

Betting on Taiwan

India should stay just under the diplomatic threshold and engage more visibly with Taiwan, especially in economic ties, to keep China in check



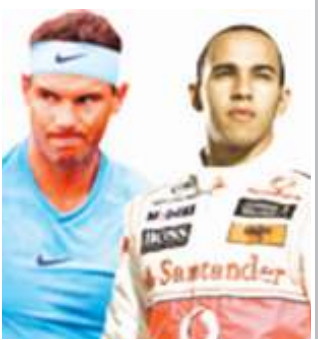
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In any other year, the Taiwanese National Day celebrations in India wouldn't have assumed such political proportions had both nations not been at the receiving end of China's maximalist ambitions. So they needed to make a statement about standing by each other in the face of a shared geo-political threat. In a move laden with a message to China, posters of the event were put up outside the Chinese embassy by a ruling BJP member, though they were taken down later on the grounds of not having the required permission. But they had served their purpose. Similarly, Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen thanked "dear friends in India" for sending wishes for the annual celebration, clearly intended to rile up China further after its embassy issued a "letter" to the Indian media to not cover Taiwan's National Day as it would violate our "One China" policy.

Meanwhile, Taiwan, too, has used its National Day to reassert its political and cultural identity and undercut its existence as tied to the mainland. It commemorates a 1911 uprising in the central Chinese city of Wuhan against the nation's last imperial dynasty. This led to the creation of the Republic of China, which leader Chiang Kai-shek then brought to Taiwan seven decades ago when he fled Beijing as the Communist Party took power. It is just about remembering a historical event but allows Taiwan to technically bypass anything that would suggest total independence.

Twin feats

As 'emperor of clay', Rafael Nadal equals Roger Federer's feat while Lewis Hamilton equals that of Schumacher



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The year 2020 will go down as a weird year in more ways than one. The finals of the French Open tennis tournament and a Formula 1 Grand Prix race in Germany taking place on the same Sunday is far from usual. Instead of huge crowds enjoying the long days of the northern European summer, the French Open and Eifel Grand Prix at the Nurburgring saw a sparse scattering of spectators, even though that in itself was unthinkable a month ago.

Then there is Lewis Hamilton, a man who clearly dominates his sport by a country mile. On his way to equalling the legendary Michael Schumacher's record of seven world titles at the Nurburgring, a race track close to the German driver's hometown, he created a record of 91 Formula 1 race wins. If the British driver keeps on racing in 2021, no one will bet against him becoming the first man to win 100 Formula 1 races and setting a new record of world titles.



PRIYADARSHI DUTTA

The new farm laws might not be as disruptive as their critics want us to believe. They are apparently as logical and timely reforms as interventions like State procurement and notifying of Minimum Support Price (MSP) had been in the mid-1960s.

The Government's cavalier attitude to the Opposition parties' stance is equally uncharitable. Motives have been imputed to their decision. They are accused of having a vested interest in the Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC)-run mandis, besides being friendly towards the middlemen who call the shots in those market yards.

The fear that APMC-run mandis would be abolished is largely unfounded. The eNAM platform can today boast of connecting about 1,000 of them across 18 States and three Union Territories (UT). However, the passage of the Bills was not preceded by any kind of consensus-building.

The legislative competence of Parliament to discuss a Bill on a subject placed in the State list (Schedule VII of the Constitution) was questioned by some members. However, we have precedence of the Seeds Act, 1966, which is a

Consensus is vital

Had the Government chosen a Standing Committee scrutiny or even had a dialogue with farmers, the opposition to farm laws could have been avoided



Central legislation. It was one of the key legislations enacted during the Green Revolution era. Still, one is reminded of how the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Government approached the contentious subject of contract farming. This was envisaged in the National Agriculture Policy 2000. Instead of bringing a Central law, the Government in 2003 circulated a Model Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) Act to the States for adoption in 2003.

Why did the four Labour Codes, recently enacted, did not become a source of dispute despite the presence of controversial provisions? This was because the Codes, meant to reduce 29 existing labour laws into four legislations, were vetted by the department-related Standing Committee of the Lok Sabha. It was chaired by Bhartruhari Mahapatra of Biju Janata Dal. The Government agreed to several suggestions of the committee.

How justified is the claim that previous governments had kept the farmers in chains? Such a view stems from inadequate appreciation of facts. Definite pro-farmer measures were taken by Indian National Congress since 1937 when it formed gov-

ernments in coalition in seven out of 11 provinces (under Government of India Act 1935). These included debt relief measures, tenancy reforms and licensing and regulation of money lenders and so on. But separation from Burma (now Myanmar) from the Indian Union in 1937 stressed rice availability in India.

