just one short to equal/level the record of Australia, nine consecutive victories on a roll. The formidable form of the team must be decoded in detail and also the roles of young players especially Hardik Pandya and Jasprit Bumrah being pivotal to achieve the desired goals on a consistent basis.



Smooth Transition for 'New Captain'

The Indian Team has in the recent years seen the transformation from a Ms Dhoni's Captaincy to the new hands of Virat Kohli, with significant differences in then and now. The new captain took over the Test captaincy in 2014 when MS Dhoni announced his 'surprise' retirement from the longest format/5-day format. The team recorded exceptional success rates under his command with an unbeaten series streak running into the third year as well. The team is also ranked as Number one in the world with a rating of 125, cruising well ahead of South Africa which is at the second spot with a score of 110. In the past three years, India has defeated all great names, New Zealand, South Africa, Sri Lanka and Australia in the test series. The whitewash of Sri Lanka on their home soil has been a stellar example of the victorious spirit possessed by Team India. The team has displayed the astounding courage to bounce back everytime; it has also been subjected to pressure by the opponent team.

The achievement story for the team in ODIs has also been exceptional, currently being the number one side in the world. It is pertinent to mention that India needed to defeat Australia by a specific lead of 4-1 in the series to attain the top spot and gladly the team succeeded in it. The new captain has infused a renewed confidence in the team with 'fearlessness' being one of the main attributes. The team/the unit shows/possesses the will to emerge triumphant in all situations. The objective is to continue the unbeaten run. The younger players are provided with the leverage to express themselves on the field and the captain himself backs them with favorable field settings. The main feature of this 'New Age' team is blending of experience and talent, with the exposure of seasoned players like MS Dhoni, R Ashwin, Rohit Sharma and Shikhar Dhawan, mentoring the new entrants becomes quite handy by guiding them.

Combination of Virat Kohli and MS Dhoni/A Duelist Spirit

The fact that MS Dhoni has stepped down from the captaincy from both the test matches as well as the limited overs cricket, coupled with the reality that he still remains a pivotal part of the ODIs fixture, could have resulted in a tough situation for both for the new captain and old guard. It has been, on the contrary, been beneficial for the team, both Kohli and Dhoni have a great rapport and mutually respect each other.

Many times it has been observed that Virat takes the advice of Dhoni into account before a fielding or bowling change. MS Dhoni with his vast experience is also able to guide the team in scenarios of DRS, that whether the Decision Review System (DRS) must be taken or not. He is very useful in setting the field as well particularly in the last/death overs when Virat himself is in the outfield. Dhoni has also transformed his batting style nowadays, playing with greater responsibility and taking game until the end with the lower order. He has also guided players like Hardik Pandya and Bhuvaneshwar Kumar while scripting partnerships to save the team. The unparalleled combination of Virat's aggression and Dhoni's experience makes for a duelist spirit/ one of the most deadly leadership skills which is non-existent in any other team in the world.

Rise of 'Spin Powerhouse'

India has always been known to be one of the best spin bowling teams in the world/India has been known for its knack of producing some great spin bowlers in world cricket. We have produced world-class spinners like Anil Kumble, Harbhajan Singh, Bishen Singh Bedi, etc. The thing about the contemporary spinners like R Ashwin, Ravinder Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzevendra Chahal which brings them into perspective is that they lead the bowling attack from the front. The youngsters like Chahal, Yadav and Axar Patel don't get rattled by the onslaught, but rather back themselves to take wickets, thanks to the belief. The team management has also supported the bowlers very well, every player given ample opportunities to prove his mettle. The superb success

rates in the test matches is largely the result of great bowling skills portrayed by Ravinder Jadeja and R Ashwin, who have outfoxed nearly every opponent side with spin. The fact that both of them are ranked second and third respectively, in the world in both bowling and all-rounders shows/depicts their excellent form as well as record.

They have contributed both with the bowl and bat to give their team the killer edge. The comprehensiveness of India's recent victory over Australia could be gauged from the fact that both Ashwin and Jadeja didn't play a single game, yet the home side routed the Australians 4-1 & New Zealand 2-1. The 'problem of plenty' in the spin department is the best headache that a team management is faced with in the given period.



'Opening Combination' kicks in

The importance of the opening batsmen in any format of the game is immense as they set the stage for the coming players to build up the innings. They are also entrusted with the responsibility of dealing with the 'New Ball' and see through the initial pace attack. India, in the recent past, has been extremely lucky to get hold of a settled combination consisting of Rohit Sharma and Shikhar Dhawan for the ODIs. They on several occasions have contributed with sometimes a fifty runs and other times a hundred run stands to bolster the team's chances. One of the interesting facts being that the bench strength of the current is so high that after Shikhar Dhawan who scored the highest runs for the team against Sri Lanka in the ODIs had to opt out of the Australian series due to personal reasons, Ajinkya Rahane chipped in with quite an ease for the opener's role. In the test matches, the role has been played by KL Rahul along with Shikhar Dhawan with great success, even on foreign soils.

The real backbone of the team's batting has been the skipper himself, Virat Kohli being the chase specialist in the ODIs, has more than 28 centuries under his belt. It is a world record and he has beaten legends like Sachin Tendulkar, Ricky Ponting, etc. in this aspect. The contribution of Cheteswar Pujara, Virat Kohli, Ajinkya Rahane and KL Rahul who all feature in the Top 10 of the Batsmen rankings have helped the team win over other sides.



The 'Pace Powerhouse' emerges

The great victories of the team in both the ODIs and Test matches have been the result of outstanding contribution by the pace bowlers. Mohd. Shami, Bhuvaneshwar Kumar, Jasprit Bumrah and Umesh Yadav have been able to swing the bowl with great discipline. The duo of Bhuvaneshwar Kumar and Jasprit Bumrah has emerged as the best death overs combination for the ODIs and has been able to stem the flow of runs on numerous occasions. The test cricket has also observed the pacers utilizing the seam conditions with panache and providing early breakthroughs to the team. The bowling coach Bharat Arun has also been quite pivotal in the success of the fast as well as medium fast bowlers and has polished their skills to great effect.



Rise of Hardik Pandya

The newest/Brand new superstar in the Indian Team is being marked as the 'Ace in the Pack' for the team. He has been in carrying into a marauding form in both test matches and ODIs. He has established himself as an upper order batsman with an exhibition of a remarkable composure in some recent innings.

He has also added to the bowling prowess, executing the role of the fifth bowler. He has given the team an extra edge with an attribute of acting as a pace all-rounder in place of the traditional part-time spinners. He has worked very hard on his bowling and has improved his lengths and consistency. The uprising has been in his battling with the team management and hooking off to number 4 slot to extend the batting line up. His brutal attacks against the spinners are one of the most joyful sights for any Indian cricket fan. He has also matured as a player and has performed immaculately in test matches as well. His fitness levels and aggressive demeanor adds to the entire aura which make him an unassailable player of cricket.



New Coach and focus on Fitness

The arrival of Ravi Shastri first as a manager and then as the coach of the team has been quite beneficial for the team. He shares a great rapport with the captain Virat Kohli and the results under his coachmanship infer the same.

He has given the required/right amount of leverage to the captain, so as to share the team and has also lent outside support in the times of exigencies. The added emphasis on the fitness of the players has also helped the players in refining their fielding skills. It has lifted the morale of the team with every/each player being involved in a healthy competition with his teammates to prove his potential. Virat Kohli who himself is extremely fit leads the team from the front in this department and is one of the best-known fielders in the world. Even in the test matches, the level of fielding is very high and it certainly puts the opposition under tremendous pressure, as the fielders are not ready to concede even an inch in the field.

The ultimate Road to Glory.....

The Indian team is currently the top-ranked side both in test matches as well as ODIs, but there are still some greater goals that the team must achieve to emerge 'Invictus'/undefeatable. The disappointing loss against Pakistan in the finals of the Champions Trophy, England still ekes/pinches in the heart of every Indian fan. The emphasis on playing in the English conditions is even greater nowadays because the venue for 2019 World Cup is England and Wales. The whole nation would be hoping that India becomes the world champions once again and reclaims the coveted trophy from the reigning champions, Australia. Another area in which the current team has still not been tested is the foreign test series, particularly in Australia and England.

It is pertinent to mention that even in 2011 when the team appeared unassailable in the world, had to face humiliating defeats in several test matches in England. But Virat Kohli's team surely appears more formidable than ever. Perhaps it is the time that the team achieves success in the toughest seam conditions and rests the debate/case forever. It is hoped that the Indian Team would continue its scintillating form under the aggressive captain and would achieve feats which would be repeated as folklores for times immemorial/to come. Serelu, the tag of No1 will be justified when India starts winning matches overseas. The tough tours of South Africa and Australia in the next calader year will bring this eminent test for Virat's men in blue: the win in South Africa and Australia will confirm the superiority of Indian cricket team in the global cricket scenario.



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No stopping for Virat Kohli: Fastest batsman to score 9000 ODI runs

Captain courageous is also a prolific run machine

Highlights

1 Kohli has become the 19th batsman to breach the 9000-run mark, making him the fastest to get there

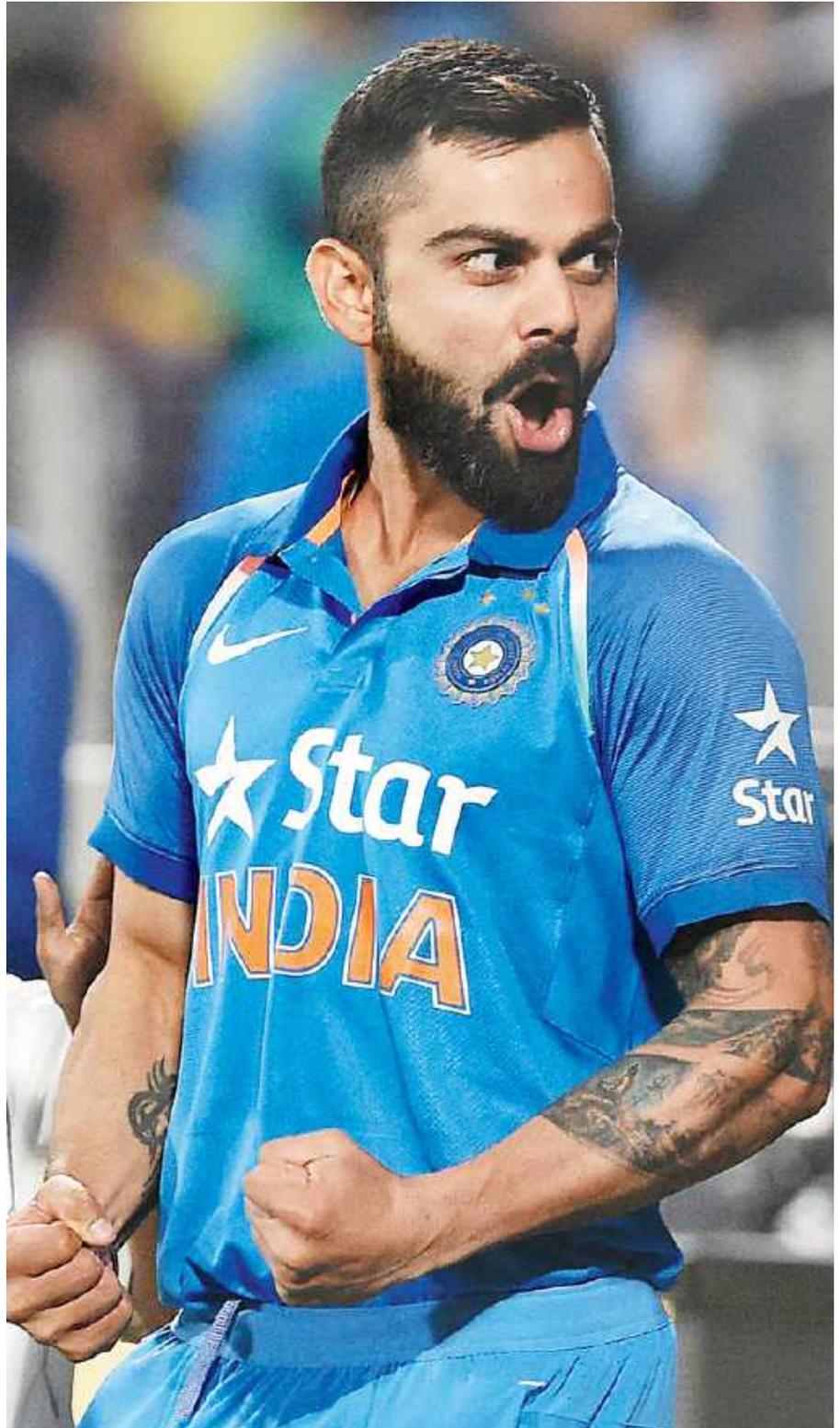
2 Dhoni had reached the milestone last year while other Indians who have done so are Sachin, Dravid, Ganguly, Azharuddin

3 He had surpassed Ponting in the list of most ODI hundreds with his 31st ton

Virat Kohli became the sixth Indian and the fastest to complete 9000 ODI runs during the series-deciding third game against New Zealand on Sunday. Kohli got to the landmark in the 37th over when he guided one off Grandhomme towards the third man for a four. He went on to score his 32nd ODI century off 96 balls and eventually got out on 113. Mahendra Singh Dhoni had reached the milestone last year while other Indians who have done so are Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, Sourav Ganguly and Mohammad Azharuddin.

Another milestone was reaching his 49th international century surpassing Rahul Dravid (48 tons). He is second among Indian batsmen in terms of international hundreds after Sachin Tendulkar (100 tons). Overall, Kohli, who played his 202nd match and 194th innings on Sunday, has become the 19th batsman to breach the 9000-run mark, making him the fastest to get there. Earlier in the series, the Indian captain had surpassed Australian great Ricky Ponting in the list of most ODI hundreds with his 31st ton. Tendulkar tops the list with 49 hundreds and he is also the leading run-getter in the format.

