

BusinessLine

WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 2017

Beyond Trump

The G20 meet showed that the rest of the world has started to work around the US President

here were two dramatic images that lingered after the Hamburg G20 summit. For Indians, it was Prime Minister Narendra Modi beaming as he met China's enigmatic-looking President Xi Jinping, watched by many anxious-faced Chinese officials. Whatever the discussions between Xi and Modi, they haven't served to ease border tensions and that was clear after another editorial rocket aimed at India appeared in Monday's state-run *China Daily*. At a global level, the image that captured shifting international leadership dynamics was of US President Donald Trump sitting alone and isolated as other global leaders confabulated in small groups behind him. The image illustrated dramatically how the world order forged in the embers of World War II is being shaken and stirred. What emerges in coming years could be a radically different global pecking order and India must strive mightily to carve out as advantageous a position as it can in the new scenario.

It was Trump who set the tone and defied many conventions at the summit and also by his moves showed the world is moving in new directions rapidly. He scrapped his closing news conference, a decision announced after the other 19 countries opted to go ahead without the US and issued a statement on fighting climate change. When asked, German Chancellor Angela Merkel confirmed the talks on climate change had been difficult. Nevertheless, the other countries took a conscious decision not to paper over differences. For Trump, it was yet another reaffirmation that he was putting America first. But the rest of the world saw it as the US stepping back from the global leadership role it has exercised for the last 100 years since it crossed the ocean and entered World War I. The US had its way on trade and on the touchy topic of steel imports where it got a commitment to "rapidly develop concrete policy solutions that reduce excess capacity". That was squarely targeted at China, which is producing huge amounts of steel, creating a global glut. On trade, the statement talked about fighting protectionism but added a phrase about "legitimate trade defense instruments". Trump also spent more than two hours with Russia's President Vladimir Putin.

For India, the takeaways from the conference were mixed but it was clear that Modi made use of the opportunity to meet and greet world leaders. India was instrumental in getting the summit to issue a standalone statement on terrorism. Modi engaged Trump in a brief, animated discussion, which was joined by France's President Emmanuel Macron, and he made his presence felt constantly. But two key figures at the conference were Germany's Merkel, the host, and China's Xi, who came to the conference soon after state visits to Russia and Germany. Xi is doing his level best to move China into spaces being vacated by the US. India needs to build new and stronger alliances keeping its ambitious neighbour in mind.

Looking for a quick cure

India's globe-conquering pharmaceutical sector has caught a sudden chill and is looking for the right medicine to bounce back



PARANE BALAKRISHNAN

This decade is looking very different for India's champion generic drug industry which went out and conquered the US and the rest of the world. The safe haven sheen now is off the Indian pharma sector with the whole sorry tale laid out in the share prices. The market has been on a thunderous bull run with the Nifty hitting new daily highs. It's up by over 24 per cent on a one-year basis. By contrast, returns on the Nifty pharma index have plunged by 15.8 per cent over one year and 21.20 per cent over two years.

While analysts insist long-term prospects are solid for the sector, the present is looking decidedly gloomy. The pharmaceutical industry woes were exemplified by two companies on Monday. Racing upwards was Andhra Pradesh-based Divi's Labs which at one point in the day had soared some 20 per cent before retreating on profit-taking. Heading in the opposite direction were shares of Bangalore-based Biocon which fell over nine per cent and then recovered some ground to close with a 4.1 per cent loss on the day, swept higher by the overall market surge.

For both companies, it was an encounter with international drug control regulators that triggered the share movements. Divi's Labs got the good news that the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) was dropping one charge that it had refused to allow FDA inspectors into

its plant. Biocon's slide began after news that French regulators had found deficiencies at its plant at Bommasandra in Bangalore.

Multiple complications

Why is the pharmaceutical industry ailing? Frequent run-ins with regulators is one reason. But the brutal diagnosis is that the industry is suffering from multiple complex ailments.

The fact is that Indian pharmaceuticals, just like India's other fallen star - the infotech industry - are heavily dependent on the US market. And in pharmaceuticals, the going has suddenly got tough in a host of ways. For starters, there are the buyers who have teamed up and are putting the squeeze on sellers. One example is the retailer Walmart which has a chain of pharma stores and has tied up with a drug distributor McKesson.