India's agricultural policy since Independence was aimed at attaining food security. With fragmented landholdings, inadequate electricity supply, pitiable irrigation facilities and poor acreage, production was insufficient. To bridge the requirement and availability of food grains, India entered into an agreement with the US under their Public Law 480 on August 29, 1956. It allowed India to obtain wheat, rice, cotton, dairy products and tobacco in Indian rupees. It could not, however, be denied that import of food grains, in excess of the market requirement, de-incentivised the farmer to produce more.

The current regime of MSP and Government procurement is a legacy of the short-lived Lal Bahadur Shastri Government (June 11, 1964 to January 10,

1966). It had its origin in the decline in wheat production, consecutively between 1962 to 1964, and decline and marginal recovery of rice production during the corresponding period. This compelled the Government to revisit its open market policy for wheat and modest control on transport and sale of rice. The severity of the food shortage could be understood from the sheer number of speeches that Shastri delivered on the subject as the Prime Minister. His *Selected Speeches*, published by the Publications Division, Ministry of I&B (1972) categorises a total of 10 under "Food Problems."

The Shastri Government moved in towards a regime of greater regulation and control on sale, purchase and movement of food grains. On January 1, 1965, two new organisations were created, which became the hallmark of the Government's intervention in the agricultural sector. These were Food Corporation of India (FCI) and Agricultural Prices Commission (now Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices). The ambit of Government procurement, which was limited to a few edible items in the beginning, now extends to 23 items (in addition to sugarcane).

The developments since the Green Revolution (1967) have led to the growth in acreage and food surplus situation. Time is ripe for addressing the

neglected problem of agricultural marketing. In pursuit of doubling the farmers' income by 2022 (from the level of 2016), the Narendra Modi Government formed a committee led by Ashok Dalwai, IAS. The committee produced a 14-volume eminently readable report. Though the decision to "liberalise" the farm was not among its direct recommendations, one has to realise that significant decisions are always political rather than bureaucratic in nature. The farmers must have better alternatives for remunerative pricing with legal safeguards. Even today, there is no legal restriction on farmers selling his/her product in the open market. What cripples the farmer, however, is not merely the logistical problem but also the absence of a legal architecture to protect his/her interests.

A single line in these Acts, like "notwithstanding anything contained in the aforesaid sections, no trade transactions should take place below the notified MSP", would have allayed the misgivings of the farmers. A line in time could have saved the Government from putting eight Cabinet Ministers on ground (not including the Agriculture and Farmer Welfare Minister Narendra Singh Tomar) to convince agitating agriculturists. *(The writer is an author and independent researcher based in New Delhi. The views expressed here are personal)*

SOUNDBITE

Like in Rajasthan, the attack on a temple priest in Gonda district by the land mafia to grab the temple land is shameful. Now, even the saints are not safe under the Government led by a saint.

BSP leader - Mavawati

In terms of addressing testing, tracing and treatment, what the Trump administration has offered is wholly insufficient.

US House Speaker - Nancy Pelosi

Whether you call them Feroz Gandhi or Rahul Abdullah, there's no difference between the two. Both are the same, totally same. Both are two sides of the same coin.

BJP spokesperson - Sambit Patra

Roland Garros means everything to me. We've played plenty of times together. One day wins one, another day wins the other.

Tennis player - Rafael Nadal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Control air pollution

Sir — The air quality index (AQI) in the capital remains "poor" as there has been a rise in the concentration of both PM10 and PM2.5 pollutants. According to the System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research (SAFAR), PM10 pollutants are expected to reduce to 238, a scale which falls under the "moderate" category, during this week while PM2.5 pollutants are expected to reach 117, which falls under the "poor" category. SAFAR also estimated around 448 stubble-burning fires on October 10. However, due to the transport-level wind speed, which is not so calm, the high accumulation of pollutants in Delhi is not happening. It is said that the impact of stubble fire is likely to reduce due to change in wind direction. This comes as good news as high pollution levels coupled with the ongoing pandemic will be life-threatening. The Government should take strict measures to ensure the AQI level doesn't increase. Also, as the festive season approaches, a blanket ban on fire crackers should be announced.

Nihal Raj Noida

Protest is a salient feature of democracy

The problem with the ruling by the Supreme Court on protests in public places vis-a-vis Shaheen Bagh is that it verges on a judicial certainty and might render democracy less vibrant. It is paradoxical that a peaceful democratic protest that won wide approbation as an assertion of people's power and as a template for the conduct of the protesters and the righteousness of their cause was termed as an "encroachment" and an "obstruction." The site was only incidental to the protest, its proximity to the protesters' homes explained its choice. The intention of the protesters was bona fide, it was to persuade the Government to revisit a discriminatory law and not to block the thoroughfare. The inconvenience caused to commuters by "occupation" of a narrow part of a wide road (half of it was barricaded by the police) cannot be measured against the larger consequences of the amended law.