By OE News DESK



MOLLAH RAINING

10 RICHEST INDIAN CRICKETERS OF ALL TIME

Indian cricketers are biggest money spinners in the world

Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi had once said, "If the International Cricket Council (ICC) is the voice of cricket, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is the invoice of cricket." In simple words, BCCI provided the international council with money and in return received immense power. India is the commercial epicentre of the game and counts for almost 80% of the revenue generated. This naturally means that Indian cricketers are some of the best-paid athletes in the game, having wealth worth millions. It is understandable that because of the popularity, brilliant performances and might of the Indian board, the Blues have always been present in a list of the richest cricketers.

Here we take a look at the 10 richest Indian cricketers of all time who might even put businessmen and Indian politicians to shame.

1 Sachin Tendulkar

The Master Blaster is rightfully considered as one of the pioneers of the game because of whom the sport has reached such great heights. Tendulkar is considered as the best player ever to play the game and has been involved in the game even after retiring in 2013. He currently mentors the Mumbai Indians team in the IPL and is also on the advisory board of the BCCI.

Sachin's net worth is speculated at around \$160 million or a staggering sum of Rs.1066 crores. The Indian Messiah earns around Rs. 2 crores from the BCCI and a further Rs. 15 crores from various endorsements. He is associated with as many as 24 brands and is also the face of many government schemes and policies.

Tendulkar owns three restaurants in Mumbai and Bangalore in partnership with Sanjay Narang. His personal properties are worth over Rs. 500 crores, with the former Indian batsman owning 10 cars worth over



Rs. 20 crores. Sachin is also the co-owner of ISL team, Kerala Blasters, the badminton team, Bangalore Blasters and Kabaddi team Tamil Thalaivas.

He has an autobiography titled, "Playing it my way" and also had a movie made in his honour named, "Sachin: A Billion Dreams." Tendulkar also donates a lot to charity and has even adopted a village to provide electricity and clean water to the public.

2 Mahendra Singh Dhoni

Dhoni is one of the most marketable faces in the country and has had a great career in all formats of the game. Considered as the best ever Indian captain by many, Dhoni is also the highest paid player in the Indian Premier League and has a category A contract with the BCCI.

The wicketkeeper's net worth is estimated at around \$110 million or Rs.734 crores at today's conversion rates. Annually, it is speculated that the Indian limited overs captain earns \$12 million. His contract with the Rising Pune Supergiant saw the power hitter pocket Rs. 15 crores each year. Dhoni has a huge collection of cars and bikes which are said to be worth around Rs.25 crores. Dhoni has also bought properties all over the country with his personal investments being calculated at around Rs. 522 crores. He is also the co-owner of ISL side, Chennaiyin FC.

3 Virat Kohli

The Indian captain is one of the best-paid athletes in the world and is the only Indian to be included in the list of Forbes highest paid athletes of 2017. Kohli is the second highest paid player in the IPL and is naturally one of the highest earners from the Indian board. Kohli's phenomenal rise is expected to make him the richest cricketer of all time by the time he hangs up his boots.

Virat Kohli has an estimated net worth of around \$60 million which roughly translates to a whopping Rs. 390 crores. His IPL fee per season is Rs.14 crores and has personal properties worth Rs.42 crores. Kohli owns two houses - one in Mumbai and one in Delhi. He has 6 luxurious cars worth Rs.9 crores and has plans to start a gym chain all around the country soon. It is estimated that the captain's net worth will increase by a massive 140% in the next few years.



4 Virender Sehwag

The Nawab of Najafgarh is considered as the most destructive batter that this country has ever seen. His fearless batting enthralled the nation for over a decade in all three formats of the game. Sehwag is currently the head coach of Kings XI Punjab and is also in line to coach the Indian team one day.

Viru has a net worth of a staggering \$40 million or Rs. 255 crores which he has gathered from his BCCI salaries, IPL contracts and his private businesses. In his playing days, Sehwag had an annual salary of \$5.7 million along with another \$4 million from endorsements. Sehwag also had an IPL contract worth \$1.8 million. Nowadays, he runs a successful Twitter and Facebook account which is a huge hit in India and also has an international school in Haryana along with an international cricket academy.



5 Yusuf Pathan

This name might surprise a few as the Baroda all rounder has not been in the Indian national team for long. The destructive batsman and a miserly off break bowler, Pathan became a household name in India when he first played in the IPL for Rajasthan Royals. His performances for the Royals earned him an Indian cap but he could not replicate his IPL form for long. But his stint with the Kolkata Knight Riders earned him millions which in turn made him one of India's richest cricketers.

Pathan's net worth is around \$26.5 million which mainly comes from his healthy IPL contract with the Knight Riders. He also endorses companies like Reebok and Tata Indicom which adds to his wealth. Yusuf along with his brother Irfan run a cricket academy named, 'The cricket academy of Pathans' in Baroda which is considered as one of the best residential cricket academies in India.



6 Suresh Raina

The Uttar Pradesh middle order batsman is one of the highest paid players in the IPL. He is the captain of Gujarat Lions in the IPL and is one of the only two players that have scored a century for India in T20 internationals.

Raina's net worth is estimated at a whopping Rs.150 crore which includes a Rs.9.5 crores salary from his IPL side. The southpaw has numerous real estate properties around the country which are worth Rs. 27 crores. He currently resides in Ghaziabad with the current cost of his home valued at Rs.18 crores. Raina also pockets Rs. 7 crores from his various endorsements which include brands like Pepsi, Intex, Ceat, Boost and Adidas.



7 Yuvraj Singh

The stylish left-handed all rounder was the architect of India's 2011 World Cup win. He also played a crucial role in the 2007 T20 World Cup which made him a cult figure in Indian cricket. He is still a crucial member of India's ODI setup and has been playing for the national side since the past 16 years.

Singh represents Sunrisers Hyderabad in the IPL and has seen his stocks rise one season after the other. The Punjab born player has a net worth of around Rs.146 crores. He has an IPL contract worth Rs.7 crores and also comes in the category A contract of the BCCI. Singh earns around Rs.7.5 crores from his sponsors and brand endorsements which include the likes of Puma, Reebok, LG, Audi and Royal Stag soda.

Yuvraj owns two houses in Chandigarh and has made personal investments worth Rs.45 crores. He runs a charitable organization named "YouWecan" and is believed to have invested around Rs.50 crores for his charity work. Yuvraj has also written his autobiography about how he recovered from cancer titled, "The Test of My Life: From Cricket to Cancer and Back."



8 Rohit Sharma

The talented Indian top order batsman is one of the best players that have been plying their trade for the national team in the last decade. Sharma is a regular in the Indian ODI and T20 setup and also captains the Mumbai Indians side - one of the most successful sides in IPL.

His swashbuckling hitting at the top of the order makes him an obvious entrant in this list with the Mumbai lad also being the only cricketer to score two double centuries in one-day internationals. Sharma's estimated net worth is around \$18.7 million which converts to a whopping Rs. 124.5 crores. His annual salary with the BCCI and from the IPL counts for Rs.11.5 crores whereas he earns around Rs.7.5 crores from brand endorsements.

He owns four luxurious cars worth Rs.5 crores and has personal investments of about Rs.88.6 crores. He currently lives in a massive real estate property in Worli, Mumbai which is worth around 30 crore rupees.



9 Gautam Gambhir

The hero of India's two World Cup triumphs finds himself a place in this elite test because of his consistent performances for India, KKR and the Delhi Ranji team. The southpaw was a regular in the Indian team but the emergence of new talents saw the Delhi batsman get phased out of the side. But he performed exceedingly well in captaining the Kolkata side in the IPL and is one of the highest run scorers in the tournament's history.

Gambhir has a net worth of around \$15.2 million which translates to roughly 101.2 crore rupees. His earning from the Indian board is valued at around Rs. 10 crores annually. Gambhir earns Rs. 5 crores from his various brand endorsements and also owns three luxurious cars namely a Hummer, a Mercedes-Benz and an Audi. Gambhir's personal properties are worth over Rs. 85 crores and he lives in a posh New Delhi area worth a handsome Rs. 18 crores in today's market.



10 Sourav Ganguly

Dada, as he is fondly called by his colleagues, was India's most influential captain of all time. He brought in a sense of aggression and confidence which brought in a new era in Indian cricket. Ganguly's net worth is estimated at \$15 million or 99 crore rupees. His remuneration from the BCCI is valued at around 5 crores rupees whereas his brand endorsements earn him around 2 crores rupees.

Dada owns five luxurious cars worth Rs. 7 crores and has personal properties of around Rs. 45 crores. Ganguly also hosts the TV show "Dadagiri Unlimited" which airs on Zee Bangla. He is also the co-owner of ISL side, ATK.



NO LONG-TERM DAMAGE TO MODI GOVT'S IMAGE

The general mood is still upbeat about Modi & his govt

Swapan Dasgupta

It is fascinating to observe how effortlessly the seasons change in the world of the chattering classes. By seasons, I don't mean the inevitable transition from the monsoons to the brief Indian autumn when it is a series of uninterrupted festivities culminating in Diwali. I am referring to the political mood.

The brief Indian Spring was the occasion when a section of the chattering classes — by which I mean the small, but disproportionately influential, Left-liberal elite — readied itself for a momentous change. They convinced

themselves, egged on by the English-language media, that Narendra Modi would get his comeuppance in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly election. I recall the glee in secular circles after the first two phases of that election, when the bush telegraph proclaimed that the BJP had been well and truly trounced. When Modi went on an intensive campaign in the Varanasi region, it was suggested that this was a desperate, last minute bid to salvage the situation.

How the voters of UP actually voted came clear on counting day. I need not elaborate on the outcome, except to note that the BJP's strike rate was the highest in the first two phases and in the last

phase (when Varanasi voted) — a clear pointer that there is a wide gulf between reality and echo chamber chatter.

The summer and the monsoons were spent agonising over the choice of Mahant Adityanath as the Chief Minister of UP and protesting against horrible lynchings and the inexplicable murder of an activist-journalist in Bengaluru. However, it was the evidence of an economic slowdown, occasioned by the enlargement of the tax net by the Goods and Services Tax, that has led to the secular dil mange more. It was concluded that evidence of colossal mismanagement of the economy was now before the people and it would be a matter of



months before the countdown to Modi's final departure from Race Course Road began.

It is being presumed, that this time the first blow will be struck by Gujarat, where there have been significant anti-GST protests by traders who are among the BJP's core support base. There is also the simultaneous belief that, having acquitted himself well before students in US Ivy League universities — not least by aggressively asserting that dynastic rule is an Indian characteristic — Rahul Gandhi is wonderfully placed to restore the 'progressive' agenda to In-

There is no doubt that the Congress has injected new life into its social media campaign. It is even out-performing the BJP, which hitherto had a complete monopoly over messaging. The party's efforts have been complemented by a section of the 'new' media which has so far battled incessantly to create an anti-Modi mood.

dian politics. In the past six weeks, the number of endorsements of Rahul from people who have used every occasion to pour aesthetic scorn on the Prime Minister have multiplied. The Left-liberal elite has buried earlier misgivings of the Congress' heir-apparent and rallied around him as their only hope to rid the country of Modi.

The chatter that the tide has turned is now all-pervasive. It is being pointed out that the Delhi University students have hit the BJP where it hurts by rejecting some ABVP candidates; a small town BJP councillor has been thrashed by angry Dalits protesting against demolitions; women students in Benares Hindu University have reclaimed their personal liberties by engineering the ouster of a 'saffron' Vice-Chancellor; the Congress has retained a municipal



ward in a Jaipur by-election; the State president of BJP's West Bengal unit was heckled by a section of Gorkha activists during a visit to Darjeeling; and the PM had to personally intervene, first by an aggressive speech and subsequently by convening a crisis management team, to attend to a looming economic 'crisis', with an eye on the Gujarat election.

Chatter, as we saw during the UP elections, can quite easily be manufactured. There is no doubt that the Congress has injected new life into its social media campaign. It is even out-performing the BJP, which hitherto had a complete monopoly over messaging. The party's efforts have been complemented by a section of the 'new' media which has so far battled incessantly to create an anti-Modi mood.