Regulation blues

Also, the industry has wilted in the face of tightening regulations and inspections by FDA inspectors. Even India's biggest pharma companies such as Sun Pharmaceutical Industries, Dr Reddy's and Wockhardt are taking time to resolve flaws thrown up by FDA inspectors. Credit rating agency ICRA says the FDA rebukes to these companies "have also contributed to lower revenue growth from the

US". US sales at Lupin, which till recently, was India's second largest pharma firm, plunged 12 per cent in the last quarter ending March. And at Sun, India's biggest pharmaceutical company, shares have slumped 27 per cent over 12 months. (Sun's Dilip Shangvi has seen \$14 billion knocked off his fortune since the company's shares peaked in 2015).

One major firm that has just escaped from the US regulatory over-

hang is Cadila Healthcare, which got its first US FDA notice of concern in 2014 about issues at its main plant in Moraiya, Gujarat. Moraiya accounts for some 60 per cent of the firm's US revenues and also 60 of the company's 200 pending Abbreviated New Drug Applications (ANDAs). The problems meant no new US approvals for products made at the factory. But on June 21, Cadila got the thumbs up from the regulator for Moraiya and its shares instantly shot skyward on the clean bill of health. In the process it became India's second-most-valuable drug-maker.

Cadila is suddenly on a roll and has other reasons to celebrate. It recently received FDA clearance to sell a generic version of a drug Lialda or mesalamine used to treat chronic inflammatory bowel disease that has an addressable annual market size of \$1.15 billion. Cadila's version of Lialda is the only generic so far to have received the go-ahead from the FDA. With first-to-file status, it should have a 180-day exclusive sales window. And that's not all. Cadila suddenly received FDA clearance for a string of other products aside from the copycat Lialda.

But Cadila right now is the exception rather than the rule. Indian companies' US field day is over. One reason, paradoxically, is because the FDA has responded to criticism and streamlined its processes. It's now fast-tracking approvals for new generic drugs. That might sound like a good thing for the pharma industry but, in actual fact, it means that competition in the marketplace has stepped up dramatically. Indian pharma firms have about 13 per cent of the US generics market and are the second largest players after Canada.

And more

The entry of more players and consolidation of US buyers have meant that prices are being squeezed. If



Indian pharma firms need to move up the value chain
fast PAVEL KUBARKOV/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

these negative factors weren't enough, India's pharma companies are also in a bind because of a factor that's unique to their industry. In the coming year, relatively few blockbuster drugs are coming off-patent, and thus few huge-buck opportunities are coming up.

There's also the Trump factor, but unsurprisingly, nobody's quite clear if it will work in favour of Indian companies or not. Trump has loudly proclaimed that he's going to bring down the cost of health-care and pharmaceuticals. But at the same time he has thundered about manufacturing in America which would make products more expensive, not less.

Given this concatenation of factors, the Indian companies are conscious they have to quickly get off the bottom rung of the industry, out of the plain-vanilla generic model, and start making more

niche creations that will give them better pricing leverage. So, they've stepped up spending on R&D and are looking at making complex generics and biosimilars. R&D spending for the top seven pharma firms, according to ICRA, has risen from 5.8 per cent in 2011-12 to 9 per cent in 2016-17. In their favour is the fact that most pharma companies have strong balance sheets which reflect the fact that they had a rich harvest between 2011 and 2015 and saw revenues rise at a 33 per cent compounded annual growth rate.

Will Indian pharma companies be able to keep their leading place as the competition heats up globally and new firms from countries like Turkey enter the game? They've got the experience and have hiked R&D spending to move up the value chain. But they will need to be more nimble-footed - and perhaps lucky - than ever before.

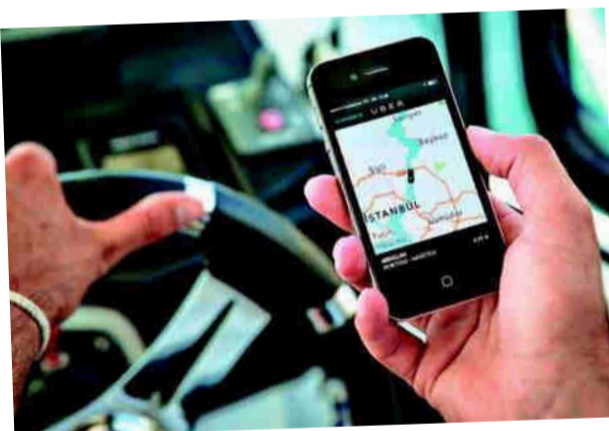
Fast and furious is not the way to grow

The Uber crisis underlines how firms that grow too fast usually sacrifice ethics and social responsibility

CONOR SEN

In the corporate world, rapid growth comes at a cost. Deals with the devil always do. Uber might best epitomise the strengths and weaknesses of the era of unconstrained, disruptive technology companies. On the one hand, its supporters would say that by disrupting entrenched local ground transportation companies and regulations, it has led to a golden era of cheap, abundant ride-sharing options available at the touch of a button on one's smartphone. On the other, detractors have criticised the company for a whole host of reasons ranging from how it treats its drivers to a culture that has been hostile toward women.