On the face of it, the ruling looks acceptable as it guarantees the right to free movement, but it may, in effect, emasculate protests. When it comes to accord-



ing democratic space for citizens to protest, laws have to be enforced in a flexible manner. One of democracy's strength is its resilience to accommodate protests and respond to them creatively. The apex court needs to revisit India's history and then decide if a designated area for protests really justifies its cause?

G David Milton Maruthancode

Farmers' issue

Sir — The Government had set a target of doubling farmers' income by the year 2022 but given the economic state of the country, this won't be possible any time soon. Adding to it, the three farm Acts that were recently passed by Parliament would lead to farmers being "reduced to farmworkers" and big corpora-

tions taking over "large swathes of land". The Opposition needs to continue opposing the Acts and pressure the Centre for pro-farmer reforms that include the Minimum Support Price (MSP) guarantee. Farmers should be free from exploitation not only by intermediaries but also by corporate giants.

Abdussalam Mumbai

CBI takes up Hathras

Sir — The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has taken over the investigation of the gang-rape and murder case of the 19-year-old Dalit woman of Hathras, Uttar Pradesh. The agency's move came almost eight days after UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath recommended a CBI probe, amid a growing political

storm over the death of the victim and her hurried cremation by the administration in the absence of her family. The Opposition has even called for the CM's resignation over the issue. The CBI has already registered a case against one of the accused, earlier registered at Chandpa police station in Hathras. This will be a chance for the Centre to separate itself from the UP Government that has been grossly mishandling the case. The CBI shouldn't let the State manipulate the findings and build a strong case based on facts and make sure that the victim gets justice.