There are a few conclusions to be drawn from the autumnal tremors. First, it is clear that the BJP machinery took its eye off the social media ball and fell back in the messaging game. It failed to anticipate the shift of gear from the 'Not in my name' phase to the economy-in-doldrums chatter. It reacted late. Second, there was a late reaction to inevitable problems created by the hiccups of balancing a long-term, transformational agenda with short-term dislocations. Finally, in the matter of organising spirited fightbacks against a well entrenched elite, particularly dur-

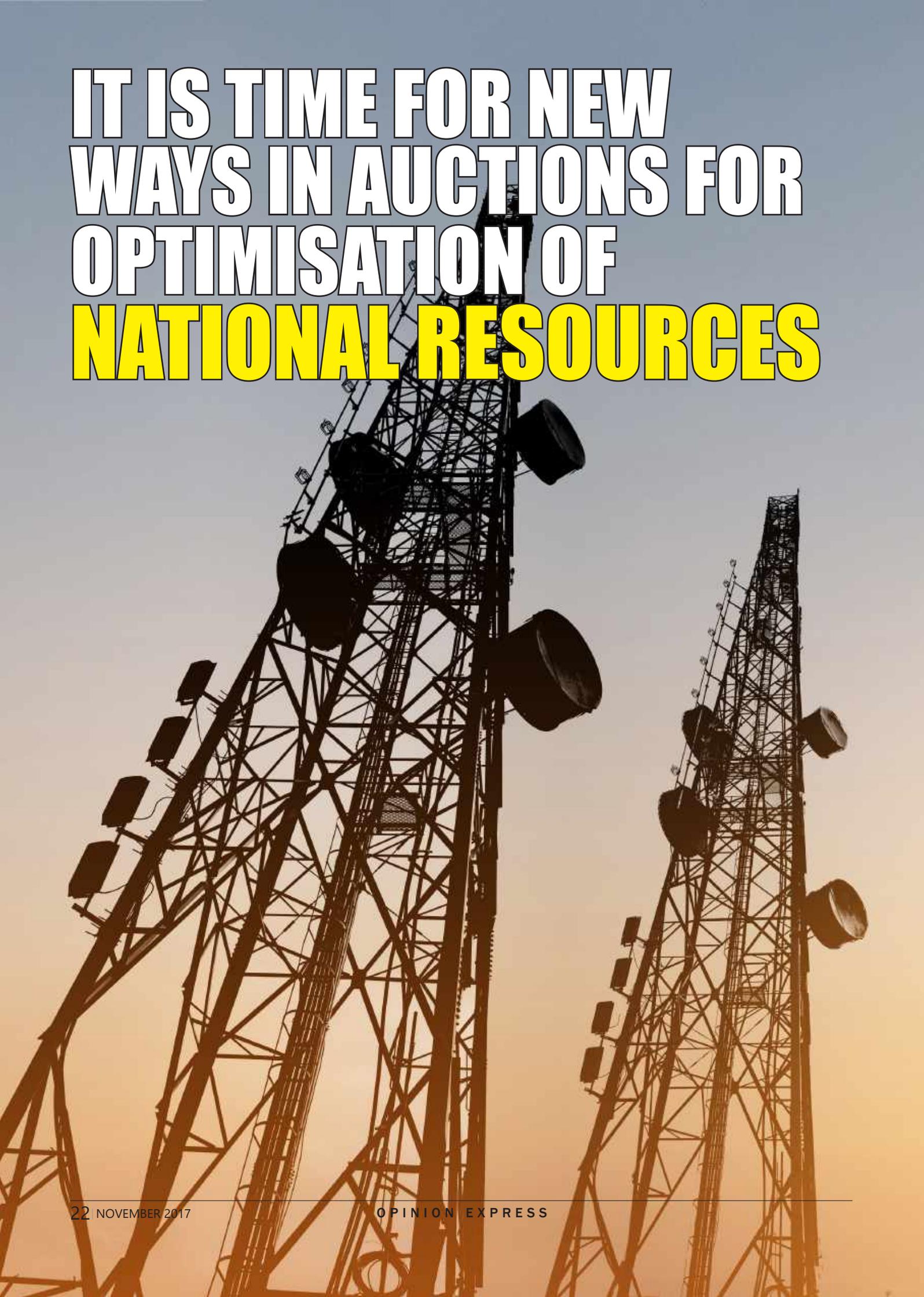
ing non-election seasons, the BJP is disproportionately reliant on the PM to rally its larger, non-party support base.

For the Government, however, there has been no real long-term damage. The fine-tuning of the GST was overdue and has at least lifted the spirits of the karyakartas. Equally, Amit Shah's participation in the protests against the Red terror in Kannur was important in galvanising BJP cadres in places where the party still has a long way to go before it can make a mark. And the message that the PM is permanently responsive is a message that reinforces the sense of sincerity he exudes.

In the end the battle is, however, ethical. Modi has a two-fold agenda: To bring India into the 21st century as a major player and to remove the venal past. The first is a long-term project that will need tough decisions and relentless commitment. The second, however, warrants immediate attention. Those who chose Modi with such high expectations must be persuaded that the regime does really want to clear the cobwebs of past misdemeanours. The Government must take exemplary action to punish some of the key figures of India's venal past. So far it has proceeded too slowly, providing the space for them to plan their comeback and revenge.

(Courtesy The Pioneer)

IT IS TIME FOR NEW WAYS IN AUCTIONS FOR OPTIMISATION OF **NATIONAL RESOURCES**



It's time, we must stop plundering of natural resources

J Gopikrishnan

In India action on allotment of natural resources streamlined after the land mark Judgment given by Supreme Court Judges GS Singhvi and AK Ganguly in 2G Spectrum scam and subsequent Presidential Reference given by the then Chief Justice of India SK Kapadia in 2012. It was the outcome of the public interest litigations filed by BJP leader Subramanain Swamy and noted lawyer Prashant Bhushan.

Though in 2001, telecom spectrum was auctioned; subsequent allotments were done through arbitrary ways leading to the 2G Scam and huge anti-corruption wave in the country and ended up the process of streaming the auction

The auction ended on the very first day due to the non-cooperation of bidders. There were many reasons for this collapse. First – People in Government wanted to teach Supreme Court a lesson which cancelled all 122 2G licenses and started monitoring 2G Scam probe

of natural resources like spectrum and coal by the intervention of Supreme Court and expose by Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India. In 2003 Government reiterated that auction should be conducted in future. But till 2G Scam was blown out of proportion people in Government and corporates and lobbyists preferred arbitrary allotments in crooked ways. The auction became mandatory from 2010 with the auction of 3G and BWA spectrum (somehow called as 4G). From 2010 to 2016, the country's exchequer earned more than Rs.3.6 lakh crores.

Meanwhile in 2012, people in Government and corporates collapsed the 2012 auction directed by Supreme Court. The auction ended on the very first day due to the non-cooperation of bidders. There were many reasons for



this collapse. First – People in Government wanted to teach Supreme Court a lesson which cancelled all 122 2G licenses and started monitoring 2G Scam probe. Second – All the Corporates don't want to increase the price of the spectrum and would to control the price of next mandatory auction in 2014.

So auction in ended on the very first day. Look at the money got from the failed auction. Just 19 licenses were sold for Rs.9400 crore. Compare this figure with Raja's 2G scam where 122 license were allotted to in fraud way and got only Rs.9200 crore.

Similar was the money arrived in the exchequer through auction of coal mines after the Supreme Court and CAG interventions. Sadly across the World, people in Government and Corporates unite in getting natural resources like Spectrum, Coal, Water etc. There are many ways be found out to curb the spirit of auction. Look at the 2010 auction of 3G airwaves. There was a cartelisation by certain corporates to curb the prices. Tata, Aircel, Idea all were involved. We have seen the controversies in the BWA (so called 4G) auction and back door entry of Mukesh Ambani.

There is no doubt that same kind of cartelisation happened in auction of coal mines too. There was a mutual understanding between corporates in 2016 spectrum auction for not bidding for 700 MHz spectrum. The fact of the matter is this kind of No: 2 games happen only with the blessing or approval of people in Government.

These kinds of practises can be

curbed only through more transparent and scientific ways in auction, which is now adopted in many western countries. Now it is time for the Country to look for new transparent ways to curb the 'Jugad' or tricks in the auctions to curb the pricing.

In USA, Spectrum auction is through a very better way known as Dynamic Spectrum Arbitrage. There are many scholarly articles available in internet about Dynamic Spectrum Arbitrage which provides huge revenue to the exchequer. This kind of model in many similar ways is used in many democratic countries which encourages Public – Private – Partnership (PPP) Model like India. In India, sadly or unfortunately, PPP Model at last turned out to be a, area for playing tricks by Private Partner and Government is supposed to be the sole burden taker. Classic example on this regard is the scooting of private partner (Anil Ambani Group) from the Delhi Airport Express Metro.

In Dynamic Arbitrage Model practised in Western countries, the natural resources always belong to the Government and private partner is only a distributor of the services generated from the natural resources. But in India, Government always shy away from the custodian responsibility. But let us hope, our country would also come out with such progressive and transparent mechanism in conducting auctions to get maximum revenue.

(J Gopikrishnan is Special Correspondent with 'The Pioneer' daily)

INDIA'S BANKING WOES & ITS ECONOMIC IMPACT

Indian banks reeling under burdn of bad loans

There's no doubt that the UPA left poison pills behind; the Government must get tough. The Indian banking sector is in crisis and someone needs to call out the culprit, the UPA Government, which allowed ridiculous loans to be approved. If facts are investigated, it will emerge that several gold-plated loans were given to favoured businessmen. It is, therefore, not surprising that journalists, friendly to the previous regime, are flying kites and are trying to discredit legitimate business loans given to people close to the current administration. When Congress leaders attack the Modi Government for allowing defaulters such as Vijay Mallya to 'escape', one cannot but be astounded at the hypocrisy of such spokespersons. It was the UPA that gave massive loans which did not have a semblance of logic. Anybody with a modicum of

intelligence could see that Mallya's airline was in a tailspin and was going to be crushed under the one-time liquor baron's immense ego. And it is not just Mallya to whom loans that defied logic were given, infrastructure projects from roads to airports were 'gold-plated', the cost of building a kilometre of four-lane highway inexplicably jumped four-times in that decade as mafia builders ripped off the banks with Government's tacit support.

As much as one would say that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Finance Minister Arun Jaitley have been hobbled by the ineptitude and downright thuggery of the previous administration, the fact is that they are the ones in power today. Blaming the previous Government is not an excuse that can be taken to voters after completing three-quarters of one's term in power. There's

no doubt that the global financial crisis, coupled with stricter rules, implemented by both former and present Reserve Bank of India Governors, Raghuram Rajan and Urjit Patel respectively, have made most Indian banks reluctant to give loans to small and medium industries. These projects are essential to get job growth going and, thus, encourage a consumption economy. India's economic growth has been constrained over the previous few quarters because of this fact. While a 6.5 per cent growth rate is nothing to be ashamed of, it is certainly not enough to keep pace with India's 'demographic dividend' which runs the risk of becoming a 'demographic burden'. Jaitley rightly noted that large industrial enterprises do find it easier to raise funds from bond markets and from foreign banks due to their credit ratings, something that self-appointed

As much as one would say that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Finance Minister Arun Jaitley have been hobbled by the ineptitude and downright thuggery of the previous administration, the fact is that they are the ones in power today.



social media economists fail to understand.

With gross non-performing assets growing from Rs 5.02 lakh crore to Rs 6.41 lakh crore between March 2016 and March 2017, the situation is critical. The new insolvency law brought in by the Government, despite some flaws, is a beginning in the process to recapitalisation. Crony capitalists encouraged by corrupt politicians of the previous regime should see their projects taken away and their assets built up by siphoning funds from their companies, should be auctioned off. Yes, the banks and the Government will need to take a haircut, a massive one at that, but that's the only way forward. The Government must think before it recapitalises the banking system. Bankers should realise that things are not as bad as they were in the aftermath of the most corrupt administration India has ever seen.

The drop in the NPA to capital ratios in 2016 looks hopeful but this is partly due to the additional capital received by many public sector banks as part of the government's Indradhanush programme. Also, in light of the revised disclosures of NPA levels by some large private sector banks in the last few weeks, the 2016 ratios are likely to be much worse.

We also compare the growth rates of NPAs, capital and loans across the two crisis episodes. The average annual growth rates of GNPA and NNPA over the five-year period from 1997-2001 were 8.5% and 9.8%, respectively. During this period, bank capital grew 13.14% and bank loans grew 15.87%. The corresponding numbers for the current crisis are much worse. The average GNPA and NNPA growth rates for the period 2011-2015 were 45.9% and 54.9%, respectively. The average growth rate of bank capital for this period was 16.1%. Bank loans grew at 16.2%.

This shows that during the last NPA crisis, bank capital grew at a higher rate than NPAs. While the NPA to loans ratio was higher then, banks were not undercapitalized. They had better ability to withstand the problem. In the current crisis, however, the growth rate of NPAs has been considerably higher than that of bank capital, further underscoring the severity of the crisis. The growth rates of bank loans on the other hand have been similar across both crisis episodes.

The emphasis on the alternative measure of the NPA problem also highlights the importance of capital in re-

IMPACT OF NPA ON ECONOMY

The problem of NPAs in the Indian banking system is one of the foremost and the most formidable problems that had impact the entire banking system. Higher NPA leads to following adverse impact on Economy:

- 1** Depositors do not get rightful returns and many times may lose uninsured deposits. Banks may begin charging higher interest rates on some products to compensate Non-performing loan losses
- 2** Bank shareholders are adversely affected

- 3** Bad loans imply redirecting of funds from good projects to bad ones. Hence, the economy suffers due to loss of good projects & failure of bad investments
- 4** When bank do not get loan repayment or interest payments, liquidity problems may ensue.

Steps taken by RBI and Government in last few years to curb NPA

- Government has launched Mission Indradhanush to make the working of public sector bank more transparent and professional in order to curb the menace of NPA in future.

- Government has also proposed to introduce Bankruptcy code which will make it easier for banks to recover the loans from the debtors.

- **RBI introduced number of measures in last few years which include:**

- Tightening the Corporate Debt Restructuring (CDR) mechanism,

- Setting up a Joint Lenders' Forum, prodding banks to disclose the real picture of bad loans, asking them to increase provisioning for stressed assets,

- Introducing a 5:25 scheme where loans are to be amortized over 25 years with refinancing option after every five years, and

- Empowering them to take majority control in defaulting companies under the Strategic Debt Restructuring (SDR) scheme.



solving the crisis. If the NPA to capital ratio is to be restored to a level that was prevalent during the high growth years of 2003-2007, the capital base has to roughly quadruple. Even if we assume that roughly 50% of the net NPAs will be recovered by the banking sector, the capital base has to double. This is unlikely to happen through retained profits or sale of real estate or other similar strategies.

An attempt to revive the banking sector must include a credible commitment of capital for it to be meaningful. In absence of capital and accompanying structural reforms, any solution will be incomplete and the banking sector may remain

in the quagmire for a long time to come.

It is a matter of grave concern that due to the NPA problem, the entire economic activity of the country has come to a gridding halt. Modi government is doing its best to resolve the issue with carrot and stick policy though the sentiments are extremely damp. It will take some time to restore the confidence of the people in the banking system and the banker must own responsibility of serving the country honestly, then the problem is likely to be resolved.

Dr Rahul Misra, Writer is Associate Editor & banking and finance expert.