Bhagwan Thadani Mumbai

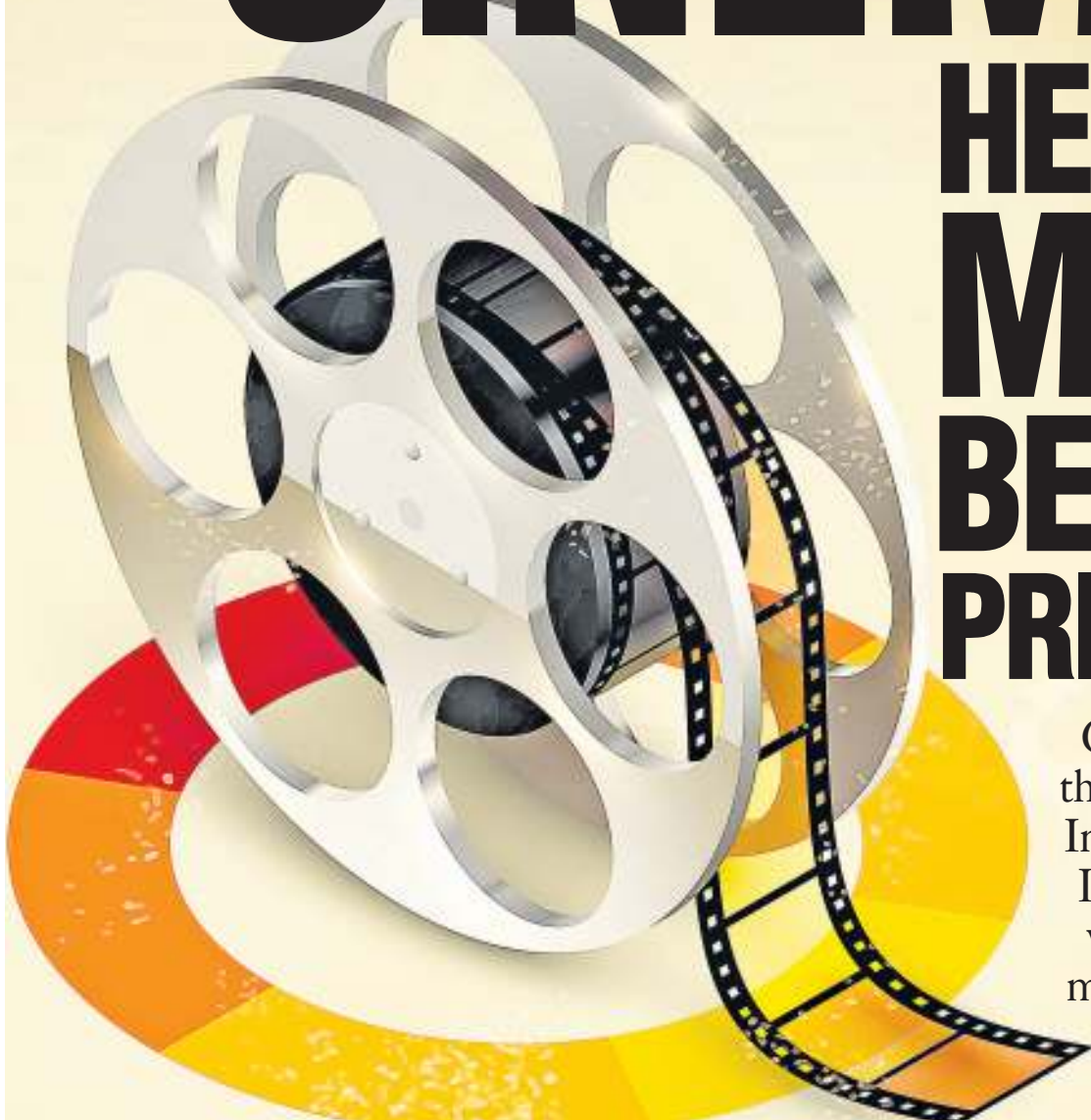
Strict punishment

Sir — Angry with his wife for refusing to source money from her parents, a 26-year-old man in Ramamurthy Nagar, Bengaluru, has allegedly burnt her private parts. The police should take strict action against the culprit and the victim needs to be given security.

MN Qasmi Kolkata

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

CINEMA: HELPING MOVE BEYOND PRIVILEGE



The characters and crew in the caste thematic films have a lot more at stake as the film is going to ring true at some point based on real-life incidents. They tackle the issue of caste sensitively, recognise its evils beyond the seven seas, and have to be wary of not dramatising or sensationalising the story. Let's go back to some of the blockbuster caste-driven movies that highlight the appetite of anti-caste ideas while moving toward a positive direction of progression.

Article 15

It's about the indignities endorsed by the caste-system in modern-day India that don't play it cool. Inspired by the real-life Badaun killings, this film features policemen hushing up the murder and gangrape of three 15-year-old girls because they belong to a lower caste. The film has the stench of honesty. What do you do when the system is the bad guy? There are no revelations here. We've read about such cases, we've sighed at these horrors.



Article 15 is not a film in search of easy answers. It is instead a reminder that we already know the questions, but don't ask them enough. "*Article 15* is a film that holds a very special place in my career as my intent was to make the people of our country question the various rape and caste discrimination cases we read about in the newspapers on a daily basis. Playing the role of Aditi was emotionally draining as it was an encounter with the truth and had to be portrayed in a way that gave the audience food for thought," shares Isha Talwar who played the role of a journalist and Ayushmann Khurana's girlfriend in the movie.

The story covers issues that would tug at the heart of any individual with an iota of conscience and sensitivity — In a village in north India lives a little Dalit boy called Santu who longs for an education. Caste is practised, lived, and accepted in this setting but flinching at the same time. "The roles I play or the characters I choose might seem unconventional but if you look at them closely, these are characters of real people. I played an upper caste, rich landlord in which I had to put in a lot of effort to perfect the body language, the dialect, the attitude. The movie tries to explore a love affair also between two people who restrict their feelings because of the prejudice attached to the relationship. Whether this kind of love was justified or not is for the audience to judge," asserts Sanjay Suri on playing an indomitable role in the movie *Chauranga*.



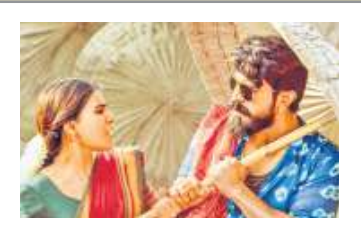
Chauranga

Shudra:
 The Rising

The plot of the movie is based on something that India has experienced for ages — caste-inequality/caste-discrimination. Even today, this inhuman practice exists in some rural parts of India. This is a story of millions of people who were subjected to slavery and were deprived of basic needs such as food and water.



Rangasthalam



Although they might have plenty of differences among themselves they are very true to what they believe in is good or bad. There's a lot of drama in every village and we tried to reflect that in our film. This is what makes a rural drama like *Rangasthalam* so interesting. It's raw and pure in its own way," director Sukumar had reportedly stated.

Caste is a way of life for several families and communities in India, it is at the roots of several communities' foundation, lacking moral virtues. How do we reform the idea of caste? How do we seek caste-free individuals? We desperately need many more anti-caste movies to take on the monster of caste!