“Let’s join forces to implement the Landmark ruling of SC on **Child marriages**”

The SC ruling will go a long way in stopping child marriages

By Deana Uppal

The Supreme Court must be congratulated for its landmark ruling that criminalises men having non-consensual marital sex with girls as young as 15. This ruling is bound to deflate the pernicious argument that tradition is sacrosanct and must be upheld even when it heinously throttles the life and livelihoods of the voiceless and the most marginalised. The same was true

This landmark ruling comes as a respite to several girls who were forced into child marriages and have thus faced countless forms of violence and strangulating oppression relentlessly throughout their lives

when we battled Sati and the same is true now.

Unimaginably the subsequent governments have opposed this social transformative ruling with harrowing and hollow arguments like- child marriages were a reality in India and that “the institution of marriage must be protected. Otherwise, the children from such marriages will suffer.” The Centres position also exposed their devious position of allowing marital rape of minors in the garb of the ‘sanctity of marriage’. This is truly unacceptable from a democratically elected government- which should aim at crusading against social ills that plague our society and not protect them.

This landmark ruling comes as a respite to several girls who were forced into child marriages and have



thus faced countless forms of violence and strangulating oppression relentlessly throughout their lives. There is enough evidence to show that the marital lives of children are surrounded by a noxious environment of humiliation, oppression and loneliness. The young child is forced to comprehend this as destiny and she resigns to feelings of dire anxiety and extreme hopelessness. How long would this nation have tolerated this physiological and psychological scarring of its young?

Even with all these obvious perils and in spite of being made illegal, the heinous practice of child marriage continues to flourish under the patronage of social bigotry and the nexus it enjoys with the political class- which was palpable in the government’s ambiguous stand. Instead of regretting

to the fact that it had miserably failed in preventing child marriages the government stood in the court to slyly protect it.

This landmark ruling has adeptly exposed this unholy nexus and their evil intention of using tradition as a fig leaf to conceal a horrendous and oppressive practice, at the same time providing respite to millions and paving way for a modern India. The judgement’s like these that will strengthen the idea of India which continues to plummet down on the Human Development Index. The court has done a fantastic job and now we as citizens should resolve that this landmark judgement is implemented in every nook and corner of our country.

(Indo- British Model & Entrepreneur)

The Unfolding Political landscape of **Karnataka**

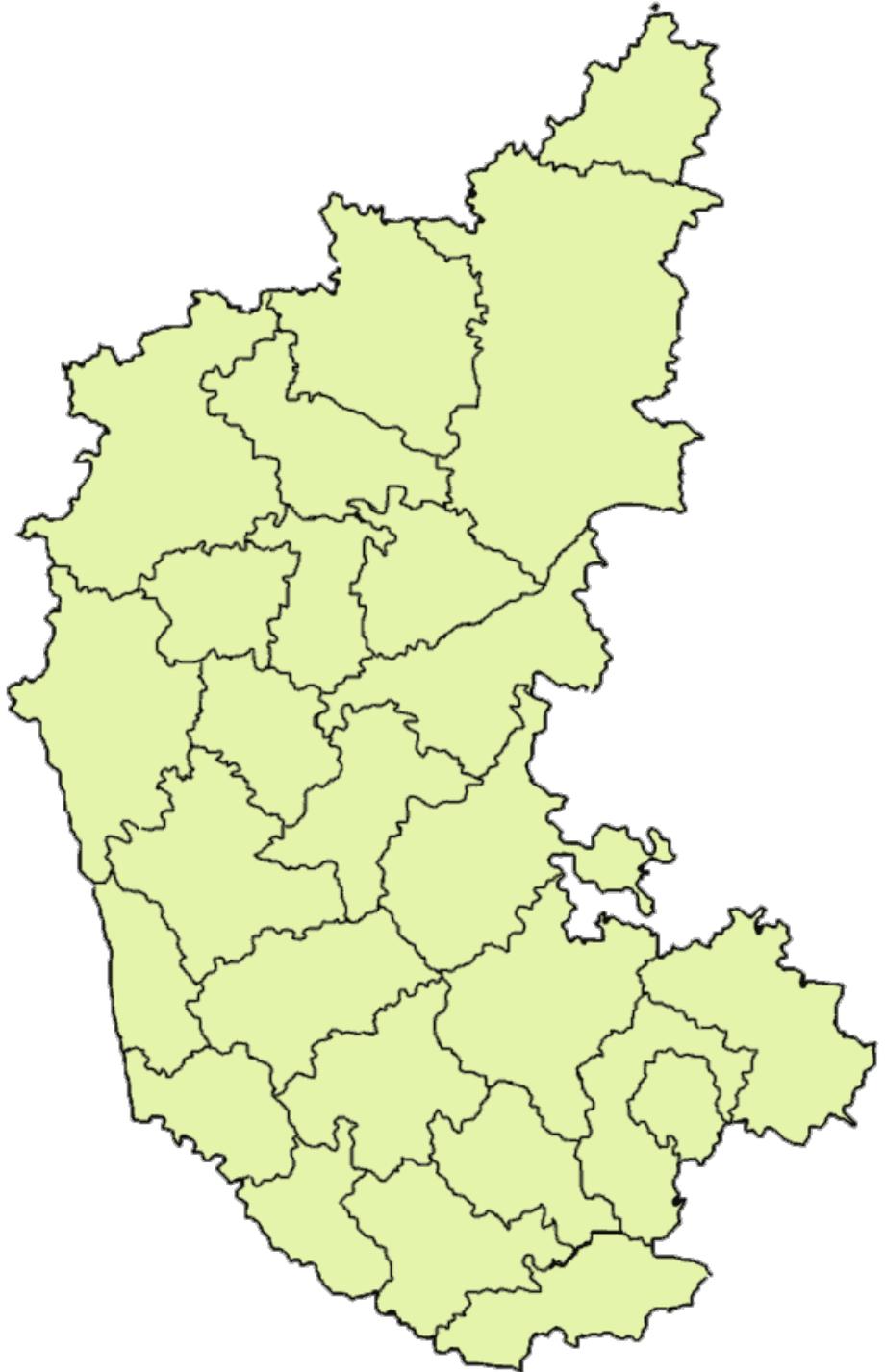
By Thimmaiah Shreepada Renu

“**A**che Din” is a slogan, now has begun to mean “Sub se bure din” for Modi Sarkar.

For the people of India, 2014 was a turning point in Indian Politics that saw a Modi wave but with the economic slowdown brought on by demonisation and GST, is now seen as a self inflicting wound for the BJP. This phenomenon of “Ache Din” has begun to mean “Sub se Bure Din” in the political atmosphere of Karnataka. Karnataka is the only state where Congress is the ruling party in south India. This coming general election will decide the direction Indian politics will take if history is to go by. In 1969 the Congress split into CONGRESS - R and CONGRESS - O. CONGRESS - R emerged victorious with Mrs Indira Gandhi becoming the true Leader of the CONGRESS party. The next cross roads that the CONGRESS party faced were after emergency. The second resurrection of the CONGRESS party was decided by Chikmagalur by-election, when Mrs. Indira Gandhi emerged victorious against Janata party candidate Mr.Veerendra Patil. The people of Karnataka in the ensuing assembly elections returned the CONGRESS party with the majority, this resurrection in the state was led by Mr.Devarajan Urs. In Karnataka the trend for last few state general elections has seen the phenomenon, where the people of Karnataka have voted a Government which is opposite to the party in the centre. This election is going to settle many political variables that have been debated and discussed in various forums.

Modi Sarkar can survive the “demonisation and GST” impact? Surely the economic slowdown and the impact of taxes have started to hurt the middle class and poor in real terms. On the other hand Rahul Gandhi is all set to take over the mantle from Sonia Gandhi who led U.P.A successfully forming U.P.A 1&2. Karnataka is at the forefront of being the bastion

As Karnataka heads for elections, it would be a limus lest for Modi’s demonetisation and GST moves





to protect and re-elect the grand old party. The BJP on the other hand are going to be tested on the concept of “Modi Sarkar”, BJP in the last general election never projected their party as a BJP Government but built their entire campaign around Mr. Narendra Modi. Since the BJP put all the eggs in one basket “Modi Sarkar” By default they as a party have indirectly admitted that Mr. Narendra Modi is bigger than the party, therefore its stands to the reason, that the coming referendum in Karnataka will be a test of Mr. Narendra Modi’s track record as a prime minister and as an administrator.

The congress party Mr. Siddaramaiah the Chief Minister of Karnataka has given a stable and corruption free Government. His programmes of social upliftment and providing subsidised food that includes “Indira Canteen” and “5kgs of Rice” under “Anna Bhagya Scheme” has been an outstanding success both in the cities and rural areas. Barring a few political hiccups, no major scandals have rocked this Government; it is a testimonial of good governance. The congress party has fulfilled almost 90 percent of the promises it had made in its election manifesto of 2013. The Karnataka Government under the stewardship of Mr. Siddaramaiah unilaterally waived the loans to farmers. The Central Government has given no help in this regard but on the other hand

The congress party Mr. Siddaramaiah the Chief Minister of Karnataka has given a stable and corruption free Government. His programmes of social upliftment and providing subsidised food that includes “Indira Canteen” and “5kgs of Rice” under “Anna Bhagya Scheme” has been an outstanding success both in the cities and rural areas .



they have been supportive to the other states where their party in Power. The congress government has handled the Cauvery issue without any major confrontation with its neighboring states. They have also handled the drought situation and power situation with great efficiency. The farming sector has seen a supportive and helpful government with many programs that has allowed this sector to see real growth. In the BJP, the major players are Yeddyurappa, Ananth Kumar, Eshwarappa and Jagadish Shettar are rivals, they carry the onerous task of trying to present clean slate to the voters of Karnataka, knowing that they had presided, over the most corrupt tenure in the history of Karnataka politics with many of leaders has having spent time in jail. During the last tenure of the BJP .The party had

to change the Chief Minister on two occasions and had the dubious distinction of having three Chief Ministers in five years. Mr. Yediyurappa had a dubious distinction of being the only Chief Minister in the history of Karnataka to be jailed on charges of Corruption.

With Mr. Yediyurappa back at the helm of affairs, a running battle between him and Mr. Eshwarappa has ensued. This standoff continues to this notwithstanding the high commands intervention. The present BJP unit in Karnataka has become totally reliant on the central leadership and hopes that the magic of Mr. Narendra Modi and Mr. Amit Shah will bail them out of this quagmire.

With Mr. Yediyurappa back at the helm of affairs, a running battle between him and Mr. Eshwarappa has ensued. This standoff continues to this notwithstanding the high commands intervention.

However the Modi wave which has now become the talking point does it still means hope? Therefore, the electorate of Karnataka will answer this question in the coming elections. With the party high command being busy with the Gujarat elections in the home state of Mr. Narendra Modi, no concrete plans or

programs have been announced by the local Karnataka BJP. It is rumored that the high command of BJP will resort to strong arm tactics like having Ministers raided through the Income Tax Department and other departments to create a scenario and paint the CONGRESS Party in Karnataka as corrupt. The old BJP





tactic of creating communal tension may also come to the fore. It's seems that other than the Mr. Modi narrative, there seems to be no issues that can capture the imagination of the people. It's seems under the stewardship of Yediyurappa, the cadre zeal is missing. Yeddyurappa has been projected as the CM candidate; it's rumored that he will not be made the CM due to his health. This has not gone down well with the Lingayat community. This community is the backbone of the BJP. Added to this the Lingayats are demanding that they be recognised as a separate religion, the demand is opposed by the BJP. These factors have contributed in emergence of many Chief Minister aspirants within the Party and hence riddled with dissent. Mr. Amit Shah during his last visit to Bangalore has not helped the cause by stating "that many of the sitting MLA's may not be given another chance and that he will be the final say in ticket distribution", this atmosphere of fear and uncertainty exists in BJP .

The Third Party JDS It is a father and son party led by Former Prime minister of India Mr. H.D Devegowda and in the supporting cast are his two Sons H.D Kumarswamy and H.D Revanna .

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They hope to be the King makers if the conditions for a collation Government where to arise. Presently they are in the process of keeping their flock together. Recently seven MLA's have decided to leave their party and there is a distinct possibility that more of them may follow suit. The CONGRESS so far as been the beneficiary of this migration. JDS is banking on the charisma of Mr. H.D. Devegowda to resurrect the fortunes of the party.

The JDS has presence in old Mysore regions and generally cut into congress vote bank in the cities. In Bangalore city the mayor and the deputy mayor posts are shared by the congress and JDS respectively. In the rural areas JDS projects itself as a champion of the farmers, H.D.Devegowda has built this party around the slogan "son of the soil". It remains to be seen if this "son of the soil" political concept is going to be relevant among the farmers who have not had any major problems with onset of good monsoons this year.

The unfolding story In the coming months the results from Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat will be announced. These results may not have any direct bearing on the outcome in Karnataka, certainly will carry a perception message. In Karnataka politics caste politics has played a major role in shaping elections, many a time this has taken a back seat especially when political waves have overshadowed local equations. Anti incumbency has also played a major part in the past. The major communities have played a decisive role when phenomenon such as a political wave or anti incumbency has been absent. Congress is a party that believes in social justice and will follow a system of balancing social classes and win ability as a criterion for seat selection. This formula is a delicate task, if the recipe is right, a formidable approach to winning an election BJP on the other hand has no such compulsions "horses for courses" "is their strategy built around polarisation of the Hindu vote. However there

is confusion among the Lingayat voters over their demand for a separate religion status which the BJP has opposed. This community has been the bedrock of the party. The congress party on the other hand has been sympathetic to their demands. JDS on the other hand will try to muster their base and hope to wean away as many "Vokkaligas" the other major community from the congress. "Vokkaligas" predominantly are from the south of Karnataka. They will also try to get the Muslim community to back them. They have in the past accommodated disgruntled candidates from the other parties. The elections of 2018 are going to be a game changer in south India and may also have a great impact on national politics. At stake is the prestige of Modi government, anti incumbency and realignment of local caste equation.

(Writer of Senior Karnataka Congress leader and party spokesman.)