Fandry



Jabya, the film's dark-skinned protagonist is an awkward yet winsome teenager from a Dalit family who lives in a shack at the fringes of the village. He has a crush on Shalu, a classmate, who hails from an upper caste and therefore, a well-to-do family. The differences in their background and colour of skin are all important, as they are anywhere in India, even to this day. This is as much a film about coming to terms with one's identity as it is about young love. "We believe in the tokenism of standing up but what are we doing to uplift fellow citizens who are beset with ugly caste-based prejudices? We are backward in every sense. We struggle with our educational and financial problems so maybe creative expression comes much later. If even ten of us resolve to change our attitudes, a change will begin," says acclaimed Marathi writer Manjule.



Ensuring holistic fitness of mind, body

The truth is that our body and mind are not separate identities, they are one. Our mind is our subtle self while our bodies are the gross self.

On an average we have sixty to seventy thousand thoughts in a day and a large percentage of these thoughts are stressful especially during the current times, points out Reebok Mind Coach Vrinda Mehta.

This excessive stress energy is connected to almost all lifestyle diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular diseases, obesity, depression, anxiety and much more, she says.

We cannot always control what happens around us but what happens within us can be brought under our control with true knowledge, diligent practice, and patience. "Just

like we follow a healthy diet and a regular exercise routine for physical fitness we need to have a healthy mental diet of positive thoughts, emotions and regular breathing exercise or pranayama to ensure mental wellbeing."

Coach Vrinda Mehta shares a few simple tips on how mental health can be kept in check through positive life habits.

Begin your day with the 5 basic Pranayama or breathing techniques: The Bhastrika, Kapalbhathi, Anulomvilom, Bhramri and Udgeeth Pranayams. According to the yogic science, our mind and our breathing are directly connected.

Include positive affirmations in your pranayama routine.

Become aware of your breath. Get into the habit of taking slow deep breaths

especially when you are stressed out.

Surround yourself with positive people. Think and talk about positive things.

Keep a gratitude journal. Make a habit of writing down 5 things that you are grateful for each day.

Connect with nature. Get some sunshine as it is a powerful electromagnetic energy that helps in cleansing and rejuvenation. Reconnect with mother earth by walking barefoot on grass/sand to distress.

Listen to calming soothing music to relieve stress.

Get proper sleep by going to bed and waking up at the same time every day and staying away from electronic gadgets before bedtime.

Consciously develop a habit of being positive in any given scenario and truly grateful for all that you already have.

An enchanting Sufi track

Giving us a special glimpse into the beautiful frames of *Halal Love Story*, Amazon Prime Video released the first song promo of the Malayalam comedy-drama.

The soulful song titled *Sundaranayavane* produced by Rex Vijayan, is sung and composed by Shahabaz Aman, with its beautiful lyrics penned by Muhsin Parari.

The video has Raheem, played by Nasser Karutheni, travel across the magnificent and scenic backwaters of Kerala, in what seems to be a journey back home for the character. Embracing all that God has blessed us with and praising in his glory, the music is sure to leave everyone enchanted. Speaking about the song, popular Indian playback singer Shahabaz Aman said, "Creating music for *Halal Love Story* was a different experience altogether, especially *Sundaranayavane*. The lyrics are extremely pure and irrefutably heartfelt that will completely transport one into a state of bliss. Muhsin has

done an incredible job with the lyrics and it was a great pleasure to have sung and composed this song." Additionally, the music album of *Halal Love Story* also features a song by prolific composer Bijibal and the background score is by Yakzan Gary Pereira and Neha Nair. On creating music alongside Shahabaz, music producer Rex Vijayan said, "*Halal Love Story*'s soundtrack is quite Sufi-laden. The melodies will instantly absorb you and depict an amalgamation of love and praises to the almighty. I am confident that the audiences will enjoy the music as much as they do the film."

— PNS

EMBRACING ALL THAT GOD HAS BLESSED US WITH AND PRAISING IN HIS GLORY, THE MUSIC IS SURE TO LEAVE EVERYONE ENCHANTED.





Vivo Y73s 5G with Dimensity 720, 48MP triple cameras launched

Vivo has announced a new smartphone in its Y series called 'Vivo Y73s' with 5G network support, a mid-range MediaTek Dimensity processor and a triple-lens rear camera module in China.

The Vivo Y73s 5G is priced at 1,998 Yuan (\$298).

Currently, there is no information on whether the Vivo Y73s 5G will head to markets outside of China, reports *GSM Arena*.

The smartphone has a 6.44-inch AMOLED display with a water-drop notch. It supports 1080 x 2400 pixels full HD+ resolution and a 20:9 aspect ratio. The phone offers a screen-to-body ratio of 90.1 per cent.