BSNL innovative approach to dominate telecom market in India

The public sector behemoth acquires new vigour

State-owned Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) on Tuesday launched Bharat 1, a 4G VoLTE feature phone in collaboration with the domestic player Micromax, as part of its new strategy to compete directly with the likes of Reliance Jio and Airtel. BSNL has successfully launched feature phone with Penta technology.

While BSNL has not been able to match up to the competition in recent times, the state-run operator says it is on a mission to turn around its telecom business. On the sidelines of the launch of the Bharat 1 at the company's Delhi headquarters, Anil Jain, Chief General Manager of NONGN BSNL, told OE News Bureau that the telecom operator is trying to be aggressive in its approach to compete with private players. "If you ask people in Jio they say the only competitor they have is BSNL. Right from Day One, if you see various tariff plans which we have brought, whether it is voice or data plan and now a bundled service; I don't think that anybody like Airtel, Vodafone or anybody has matched up to that level," Jain said.

Bharat 1 is the company's first-ever 4G VoLTE feature phone in partnership with Micromax. The feature phone comes with entry-level specifications and offers unlimited data and voice calling every month for a sum of Rs 97. The feature phone, which costs Rs 2,200, will come preloaded with the Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM) app and other suite of services. Unlike the Jio-Phone, Bharat 1 is not locked to any operator, something that may urge users to choose the latter phone over the former one.

Jain says there are plans to launch more 4G VoLTE-ready feature phones into market by tying up with phone makers. Interestingly, the telecom operator might launch a smart phone as well, though the exact details have yet to be disclosed. "Both possibilities are there; we may bring more variety of



feature phones with cost effectiveness as well as a smart phone can also be there".

Until now, BSNL has been focusing on the rural and semi-rural markets. But with the Bharat 1 and an upcoming smartphone launch, BSNL is possibly trying to enter the urban space, the area where private operators have dominated from the very beginning. "When a smartphone is coming then we are talking about the urban audience. If you see the total segregation of the telephone and handset user; now again it is skewed towards the urban area," Jain told indianexpress.com. "We are very strong in the rural and semi urban markets that was the area which is ignored by other operators which we try to fulfill but we cannot forget the urban sector," he added.

BSNL sees the launch of a 4G feature phone with Micromax as an attempt to enter the urban market in a big way. "It is a strategy from Micromax also, with the help of BSNL to have a bigger space in urban areas," Jain said.

Even though the Bharat 1 is a 4G VoLTE-ready feature phone, BSNL doesn't offer 4G VoLTE services in the country. So the Rs 97 plan being offered with the Bharat 1 is 3G only. In comparison, Reliance Jio has been offering voice over LTE (VoLTE) services in the country. "We are in discussion with the government to allow us to rollout 4G on LTE," Jain said. It's being said BSNL may rollout nationwide 4G LTE services by next year.

BSNL is gradually pushing for lot of innovation in terms of marketing and branding to counter the private telecom players. Top management of BSNL is planning to come up with several new strategies to counter offence from private players. CMD Anupam Srivastava fresh managerial approach is gradually resulting in BSNL consolidating lost glory and market share in the recent months.

Special report filed by Viveek Prakash, Industry veteran & MD at Karvy Wow

INDIA AND BRAZIL – HOME WITHIN A HOME

A peek into the life of Brazil's most famous city

By Carlyta Mouhini (Maria)

Being from an Indo-Brazilian origin and as a resident of Mumbai, I was absolutely thrilled when the Editor of 'Opinion Express' told me to write an article on delectable country Brazil from my own perception as I lived there for a considerable time in Rio and hence to guide the readers of the absolute 'Virginal Brazil' to the Indians and the world

The journey beginning with Rio-De -Janeiro

A background brief on Rio - The site of Rio de Janeiro was founded by Portuguese explorers as they entered Guanabara Bay on the first of January, 1502. Since the bay was considered the mouth

The present day city of Rio sits within the long shadow of one of the world's newest seven wonders. My soul will always remain attached to 'MtCorcovado'. As suddenly you will feel that you have all the air in the world around you and all for yourself, but... you can't breathe it! The Corcovado and the statue of Christ the Redeemer (in Portuguese Cristo Redentor) that sits on top of it, is certainly the most important monument.

of a river, the city was named in honour of the day, Rio de Janeiro, or River of January. French traders also settled in the Guanabara Bay area, in an attempt

to gain an economic and strategic foothold in Brazil. After two years of battles (1565-67), the French were expelled and the site of Rio was moved up onto





a hill, later known as Castle Hill, for protection from further invasions. Rio grew on the exporting of sugar cane, grown on the surrounding plains. Eventually gold and diamonds were found in the Mines Gerais area. Many Europeans moved here after this discovery and in 1763 the capital was moved from Salvador to Rio, further increasing its prominence.

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breathe it! The Corcovado and the statue of Christ the Redeemer (in Portuguese Christo Redentor) that sits on top of it, is certainly the most important

monument. The statue is a magnificent example of Art Deco sculpture. It was completed in 1931, 9 years late as it was supposed to be built in 1922 in honour of Brazil's 100th year of independence. The statue stands 38 meters high and looks out eastward towards Sugar Loaf Mountain. It was designed by Heitor da Silva Costa, a Rio engineer and sculpted by Paul Landowski, a Polish-French sculptor out of reinforced concrete with soapstone layers covering it. .

With his unblinking eyes and his all-encompassing outstretched arms, Cristo the Redeemer welcomes all to the city he overlooks. In Rio, Cristo is everywhere you look, your eyes will instantly



be drawn to his high dwelling presence above and you will find you are mesmerized by him...even if you happen to be a Jew, Muslim, or Atheist. Because this particular Cristo pays no mind to your religious views...rather he offers majestic, panoramic views of one of the most magnificent cities in the world for all those who will heed his call. The views from Christ the Redeemer are well...quite frankly there isn't anything that can be written that can properly describe the deep purple ocean spilling up against the curvaceous coastline with oval shaped mountains rising high into the sky...so why even bother? But I will say this be sure to go on a sunny day...

if you don't you may end up feeling like your head is in the clouds...quite literally. Cloudy days often mean you views of Rio will be views of a milky white mist. So check the ten day weather before planning your visit. Speaking of which heeding his call consists of many options including tour groups, taxis, or buses all of which end up at the train station. But the reward of ascending up to bask in his presence does have a cost \$36 real to be exact, for a round-trip ticket that will take you to the stairway to heaven....220 steps to be exact. And for those who don't feel like putting in the effort there is an elevator as well. But do yourself a favour (unless you're

in a wheelchair) and take the steps to the top and know this, once you get to the top you will have your reward.

For those who are on a budget take the 584 bus which runs through almost all the tourist areas and deposits you right at the train station for a mere \$2 real. It's the best deal in town! I have visited the Corcovado (means hunchback) many a times coz of its magnetism that also included Sugar Loaf Mountain (and getting stuck in traffic jams so you have been warned!). The tour included the price of going up to the statue at the top of the 710 metre by way of a rack

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railway that takes you along the edge of Rio's stunning Tijuca Forest. I visited the monument in the late afternoon, just before sunset. It was very crowded and it was hard to manoeuvre around the base of the statue. Still the views were stunning. You can see all Re De Janiero from here, including the famed Copacabana and Ipenema beaches and the world-famous Maracana football stadium where the World Cup football (WCF) 2014 was held. A Highlight - Brazil is the spiritual home of football. The passion for the game here is incredible and so we believe that the 2014 World Cup was the greatest ever.

The mountain is located in a very safe area of Rio, all surrounded by Military Schools and Fortress which reminds a little bit of West Point in the States, right next to the Pão de Açucar you can see the cute Vermelha Beach where the Portuguese first set foot in 1503 and a very green and magnificent



trail which provides a great surprise in your day called PISTA CLAUDIO COUTINHO!

The Christ the Redeemer is subject to regular restorations and more minor maintenance work. As you can imagine standing on top of an exposed hill in a polluted city, the statue is subject a great deal of environmental hazards. It must be quite an effort to keep it as white as it is. If you are going on your own, the cost of your visit is R\$36.00. It is open daily from 8:30am to 8pm. It is usually very busy here with tourists buying all kinds of souvenirs in the overpriced shops. One can get there via taxi but there is a bus 583 and the subway. Don't forget to take pictures of the city from this great vantage point. There are many ways of getting up there but i would recommend taking the little train as that takes you through some really nice nature on the way up the mountain and you have some great views from the train too.

This might be a good idea since the lines for the trains are very long. We did not do this only because we didn't want to make the poor guy wait for us, hoping that we will come back to pay him.

Cab ride with tip from Ipanema Beach to Corcovado is \$15.50 Reals = \$5.82 US dollars (1 Dollar is 60 INR). The cab driver might ask you if you want to be driven up to Christ and then he will wait for you, and then drive you back. This might be a good idea since the lines for the trains are very long. We did not

do this only because we didn't want to make the poor guy wait for us, hoping that we will come back to pay him. We also wanted to take all the time we needed taking pictures for my friends who were touring Rio from across the Globe. Tickets on the train that takes you to Big J is \$30 reals a person = \$11.26 a person. Tickets are timed, so if there is a big queue you might have to wait a half hour or more before hopping into the train. The clouds might clear like it did for us. It is very crowded up there when you take pictures so be prepared to elbow some grandmothers.

A personal experience I would like to share with my readersWe were offered a tour to take us here and Sugar Loaf for 210 Real but as it turns out we were pleased we headed here on our own by taxi . It was so easy to do and gave us the time we wanted to explore. We also saved a bundle! We flagged a taxi and it took us 30 minutes in traffic and 28



real to get there. The driver offered to wait (saying he would turn off the meter. There are lots of taxis so this is not necessary .The train was running so we were taken to the top by a shuttle bus .The entrance fee is 17Real.At the stop are 200 steps or an elevator to take you to the top .We opted for the later and it was better !! By the way the cab driver didn't turn off the meter...see how that unfolded in my Sugar Loaf Tip!

The roads leading to the sculpture are closed according to the Brazilian Environment Ministry. Landslides, rock fall, dampened trees obstruct the traffic. A never experienced Rainfall, because of which almost 250 men died, has hit the Brazilian metropolis. One of the leading highlights of Rio are its beaches, such as Copacabana, Ipanema, Leblon and so many others and Guanabara bay along with Rio of the Samba, the Caipirinhas, the Cariocas (local boys /beach boys) ,The Carnival, the Bossa nova (latin

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rhythm) , The girl from Ipanema(famous Jazz song) and many other things that we could see in this fantastic place! Even a little walk, you can have a great idea of the Carioca way of life!I'm not a Carioca, I was born in Nteroi (which I like very much) 70 miles away fm Rio connected by world's spectacular bridge overlooking the Rio coastline, but I have a special passion because Rio is always beautiful and Rio is something that you must see it for yourself!

The Bay Area covers the most populated areas of Rio and the Ocean holds the well off part of the population in a way. Sure that neighbourhoods like elite Botafogo (where we have our resident) , Flamengo or Laranjeiras (traditional districts of Rio) can be found there but you can also find the city centre, the port of Rio and many industrial areas around the Bay, on the other hand the best neighbourhoods of Rio and also the most touristy spots can be find around



the Ocean like Copacabana, Ipanema, Leblon or Gavea and Jardim Botânico, and if you continue following the ocean you can also head to the west part of the city where the famous Barra da Tijuca is located. A day at the Sugar Loaf, here, it is named PÃO DE AÇÚCAR, will be the best option for you to understand the city, you will also notice that it is the landmark which starts the entrance of Guanabara Bay, and you can see on the other edge the so beautiful Holy Cross Fortress in Niterói which is another city of the State, and also the second most important city of Rio de Janeiro.

Favela (Indian counterpart of 'Dharavi' in Mumbai)- Reality facts

Favelas are a fact of life here. Many Cariocas realize the difficult conditions that people who live in favelas have to face. Along with that it is understood that the great majority of those people are good people. A favela is a place with drug lords, crime, and chaos but it is also a home to many people. Keep that in mind. When you go on you are 'Favela Tour' keep in mind that these are real people living their day to day life. A favela is not a zoo for people from first world countries to quickly drive through

so they can say they've been there. You have to actually live or visit consistently a place to really know it and its people. And contrary to popular belief, the people of the favela see no money from these tours. If anyone sees the money it's the drug lord. Why don't you guys just hand your purses directly to them? Now I'll get off my soap box :-)

SAMBA N CARNIVAL.....

Brazil is usually thought of as the country as the most exuberant and exciting carnival celebrations. The celebration originated in the Catholic countries of Europe as a party before the coming of Lent – the forty days Christ spent in the wilderness. It was traditional for the celebrations to end on Ash Wednesday when people then respected the period of abstinence for forty days. The term 'carnival' is thought to have originated from the Latin 'carne levare', meaning 'to remove meat', as eating meat would have been prohibited during Lent. Nowadays carnival is not seen as a religious celebration but more of a street party with lots of music and dancing. The annual carnival celebrations take place between the Saturday and the Tuesday that precede Ash Wednesday. The most famous Brazilian carnivals are held in

Rio de Janeiro and Salvador. In fact, the Guinness Book of Records maintains that the Salvador carnival is the biggest street party in the world! The most important events of carnival in Rio, and probably of all Brazilian carnivals, are the samba parades. All samba parades have a theme and a storyline, performed by a samba school known as 'Sambadrome'. The preparations for the samba school competitions begin many months before the event as elaborate costumes are designed and produced over a period of months while decorated floats are constructed to participate in the carnival parade. (An exact précis which I gathered from Reverend Fr.Savio in our Good Shepherd Church-4 Bunglows -Mumbai when I went for the recently concluded Easter Sunday Mass)

Food Outlet in Copa Cabana (Cup and Saucer) – My favourite eatery outlet and always recommended)

All over Brazil the staple food is meat dish oriented, sea food, brown rice, black beans and of course 'pao' (bread) But If you want to try a real Brazilian Barbecue (Churrascaria – meat dish) then you must try 'Sol de Marius' which boast of an admirable spread of delicious sea food, varied meat steaks and

culinary and of course the all famous Copa Cabana Salads but not to forget the the lip smacking desserts!. You pay a set price and then the waiters come around with various types of meats on skewers/swords that they serve by cutting it from the skewer. There is also a big salad bar which is nice but don't fill up on it.

When you are done eating you flip the disk in front of you over to the red side so the waiters know to stop bringing you food.

Sol De Marius is a bit pricier than most restaurants in Rio but it is worth a visit if you want to experience a real 'Brazilian Churrascaria'! The price; however tends to go a bit on the higher side - R\$650 for three people! That's three seafood flat rates at R\$175 per person, one Caipirinha (Brazil's local brew), two beers, one glass of wine and three aperitifs (starters) ! It's always preferable to try the innumerable normal 'steak houses' in Brazil along the beach strips if the 'tourist pocket' wants to remain economical and affordable

WHERE TO SHOP

Rio has many recommendable shops in the form of regular street market located under the large highway overpass, which protects most of the vendors from the hot sun as well as the hard rain. Weekends are alive than the weekdays with lots of vendors and shoppers. There are lots of old antique items, old coins and various collectors' treasures, clothes, food, etc. There are lots of 'Cariocas' so do mind your valuables and watch for pickpockets! (Similar to India). Rio De Janeiro has considerable rows of tourist shops too. Most of the typical gear you would like to buy for friends and family can be purchased at the beach in Cocacabana or Ipanema. Items include beach towels, swimsuits, soccer jerseys etc. Just about everything you could want can be found on the beaches and for a great price. The best places for paintings or art work can be found across from the surfers at Ipanema on the boardwalk. Great stuff!

On the outskirts of Rio there is 'Rio Sul' which is a shopping mall that will take care of your every Brazilian made fashion need. If I had a full day to spend there, I'd come out with a hundred bags, and almost all of them would be full of shoes. The clothes are great too. Foreigners will go wild for the prices, which are about half what you'd pay for comparable goods at home. This is high-quality stuff, for the most part, all



Brazilian-made and all fabulous. It is a shopping mall on the outskirts of Rio but easily reachable on subway. Reach the Estacio station and change from Line One to Line Two and get off at Del Castilho station. The station has a pedestrian flyover that goes straight into the mall. The mall is big and has many stores, Brazilian and international brands which are cheaper than usual.

Hippie Fair or Flea market (the kinds you would find in Goa) is an outdoor flea market every Sunday (during daylight) where tourists can buy all kinds of things where one can buy t-shirts, jewellery, handicrafts, belt, purse, suitcase, local paintings, musical instruments, Yes, you can bargain with the vendors to negotiate a lower price. Most of them do not speak English and I derived that there may be a huge 'problem' 'with tourist not equipped with a bit of Portuguese dialect!. We are in a country with 200 million Portuguese speaking people, you know that when you go to Brazil. So please do a crash course in Portuguese or carry English to Portuguese speaking dictionary. It's always HANDY and you will not feel handicapped!

So when you are not sure of something, like everywhere in the world, ASK and when necessary ask again, ask for someone who speaks good English,

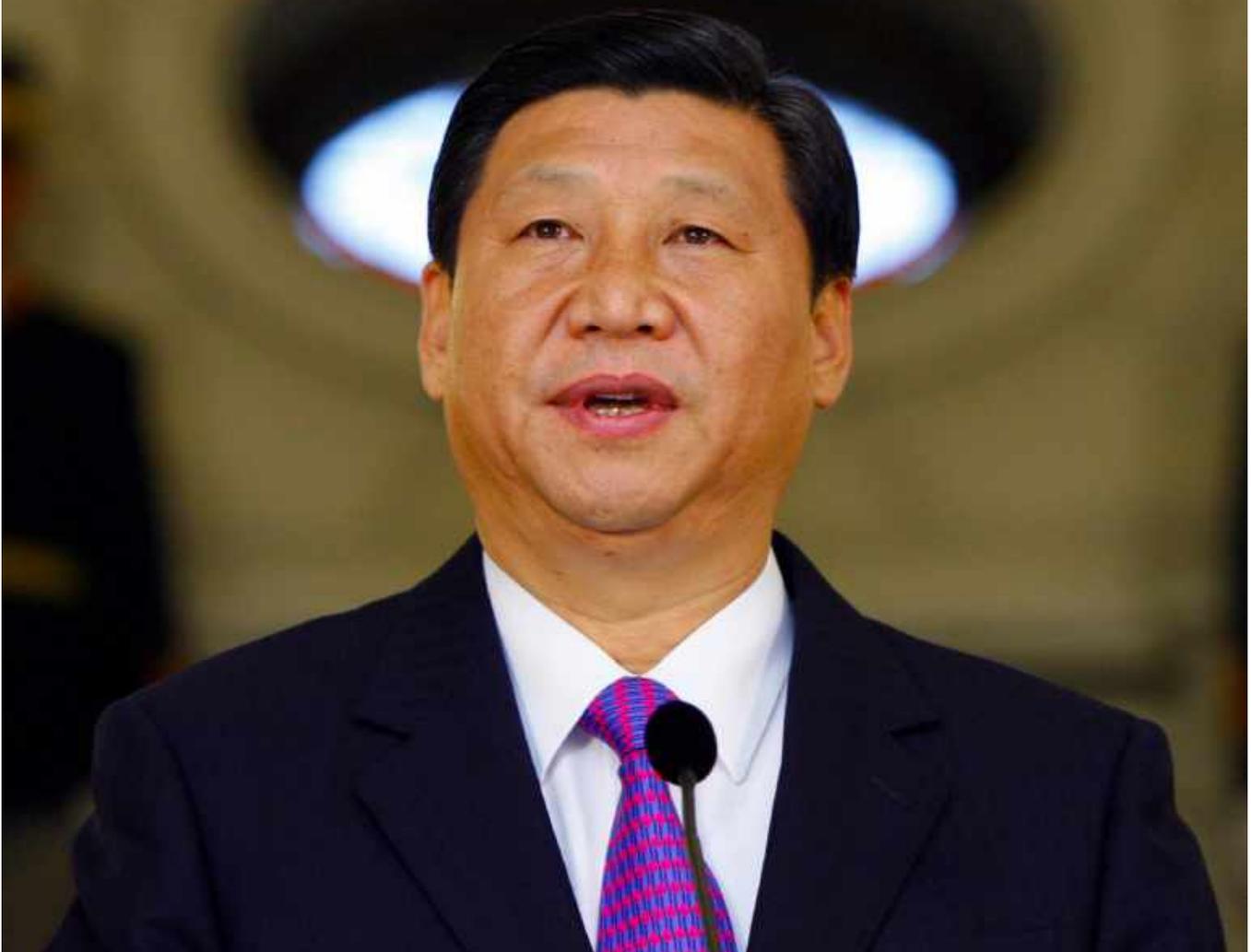
there are always few vendors who will do it! The Rio -Brazilians are fantastic people, always in a good mood and in Rio always in for Samba, they are very kind and want to help where ever they can! Very proud also and for some it's difficult to confess they don't understand you! It's impossible to describe how wonderful life is here and how content I am when I live in Rio, It's just what I always say, I can live 50 years here, and when I just see the Cristo in Corcovado, I just stop and think that I'm happy to be in Rio and more than that how I feel to be Brazilian with an amazing Indian blood! Because, when we think about Brazil, the first place that comes up in our minds is Rio! Come and visit Rio – The Land of Rhythm (Ritmo) and nature !

If JESUS CHRIST is from Rio de Janeiro then GOD is Brazilian!. It is not New York ...but I can say that I always leave my heart in Rio de Janeiro!!! :) My heart is here; all the 'valued energy' that I have is rooted HERE!

(The writer is a leading Indo Brazilian Columnist on International Diplomatic issues and Politics, World Trade /Tourism/Heritage/Music and Global Fusion Vocalist (ICCR) /Song-writer)

DRAGON'S DASH

JINPING EMERGES AS CHINA'S MOST POWERFUL
LEADER SINCE MAO



On October 18, Beijing organised a week-long 19th National Congress of Communist Party of China, an event that the world is following closely. The summit — being attended by 2,287 party members from various provinces — is important as it will select its new brand of leadership, agendas and goals for the next five years and ahead.

Moreover, the 19th National Congress is a significant political event for Chinese President Xi Jinping himself. Since assuming power in 2012, he has envisioned a “national rejuvenation” programme for China under the theme of “Chinese dream”. This is attached to two major centenary goals: To make

These goals have been planned to be fulfilled with a number of reform programmes and the highlights are: Reforms in the army, fight to root out corruption from political, military and public spheres, and poverty eradication.

China moderately prosperous society by 2020, a year before centenary celebration of the Communist Party of China (CPC), and to aim to establish a prosperous and powerful nation by 2049 to commemorate the centenary year of the People’s Republic of China (PRC).

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Xi in his October 18 speech at the Congress highlighted that in the last five years China has made drastic progress through these reforms. It aims to lift total 98 million people from poverty trap in eight years, which shall be a remarkable feat. In addition, China has worked towards right-sizing of military and its modernisation. The country’s fight against corruption has seen prominent military and political bigwigs falling



from the grace. Progress in reforms in the last five years under Xi’s leadership has been promising, however the road ahead is fraught with daunting internal and external challenges, primarily concerning the economic slowdown, the promotion of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), North Korean crisis, etc.

Politically, the 19th National Congress will entail selection of around 200 full members and 100 alternate members, finalisation of 25-member Politburo Committee and seven-member Politburo Standing Committee and lastly the members of the anti-corruption watchdog CCDI, currently being headed by Xi’s loyalist Wang Qishan.

In 1980, President Deng Xiaoping had put in place the concept of collec-

tive leadership to prevent or guard return to arbitrary abuses of Mao’s final decades (the cultural revolution). Similarly, the Article 79 of the party constitution restricts tenures of President and Premier to 10 years, however there are no restrictions on general secretary of the CPC and chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC). There has been an unofficial but consistent rule called “seven up, eight down” according to which if a Politburo Standing Committee member is 68 or older at the time of a party Congress, he must retire, but if he is 67 or younger, he may still enter the committee.

In the current situation, five of the seven PSC members are about to complete 68 years of age. However, the



speculation is rife that the “seven up, eight down” rule will be violated to allow Wang Qishan, head of the CCDI, to stay put beyond the retirement age. As per certain analysts, this could be indicative of President Xi’s intention to retain power beyond 2022.

President Xi has amassed much control and his predominance is clearly established in the Chinese political spectrum. He is now regarded as the most powerful leader in decades after Mao. He has taken charge of most of the portfolios and ruling through the leading small groups and has placed his key aides at various nerve centres.

The communique of the sixth plenum of the 8th Congress clearly insists that the principles of collective leadership must always be followed and should not be violated by any organisation or individual under any circumstances or any reasons.

Such statements accentuate the hypothesis above. As regard the chain of succession is concerned, the concept of patronage underscores in China’s Communist Party. The senior party members identify promising stars/ protégés and nurture them for higher dispensations. This ensures loyalty in the lineage. As per certain political analysts, 23 politburo members are of the fifth generation (1953 born like President Xi), and there is speculation that President Xi may block their advancement to the Politburo Standing Committee, while promoting own sixth generation protégés or loyalists to fill the politburo, thereby creating conditions to extend the tenure beyond the 20th Congress, in the absence of qualified members.

It may be pertinent to mention that the erstwhile Soviet Union too faced similar conditions of slowing economy and systemic corruption in political,

military and military spheres, which lead to its final collapse. President Xi, out of concern or fears, has perhaps taken actions to guard China against such situations.

All these assumptions and conjectures will be put to rest by the end of the 19th National Congress, which would have selected the members of the politburo committee, Politburo Standing Committee and members of the Central Military Commission.

Speculation, however, is mounting rapidly in favour of President Xi that he may be nominated as the general secretary of the CPC and chairman of the CMC for life-term to steer the nation towards achieving the momentous centenary goals.

(The author is a Research Fellow at the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA), New Delhi)

Evolving with Subramanian Swamy – a roller coaster ride

Dr Roxna Swamy has done a great job of writing a biography on someone as varied, yet, single-minded in his approach as Dr Swamy

If you think being Subramanian Swamy is difficult, think again. Read this book. It is being Roxna Subramanian Swamy that is more difficult. While the reader is faithfully taken on a rollercoaster ride of Swamy's major highs and lows in life, it is Roxna Swamy who shared in his joy and remained the shock-absorber.