The device comes equipped with the MediaTek Dimensity 720 processor. The company has announced the smartphone in a single 8GB RAM and 128GB storage option.

The smartphone houses a 48MP main camera with f/1.79 aperture, an 8MP superwide lens with a 120-degree field-of-view with f/2.4 aperture, and a 2MP portrait shooter with f/2.4 aperture.

The phone supports photography features such as night mode, macro shots, 10x digital zoom, EIS, and 4K video shooting.

The Vivo Y73s 5G has a front-facing camera of 16MP with f/2.0 aperture.

The handset houses a 4,100mAh battery that supports 18W dual-engine fast charging through USB-C.

OnePlus to launch 2 Nord smartphones on October 26



Smartphone maker OnePlus is reportedly planning to launch two new Nord smartphones — the Nord N10 5G and Nord

N100 — on October 26.

The OnePlus Nord N10 5G is said to be the device codenamed "Billie" and may have a price tag of under \$400, reports GizmoChina.

OnePlus Nord N10 5G is said to feature a 6.49-inch FullHD+ display with a refresh rate of 90Hz.

The smartphone is likely to be powered by the Qualcomm Snapdragon 690 SoC with 6GB RAM and 128GB of onboard storage.

In terms of optics, the device is said to come with a quad-camera setup at the back consisting of a 64MP primary camera, 8MP wide-angle lens and a 2MP sensor.

Meanwhile, OnePlus Nord 100 is also expected to come with the Qualcomm Snapdragon 690 processor under the hood with 6GB of RAM and 128GB of internal storage.

The smartphone may get a triple camera setup at the back housing a 48MP primary camera, 8MP secondary lens and a 5MP camera. The phone may have a 16MP selfie shooter.



Sony launches new full-frame mirrorless camera in India

Sony on Monday announced Alpha 7S full-frame mirrorless camera series with 'Alpha 7S III' for Rs 3,34,990 in India.

The camera features a brand new 12.1MP back-illuminated full-frame image sensor with ultra-high 's' series sensitivity and over 15 stop wide dynamic range, video-recording capabilities including 4K 120pi and 10-bit 4:2:2 colour depth, the company said in a statement.

"Alpha 7S III combines the classic S series sensitivity with a feature set, performance level and user experience that is simply unmatched in the industry today at any price segment," said Mukesh Srivastava, Digital Imaging Head at Sony India.

The camera comes with a new heat-dissipating mechanism, dual-slot relay recording, enabling over one-hour of 4K 60p movie shooting until battery ends, a new auto-focus system and a touch-screen interface and side flip LCD screen.

The new CMOS image sensor and BIONZ XR image processing engine in the Alpha 7S III aims to deliver legendary S-series sensitivity with significantly enhanced colour reproduction and texture renderings for improved overall image quality.

In addition, real-time tracking and real-time eye AF are available in Alpha 7S III to maintain constant focus on the intended subject. Sony said its advanced real-time eye AF improves detection performance by 30 per cent over the previous system, thanks to the new image-processing engine.

It ensures accurate, reliable detection, even when the subject's face looks away. Real-time eye AF is automatically initiated when an eye is detected.

The new Alpha 7S III camera will be available from October 15.

Motorola Revou, ZX2 smart TVs launched at RS 13,999

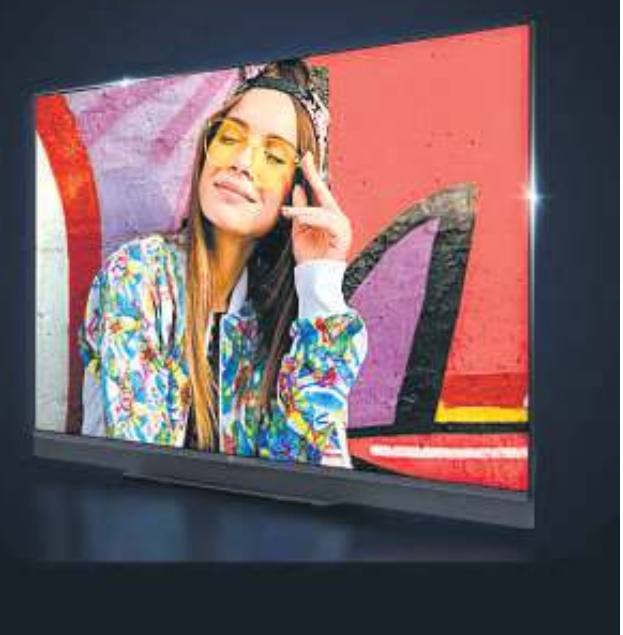
Flipkart has launched a new range of Motorola smart TVs in India. The new Motorola smart TVs start at Rs 13,999 with the base model offering a 32-inch display. In total there are four new Motorola smart TVs.