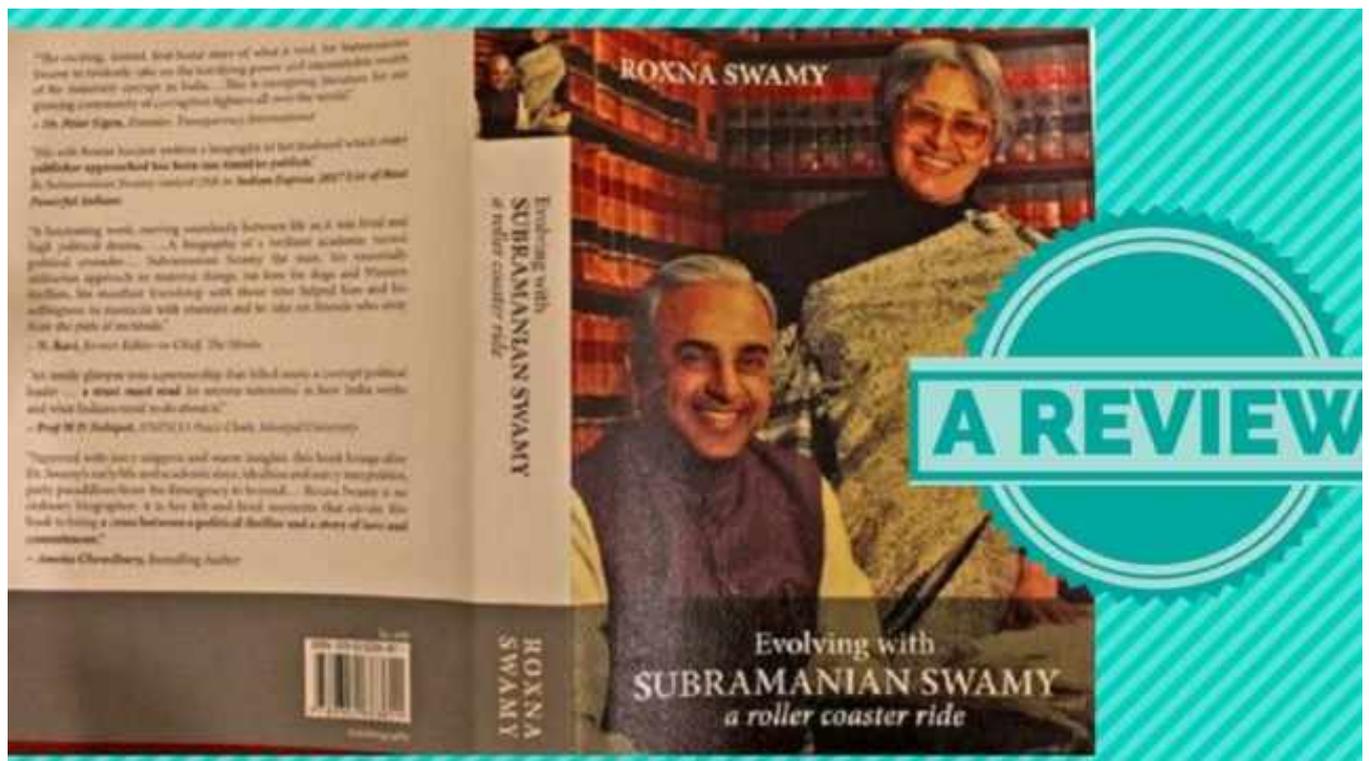
It is difficult to write a biography. Especially, of someone as varied, yet, single-minded in his approach as Dr Swamy. Dr Roxna Swamy has done a great job. She has captured him from his early days in life to his days in Harvard, to his preparation in taking up an assignment by mastering Mandarin in a year, to his return to India and to a life that simply played out a myriad of challenges.

Through all this, what strikes the

Dr Roxna Swamy has done a great job. She has captured him from his early days in life to his days in Harvard, to his preparation in taking up an assignment by mastering Mandarin in a year, to his return to India and to a life that simply played out a myriad of challenges.

reader is the amount of hardship, tension and uncertainty Roxna and her little children went through those days. Vengefully sacked from the IIT, the eviction from IIT quarters, hostile IIT officials all set to pack her and her two toddlers off, to a variety of defamation cases by Jayalalithaa, her plans to arrest Swamy by recalling a domestic flight, in which he was travelling mid-air to Bangalore, she also brings out his ability to fight opponents, yet maintain a friendship across party lines.

The reader will clearly understand how Swamy remembers a help in time and returns favours to the benefactor (Dr Manmohan Singh for example). And his Twitter Philosophy- "I give as good as I get" can be seen in many events in his life as captured in the book.





ROXNA'S FATHER STOOD UP TO THE MIGHT OF NEHRU, WHO CALLED HIM A "HIDEBOUND BUREAUCRAT"

What strikes most is her narration of how Vajpayee or Yashwant Sinha played foul with him. Be it in the narration of the rousing reception the Chinese gave to Swamy or taking glee in the damp squib of Vajpayee's Chinese visit thereafter, she minces no words in telling the reader what she feels about ABV. Her narration of Sinha mortgaging gold to a British Bank, without keeping the then Commerce Minister, Dr Swamy in the loop is a clean shot, straight from the hip. Swamy's famous fights with the then darling of the liberals, the late Ramakrishna Hegde, the various cases and Hegde's reproach to Swamy on his deathbed have all been truthfully recorded. The Emergency days, The family's hardships, the hounding by the police. Swamy's dramatic appearance in RS and his Houdini act, belong to the genre of Ian Fleming. How much Roxna had to go through because she continues to love this man from Harvard days! That's the testimony of the strength of their marriage. The journey of togetherness continues through five decades.

Roxna Swamy gives us more than a

glimpse into the source of inheritance of the couple's righteous stubbornness. Their parents and curiously Roxna's father stood up to the might of Nehru, who called him a "hidebound bureaucrat" for disallowing Government Helicopter to a lady American Journalist who sought it from Nehru to view Bihar floods from the sky. Her father looked into Nehru's eyes and said- "Give it to me in writing". Thus, came the law on "cooling off period" in Civil Servant's terms of service in taking up jobs post-retirement.

SWAMY IS THE NEO-ABHIMANYU WITH A MAJOR DIFFERENCE.

There is a historical genetic trait that Swamy has inherited, the source of which I never knew before. His ancestor Sri Ramappaiya Iyer the Dalavay or the Kattappa of the Madurai Monarch Tirumala Nayakar, who feigned deaf to the Monarch's order to retreat in a battle against a formidable force, Iyer returned victorious for the King to change his views that were tutored by biased courtiers and welcomed him with honours and rewards. His grandfather Sitarama Iyer was a perpetual litigant. Perhaps, those genes underwent some morphing as Swamy takes up only the

right issues to fight in court.

Swamy is the Neo-Abhimanyu with a major difference. He knows how to pierce into the Chakravyuh and most importantly, knows how to come out of it successfully, leaving his opponents licking their wounds. But this Neo-Abhimanyu had to contend not just with his Political opponents. He had to contend with his own people in the party and the RSS. And his fight will go on. He has been denied what should rightfully belong to him. Till then, he will stick to one of his rarely known success formulae. Hold out one's hand and let the Heavens drop in the required article.

Finally, a trait that is little known about Swamy is that he is a committed friend. If he commits, he will stick to the end. Sadly, his bravery and flights are highlighted to the common man but the other side of Swamy is extremely conservatively written by the press in the national media. His contribution in fighting systematic corruption and valuable economic inputs to late Prime Minister PV Narsimha Rao has reshaped the destiny of the country.

Book review was done by Ms Lakshmi Devi, Opinion Express bureau head & inputs from national press.

The great **POWER** struggle and way out

For an faster growth, India must become power-sufficient

Perspective

Although the overall installed capacity and availability of power has increased in our country, yet the pain areas still remain unfixed. The financial conditions of the Distribution Companies are deteriorating, power supply in rural areas is still a big issue, electricity consumers still await for uninterrupted power supply and the Discoms are left with no other option than Tariff Hike. In this era, when India is looking forward at becoming a dominant economy in the world, the current Power Scenarios could only drag down its dream.

Power is the not only a critical component for the infrastructural growth, it's also very crucial for economic development and welfare of the nation. India's generation capacity will have to increase approximately by 7 times of the present figure to meet our growth needs. The major part of our energy mix depends on fossil fuels, which are finite and have environmental implications. Taking this into consideration, post the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris (COP21 summit) the Government has decided to go for a low-carbon transformation of the Power system. In this context, India has endorsed renewables as the future source to fuel the rapid growth engine. And so the Government has set an ambitious target of 175GW of renewable power installed capacity by the end of 2022, of which approx 58 GW has been installed so far. This opens ground for many players to participate and encourages entrepreneurship, whilst focusing on passing the benefit to end user of electricity. Having said that, the challenges still remain strong.

The Renewable Sector:

Prices for renewables-based electricity have been dropping globally and more so here in India. The effect of this trend of cost reduction in renewables is changing the dynamics in the sector and thus making investments in conventional power plants unfeasible. Electricity generation through the the renewable source of energy is increasing with ev-



ery passing day. The initially impactful Wind and large-scale solar power plant later faced various challenges in terms of technology and financials too.

Despite the impressive performance of the renewables industry, the Indian energy sector continues to be plagued with multifaceted challenges some of which can be summarized as below:

- Unawareness about the importance of accurate designing and reliable engineering to meet the required demand.
- Fulfilling the expectations of developers, manufacturers, and utilities in a timely and cost effective way
- The challenge of maintaining good quality with apt pricing/costing

The Wind system despite having a great potential faces several barriers in the field, some of which are:

- A geographically suitable and source capable site
- Capacity allocation at the location
- Land clearance
- Suitable policy framework

- Power evacuation up to the grid
 - Cost parity with Solar Energy
- Due to these a major lack of investment interest and belief in this renewable source is expected.

Challenges with Large-scale solar power plant

Large scale solar projects too come with some challenges, majority of them being technological. Consider a big solar power plant over which a big cloud is passing by this will result in reduction of the units generated by the plant thus the total generation will differ from the scheduled generation. This in turn will cause penalties imposed by Load Dispatch centers on the generator, impact the tariff and financials.

Constraints of inter-state transmission lines which are used at full capacity most of times is another major challenge. This may result in wastage of this energy at the renewable surplus states, thus not reaching the electricity deficit states. The route of traffic revision that more and more states are taking for the renewable energy projects has caused a major stir in the sector and the bids

have shown a downward chart.

The new dedicated Inter-State Green Energy Corridor program in that the Government has initiated with Germany would allow interstate renewable energy transmission and reduce wastage. However, this will take time and requires investments.

Importance of Projection and Forecasting

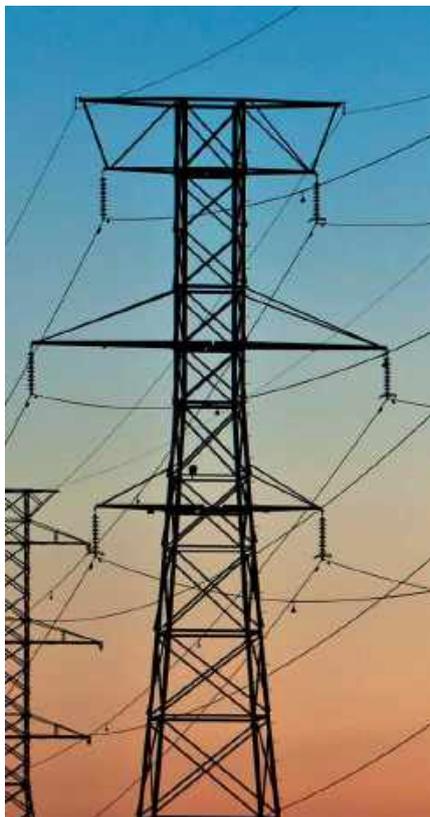
Both solar and wind power are not as easy to control as fossil fuel plants, therefore power grids need to become capable enough to handle last-minute changes in power generation.

Any deviation from the scheduled generation results in a huge amount of penalty to the generator and to avoid this detailed forecasting and projections analytics is required at both the demand and the supply side. Forecasting the prices in case of purchase from exchange needs to be focused on as well.

Thus, at present solar rooftops has become the need of the hour. Doing so will not only address the current issue of energy shortage but also give the consumer an opportunity to become a producer, the more common word: "Prosumers". The Major problem of voltage fluctuation and power loss will also go down with the use of rooftop solar.

It is commonly known that Rural areas in India are non-uniformly electrified. The energy requirements of these areas are only being met by the technological and financial rich states whereas poorer states are still struggling to do so. Mini-grid and Off-grid solutions along with battery/energy storage are going to help a lot to mitigate such problems in these areas. No more lack of electricity will hinder the growth at these current energy deficit regions.

An important solution to sporadic renewables will be storage. There is a whole lot of scope in Advancement of energy storage technologies in the near future. Countries are developing number of 10MW, 20MW etc of energy storage plants which can help not only during situation of power shortage but also support the grid when needed. Energy storage is becoming a major player in the global energy market and will continue to grow for the foreseeable future. The development of battery technology has been spurred by increasing viability of electric vehicles. India expressed its desire to go-all electric this year and backed its intention with a policy push. The Government has stated that the



companies that follow official policies aggressively and switch to non-polluting fuels, stand to benefits in the long term.

Furthermore, the prices of battery packs for typical electricity cars has gone down by 58% (\$600 to \$250) in last 5 years and by 2024 it is expected to come down to \$100. The capital costs of electric vehicles are expected to be less than that of petrol vehicles in next 5 years, with acceptable range and operational costs at a fraction of that of petrol vehicles.

The benefits of energy storage will become both more attainable and attractive as the component prices decline. Integration with the Internet of Things (IoT) will create additional advantages through intelligent energy storage to facilitate the integration of energy storage and renewables as well. These technologies need to be developed further for a country like India. Not only this will help in achieving the goals of government policies, it will also bring a number of entrepreneurship opportunities.

Opportunities in Solar Industry

The Solar industry is expanding with an exponentially rising number of both solar system installers and manufacturers. The sector has also seen a rise in distributors/stockists/warehouses specifically of foreign brands of inverters,

modules etc. Solar trading is becoming an important link in the value chain of the business. Primary traders are focusing on equipments (modules, batteries, inverters etc.) and accessories such as cables and switchgear. The other type of traders are those who prefer carrying out EPC orders and they may most often referred as business development associates, partners etc

Another category of traders in the sectors are the equipment traders, these traders also book sales order for EPC (Engineering, Procurement, and construction) for either themselves or other companies.

Mini Grid and Off-Grid – Last mile connectivity for Rural

With huge and diverse geographical and economical diversity rural electrification is one the important exercise for the current government. Last mile connectivity means small, off-grid project will become the most effective way to expand access to electricity and its reach to the rural areas. Microgrids provide an immediate solution for rural India to gain access to electricity. Since these off-grid projects incorporate renewable energy sources to generate electricity, these would provide more sustainable and more reliable solutions in these areas.

The Generation based incentives, the capital and interest subsidies, the concession finance and interest subsidies offered by the government are definitely promoting the adoption of renewable energy but a long-term integrated plan is much required. A plan that would:

- Make power grids more flexible.
- Develop an infrastructure for EV expansion.
- Be a primer for policy for storage technology development and brings investment.

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MINI HAPPY RETURNS

A peek into the iconic Mini as it turns 20

By Gavin Braithwaite-Smith

The story of the new Mini began in 1997, its development was a long and drawn out process, hindered by internal squabbles, disagreements and the not-so-small matter of BMW's purchase of Rover from British Aerospace and the subsequent sale to Phoenix.

Understandably, BMW kept Mini – Rover's biggest asset – and decided to build the new car in Cowley, unceremoniously renaming the plant BMW Oxford.

Speaking of BMW and names, the sales and marketing team in Munich insisted on calling the new car MINI, to differentiate it from the classic Mini. Uppercase or lowercase, the new MINI always seemed destined for stardom, despite misgivings from Mini purists and traditionalists. Rover planned to build a Mini with Hydragas suspension and a K Series engine, but BMW had other ideas.

Instead, the new MINI would be powered by a 1,598cc 16v engine built in Brazil by Tritec Motors, a joint venture between BMW and DaimlerChrysler. At the front, you'd find conventional MacPherson struts, along with a development of BMW's Z-arm axle at the rear. But to many prospective buyers, the MINI's charm was purely cosmetic.

Bigger, Better, Faster, More!

Frank Stephenson was the Moroccan-born American tasked with bringing the new MINI to life after his concept was chosen from a field of 15 finalists. It first appeared as a concept car in 1997 before making its production debut at the 2000 Paris Motor Show.

"The MINI Cooper is not a retro design car, but an evolution of the original," said Stephenson. "It has the genes and many of the key characteristics of its predecessor, but it is larger, more powerful, more muscular, and more exciting than its predecessor ever was."

Not everyone was captivated by the larger MINI, with Alex Moulton, the genius behind Hydragas, one of its chief critics. "It's enormous – the original Mini was the best-packaged car of all time – this is an example of how not



to do it... it's huge on the outside and weighs the same as an Austin Maxi," scathed the engineer and inventor. There was worse to come: "It is an irrelevance in so far as it has no part in the Mini story," continued Moulton. Ouch. Other people failed to get beyond the idea of the Mini name in German hands, while some refused point blank to accept it as a genuine Mini. Fit to wear the badge or not, BMW had an enormous hit on its hands.

Bolting on a Roots supercharger upped the power of the standard Cooper engine from 130hp to 163hp, giving the S a terrific turn of pace. A 0-60mph time of 7.6 seconds and a top speed of 133mph enabled the Cooper S to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the likes of the Renaultsport Clio 172, Honda Civic Type R and Ford Focus ST170.

Further upgrades followed, including the 200hp Cooper S Works, with the initial work carried out by the John Cooper garage, home of the original Mini Cooper. The kit could be retrofitted to a Cooper S and was available throughout the dealer network. In 2004.

MINI lowered the roof with the arrival of the Convertible. Unlike the classic Mini convertible, the new version looked good with the roof up or down – it folded away in 15 seconds – and was as good to drive as its tin-top counterpart. By the time the first generation of the MINI's second coming was preparing to make way for the R56, there was a sense that BMW had mastered the art of building a small car – even a large, small car. Evidence of this came in the form of the blistering John Cooper Works GP.

In developing the new MINI, BMW

claimed it wanted the new car to look and feel like it had continually evolved since 1959, in much the same way as, say, the Porsche 911. Which is why the R56 looked remarkably similar to the R50. It's not that the R50 was by any means past its sell-by date. As Richard Bremner explained in 2006, the R50 was on a roll. "When it was planned in the late '90s, BMW reckoned on selling 100,000 a year. In reality, there has been demand for double that and more," explained Bremner in Autocar.

"Originally, BMW planned to replace the 2001 car after seven years, but having convinced itself that it should increase the capacity of its Oxford plant to 240,000 – prompting a major investment in new equipment – it figured that it may as well update the car, too." The R56, then, represented a wholesale overhaul of the R50. The front-end was redesigned to meet new pedestrian safety regulations, lengthening the car in the process, while the cabin felt classier and loaded with neat details.

Under the bonnet, the old Tritec engine was replaced by a new 1.6-litre motor developed in conjunction with Peugeot-Citroen. It meant that the new Cooper S would be turbocharged, consigning the Roots supercharger to the history book. Another reason for BMW's desire to get the R56 to market was the response to the 'Traveller' concept of 2005. The estate was to be built on the new platform, hence the need to get tooled up and the R56 into showrooms.

Once again, the purists were upset, this time by the naming strategy, which chose to ignore the Mini's history. It should have been called the Traveller, claimed Mini fans.

Creativity is a key for innovative cinema – Ravi K Chandran

Ace cinematographer reflects on his 26-year journey in film world

Indian cinematographer and director, Ravi K. Chandran has worked on Tamil, Malayalam, and Hindi movies. He has won the Filmfare Award for Best Cinematographer for movies such as Virasat, and Black, and the Filmfare Award for Best Cinematographer - South for Kannathil Muthamittal. His best known works in Bollywood are VIRASAT (1997), Dil Chahta Hai (2001), Yuva (2004), Paheli (2004), Black (2005), Fanaa (2006), and Saawariya (2007). Ravi has won two Filmfare Awards and one Southern Filmfare Award

Ms Nithya Ramesh Model, Actor and film critic interacted with Mr Ravi K Chandran for Opinion Express Magazine.

■ **Do you have a favorite experience in your work as a Director of Photography? What film are you most proud of?**

There's nothing like a favorite film experience because every film is by itself an experience, I have been shooting since 26 years, still everyday when you are on the set there is always a new challenge like light may not be correct or rain during shooting, some actors have to leave by certain time so in the morning we will be shooting the night scene or in the night we will be shooting a day scene according to the script all these issues happen. Everyday it's an exciting shoot only if you don't see your work as a problem then it's not a problem. When you start seeing your work as a problem then it is a problem.

My favourite films are 'Dil chahta hai', 'Black', 'Kannathil Muthamittal', 'Ghajini' and 'Saawariya'. 'Virasat is an important film in my career. Each film has got a plus and minus but every film is part of life. You spend almost a year in a film. So if I do 20 films then 20 years of my life is gone. That is very crucial period of life. You have to leave



your youth, family and go and travel, you end up eating food on roads, rains. Basically it is very important journey in every film and every film is an important film in life or career. So that's how it is. I'm very proud of 'Virasat', 'Kandu-Kondain Kandukondain', 'Black', 'Kannathil Muthamittal', 'Minsara Kanavu' and 'Saawariya'.

■ **What type of film would you love to work on that you haven't worked on yet?**

See I haven't worked on a periodic film like 'bahubali' with a lot of special effects and action film. I like that kind of film and it would be very exciting to do those kind of films.

■ **What do you look for when hiring your main team?**

I normally work with the team who are with me for 2 or 3 years. When recruiting new team we generally ask for what kind of interest they have. I talk to them, I get to know what kind of interest they have in

cinematography, what they actually want to become and what they really mean by they are interested in cinematography. Some people come and say that they like cinematography a lot and love it but if I ask them tell me a good cinematographer in India or internationally, they don't know. They wouldn't have watched any of those films of great cinematographers but they have all the updates about new film of their favourite actor or actresses. They know where to get good food but they don't know about the job they want to do. It is like I love music but I don't who is Illairaja or A R Rahman. If you were interested then you would know or find out about your interest. This generation has access to the best of internet, make use of it and seek for the information where your interest lies. Why I have to say this is because I come from a village, I used to come to Chennai to read about America's cinematographer and then to become that I came and got registered myself for the American library. So every week I used to go and read and that is the kind of interest one should have. If you are interested in that subject then you should know much about it in depth. If I want to know the top 10 cinematographers in the world then I google it and watch their films. If I want to know about the lenses in the market then I buy it and test it. I grow with the technology.

For upcoming cinematographers I would like to say it is an evolving process. If you want to learn cinematography then you should learn the basics, composition, structure, colours and art of cinematography. Also there are many books available on the internet buy them online or borrow books and read them. The main thing is that you should read and get to know what you are dealing with.

■ **Where do you see the future of camera/lighting technology in film?**

It's growing every day. There's no limitation. It is like a cocoon, you don't know what it is. It just keeps growing. I would say technology is growing so much that you can shoot a small movie or video with 4K resolution on phone. New technology like virtual cameras, 360 degree camera and others are doing great in the market. Technology will never stop and will only keep growing.

■ **What film, besides the ones you've worked on, have you seen the most times in your life?**

I have never watched my films



Some people come and say that they like cinematography a lot and love it but if I ask them tell me a good cinematographer in India or internationally, they don't know. They wouldn't have watched any of those films of great cinematographers but they have all the updates about new film of their favourite actor or actresses.

again and again. If I do then I would want to redo the entire film again (..... laughs.....)

■ **What according to you is film making all about?**

I would say that the film making is a privilege and not everybody can get a chance to do a film that was the case earlier because you had to rent cameras, equipments, processing till editing the footage. Now everything can be done on phone. If you want to be a film maker, you can shoot everything on your phone and see whether you can tell a story effectively. Editing, sound design can be done on phone and computer and these are the two things that you will be requiring to make a film.

■ **How can one be a successful director?**

If you want to be a director just make one Short film and see whether you can tell a story and if you are successful at that then try and tell more stories and upload them. Stories come from life and not from anywhere else. So you should look around for stories in life. Take personal stories that always translate into something else otherwise it will never works. If it is about thriller then there

are thousands of movies made on that genre all over the world. If you think you are doing it for the first time, they have done it all. You name a subject they have done it all, unless you say something unique about your story in personal voice only then people look up to it and notice.

Say 'Dil chahta hai' is a personal story and was told brilliantly on screen and that's what inspires me. It is difficult to direct without knowing the environment, body language. People think it's very easy and it is not at all easy trust me

■ **How do measure an achievement in the film world?**

I would like to say that there are no shortcuts for achievements. You have to get in depth and study about what your interest lies in because for every achievement you will be judged. For example there is a difference between a taxi driver and a professional race driver. To be a professional driver you need to learn the art, then practice, and then go on the tracks. You will have a coach to train you and he will judge you if you are eligible to race. And at the race you will be judged to win. So you will be judged everywhere and at every step. (....signs off....)

Akhilesh in charge- Mulayam Singh, Shivpal Yadav not in Samajwadi Party National executive

Samajwadi Party patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav and his younger brother Shivpal Yadav were missing from the list of members of the party's national executive body, which party chief Akhilesh Yadav released on Monday. Most of the 55 members in the new national executive, formed after Akhilesh's re-election earlier this month as party chief, are those who supported him during the feud in Samajwadi Party family.

Ramgopal Yadav, who Mulayam had expelled from but later re-inducted into the party last year, has been appointed the party's first principal general secretary, a post created after an amendment to the party constitution at the recent national convention in Agra.

Under him will be a team of 10 national general secretaries, including Azam Khan, Naresh Agrawal and Indrajeet Saroj who had recently quit the BSP to join the SP. Among the national general secretaries is Balram Yadav, once considered close to Mulayam. Balram was also alleged to have played a role in attempting to broker a merger between the Quami Ekta Dal (QED) of Mukhtar Ansari and the SP, a tactic that is said to have sparked the family feud. Ramgopal's son and Firozabad MP Akshay Yadav is special invitee along with four others, among them Altaf Ansari who unsuccessfully contested against Mukhtar Ansari in the Assembly polls. Lucknow realtor and Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Seth continues as party's treasurer, while another Rajya Sabha member Beni Prasad Verma has been dropped.

Rajya Sabha members Kiranmoy Nanda and Jaya Bachchan also found a place in the new body with Nanda named vice-president. Leaders of the Opposition in the Assembly and Legislative Council Ram Govind Chaudhary and Ahmed Hasan, respectively, are also members.

Joe Antony of Kerala, Madhu Gupta of Lucknow, Kamal Akhtar of Amroha and Abhishek Mishra of Lucknow are among the 10 national secretaries. Party chief spokesperson Rajendra Chaudhary, also secretary in the party national executive body, refused to comment on Mulayam and Shivpal's absence from the list. As party chief, Akhilesh has the authority to nominate office bearers, members and special invitees in the national executive committee.

Report filed by Amit Pandey OE News Bureau (Lucknow)



Anil Ambani's RCom shares drop to record low after Aircel merger deal collapses

Reliance Communications' share today tumbled in early trade to an all-time low after the company scrapped a proposed merger of its wireless arm with rival Aircel. RCom shares were trading at 17.90 rupees, down 6.77 percent, after dropping to a low of 17.70 rupees. Earlier on Sunday, Reliance Communications called off the talks with Aircel citing regulatory delays and legal uncertainties. RCom on Monday issued a statement and said: "Merger of mobile business of RCom and Aircel lapses with mutual consent. Legal and regulatory uncertainties, and various interventions by vested interests, have caused inordinate delays in receipt of relevant approvals for the proposed transaction." Anil Ambani's Reliance Communications shares drop to record low after Aircel merger deal collapses



Last year in September, RCom and Aircel had signed binding agreements for the merger of mobile business. Reliance Communications also blamed high level of competition as one of the reasons for termination of the merger talks.

"Unprecedented competitive intensity in the Indian telecom sector together with fresh policy directives, adversely impacting bank financing for this sector, has also seriously affected industry dynamics. As a result of the various factors aforesaid, the merger agreement has lapsed," RCom said. On Monday, Anil Ambani-led RCom further expanded its board by adding four new members. The company has also presented an alternative plan for debt reduction by selling company's real estate, tower and fibre business.

Anil Ambani's telecom business has been shrinking in big size for last couple of years - RCom made a standalone loss of Rs 1796 crore in the last financial year, compared to its peak profit of Rs 4803 crore in March 2009 and its net sales fell by 35 per cent to Rs 8823 crore in this period. Earlier in May, it was reported that RCom defaulted on its loan servicing obligations with more than 10 local banks and some of whom categorised the exposure as "special mention account" in their asset books.

OE News Bureau (Mumbai)



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