The new smart TVs are categorised in two different ranges where Motorola Revou is for the premium models, and ZX2 is for the budget ones. Motorola Revou 55-inch UHD TV is priced at Rs 50,000, and the 43-inch model is priced at Rs 30,999. Motorola ZX2 32-inch HD smart TV costs ₹13,999, and the 40-inch FHD smart TV has a price tag of Rs 19,999. The new Motorola smart TVs will go on sale from October 15 onwards on Flipkart.

In terms of specs, Motorola Revou and ZX2 smart TVs are powered by a 1.5GHz CA53 quad-core processor paired with 2GB of RAM. Motorola Revou offers 32GB of internal storage while the ZX2 range comes with 16GB. All four smart TVs run Android 10 TV out-of-the-box. The smart TVs are also equipped with Dolby Atmos, Dolby Audio, Dolby Studio Sound, Dolby Vision and HDR 10.

The Motorola Revou smart TVs have very thin bezels with a soundbar attached, and a single stand at the bottom. The 55-inch model also comes with two speakers, and two tweeters with 50W sound output. On the Motorola ZX2 there are two stands but no presence of a soundbar. The Motorola ZX2 smart TVs have two speakers and two tweeters and offer a total sound output of 40W.

Flipkart also launched Motorola smart appliances along with the smart TVs. The lineup includes smart AC, refrigerators, and washing machines. The Motorola smart appliances will also go on sale during the Big Billion Days.



FUN

ARCHIE



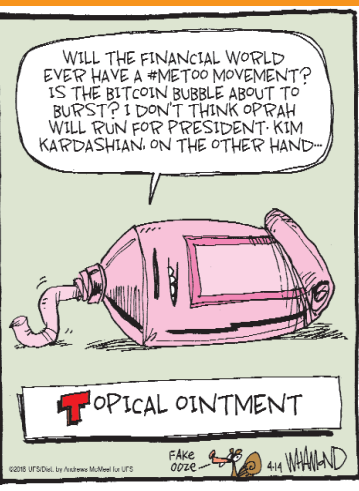
CALVIN AND HOBBS



GARFIELD



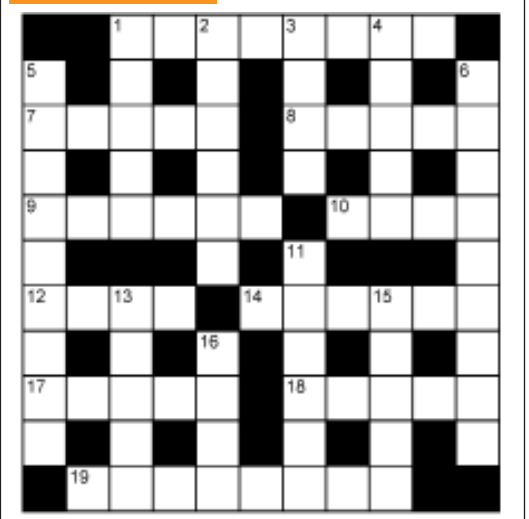
REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD



NANCY



SUDOKU

Yesterday's solution

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

Rules

- Each row and column can contain each number (1 to 9) exactly once.
- The sum of all numbers in any row or column must equal 45.

ACROSS

- Calm and quiet
- Sit on this
- Steam bath
- Oboe player
- Applaud
- An area of cut grass
- A box for a body
- Once more
- Heartbeat
- Practise something before doing it for an audience

DOWN

- A keyboard instrument
- From one side to the other
- Simple to do

SOLUTION I

P	R	E	G	N	A	N	T	S
E	I	T	E	G				
F	H	O	C	A				
O	F	T	E	N	C	H	A	I
R	O							
M	I	X	I	D	C	R	E	E
E	A	L	K	A				
R	A	T	T	L	E			
E	R	E	P	O	R	T	E	R

GINGER MEGGS



Nandini Reddy is in talks to direct the Telugu-Tamil bilingual from a script of Ashwin Saravanan, **NAGARAJ GOUD** reports



Poorna in another female-centric film

Actress Poorna will be playing the lead in Ananda Bhairavi director Karri Balaji's next, *Backdoor*, the muhurat of which was held in Hyderabad on Monday. B Srinivas Reddy is producing the film under Orchid Studios.

Speaking to The Pioneer, the director said the filming will begin from November 22 in Hyderabad and the plan is to wrap it up in a start-to-finish schedule of 25 days. "The film is being made to be sent for national and international festivals," he pointed out and added that it narrates how backdoors have become common these

days for people to get their work done. "What work Poorna embarks on through the backdoor and the obstacles she confronts is what the film trends," Balaji noted that Pranav has been roped in to compose the music, while Chota K Prasad will scissor it.

Speaking about Ananda Bhairavi, an action-drama, he stated that the final schedule will begin from November-end.

Samantha and Nandini IN DISCUSSIONS FOR A THRILLER

Best friends' aside, the actor-director duo of Samantha and Nandini Reddy struck gold with *Oh Baby* last year. Taking their professional relationship forward again, we have exclusively learned

that the duo is in discussions for a new feature. Sony Pictures is attached to pool in financial resources for the project, a thriller.

A well-placed source close to the development tells us that this was the same project that *Game Over* director

Ashwin Saravanan was supposed to direct. "Due to some unavoidable reasons, he couldn't take up the directorial reins but parted with the script to Sony. Shortly thereafter, Samantha and the production house had a discussion on who would steer

it forward. Nandini emerged as a common choice. In fact, the director was onto something else when this offer came by. She heard the story and later briefed Sony about the vision she had for it. They liked it."

The source adds, "Nandini

is sifting through the complete script right now and is working on some changes. The thriller genre is a new space for her and she is excited about it. The film will be a Telugu-Tamil bilingual. Samantha has a line-up of films up next but she has

committed to this project long back, so it's likely it will get precedence. Sony is looking at January-end or February next year to have the cameras rolling."



Using a vanity van is scary right now: Venkat

After more than six months of staying indoors, actor Venkat has resumed filming *Ichhata Vahanamulu Nilaparadu* (IVN), fronted by Sushanth and newbie Meenakshi Chaudhary, earlier this month. Shooting in the new normal is tough, he admits. "We have to take a lot of precautions while going about our job. During rehearsals, we are wearing masks but while shooting we can't, right? So, coupled with fear, there is always an element of risk involved," the actor, who will be seen as Meenakshi's brother in the concept-driven thriller inspired by a real incident, tells us.

He continues, "The unit, however, is adhering to safety protocols. There is a disinfectant chamber, so are gloves, sanitizers and masks at one corner. Using a vanity van is scary right now. Which is why, I'm not letting my assistants and make-up men enter it as a precautionary measure. I'm carrying a surface disinfectant as well," he smiles.

Venkat realizes the need of the hour is to boost immunity levels and although he is a regular at the gym, he is taking vitamin 'C' and 'D' pills. "I've also included Dabur Chyawanprash in my diet," the actor, who is required for IVN later this week, concludes, signing off.

— NG



Swara Sagar in demand

With albums like *Chalo* and *Bheeshma* to his name, Mahati Swara Sagar stocks are rising up in Tollywood. After bagging megastar Chiranjeevi's *Vedatam* remake, the composer now has another project in his kitty. According to sources, director Anish Krishna of *Ala Ela* fame has signed him on for his next with Naga Shaurya.

A source chips in, "Anish has a great taste for music. Although he wanted to try different composers like the way he did for *Lover*, Shaurya wanted him to consider Sagar. To which, Anish had no issues. The music sessions have already begun and the director is happy with the work of the composer."

A romantic family drama interspersed with a lot of humour, the untitled film will be launched on Dasara later this month. The shoot will kick off next month in Hyderabad with a week schedule. The second schedule, however, will be held in 2021, as Shaurya needs to complete his existing commitments. Majority of the film, a production venture of Ira Creations, will be shot in Hyderabad while a small schedule requires the unit to travel to a green setting. Sai Sriram has been roped in as the cinematographer.

SHAURYA AND RITU VARMA'S ROMANTIC DRAMA RESUMES



Launched in February earlier this year, Sithara Entertainment's next with Naga Shaurya and Ritu Varma was shot in Hyderabad for 10 days

before the pandemic suspended the schedules. And now after seven months, the unit has resumed filming in Hyderabad on Monday. Lead pair is participating in the shoot. The production house said they are following safety measures for a smooth conduct of the shoot.

A pure love story which traces the journey of a guy and girl, who are honest and live by principles,

the film marks the directorial debut of Soujanya Medarametla. Hyderabad aside, Visakhapatnam, Kerala, Darjeeling and Dehradun will host different schedules of the film.

The likes of Nadiya, Murali Sharma, Vennela Kishore, Praveen, Ananth, Kireeti Damaraju and Rangasthalam Mahesh are playing supporting roles.

Soujanya has assembled a strong technical team in place for the film. While Vamshi Pachipulusu, who shot Adivi Sesh-starrer *Evaru* last year, will be the cameraman, the music will be rendered by Vishal Chandrasekar.