Marissa Mayer, the former CEO of Yahoo, struck at the heart of the matter when she absolved former Uber CEO Travis Kalanick of responsibility for the company's cul-



That's the way many tech startups grow BLOOMBERG

tural problems. "I just don't think he knew," she said. "When your company scales that quickly, it's hard."

The need for speed

But "scaling quickly" was a deliberate choice on the part of Uber, its management team and its investors, which to some extent can be attributed to the business model of the venture capital industry. "Move fast and break things" and

"fail fast" are two of the business slogans that have emerged from this era of technology companies. Venture capital firms spread their bets around when it comes to startups, knowing that the vast majority will fail, a small percentage will be modest successes, and then a lucky few will be home runs, earning multiples on their initial investment and paying for all of the losers. Because of this reality, companies with ideas that don't gain traction are encouraged to shut down early rather than continue to waste investors' money, and thriving companies are encouraged to grow as quickly as possible to thwart the competition and to earn outside returns for their investors.

When the industry in question is semiconductors or cloud computing, purely technical endeavours,

perhaps the pros of scaling quickly far outweigh the cons. But as Silicon Valley looks to take over existing industries, scaling responsibly might have to take precedence over speed.

Unchecked growth

Uber is hardly the only example. Facebook has gotten in trouble by allowing unfiltered "fake news" to show up in people's timelines, and by allowing anyone to use its streaming video service Facebook Live, which has led to acts of violence being broadcast on its platform. This laissez-faire culture of Silicon Valley can't be tolerated as the industry looks to put autonomous vehicles on the road.

The US economy has seen this Faustian script before. When the mortgage industry tried to grow as quickly as possible in the mid-2000s and ran out of well-qualified borrowers, it started lending money to unqualified borrowers. When even that wasn't enough, it increased its financial leverage and turned to complex derivatives. Here in Atlanta and other fast-growing Sun Belt metro areas, to grow as fast as possible, real estate developers

and regional planners often neglected things such as infrastructure and other long-run concerns, leading to traffic delays and other challenges with governance today.

To some extent, the slow economic growth of the 2010s is a direct response to unrestrained growth in the past. Financial regulation and mortgage underwriting is stricter than it was in the past. Construction costs have risen as developers are now often the ones responsible for paying for infrastructure costs associated with development, and communities have passed legislation to ensure they get the kind of responsible development they desire.

We may be approaching this point in the technology sector, when society will demand that companies grow responsibly with corporate cultures that respect all of their employees and partners rather than simply as fast as they possibly can. Whether this new responsible growth model still works for venture capital, or whether tech will need to find a new approach to raising money, remains to be seen.

BLOOMBERG

FROM THE VIEWROOM

Dirty picture



The arrest of Malayalam actor Dileep is a seminal moment in many ways. Consider this: In popularity, Dileep was arguably only next to the two legends of Malayalam cinema, Mohanlal and Mammootty. Over 130 films he had created a brand for his slapstick comedy and donned roles including that of a transgender and severely handicapped person, which other top actors would stay away from.

Starting out as a mimicry artist, Dileep's fairy tale rise to the top included marrying the then more popular Manju Warrier, probably the most influential female performer in Malayalam cinema. Dileep was also influential. Apart from his businesses (a restaurant co-owned by him is immensely popular), he was a leading member of an association for movie artists and a successful producer and distributor.

Few believed he would be in trouble despite being the subject of much gossip ever since the abduction of a well-known Malayalam actress in February. Surely, he was too big a fish. But credit to the Kerala Police who were resourceful and intent in following the leads, interrogating Dileep for long hours (unprecedented in itself) and arresting him. Indeed, the long arm of the law can reach the rich and the powerful.

Dileep's arrest also exposes the sleazy underbelly of Malayalam cinema, and probably the movie industry as a whole. Away from the rich lifestyle and parties, there are deals, compromises and disastrous consequences arising from cut-throat competition and insecurity. It was alleged that Dileep was bent on destroying the career of the actress in question after she sided with his former wife.

The bigger question is, will this arrest cleanse Malayalam films? Will the movies shed their hide of machismo? Will the cinema-goer stop whistling when a hero grabs a heroine by the waist? Maybe not. But an important precedent has been set.

Prince Mathews Thomas Senior Deputy Editor

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send your letters by email to bleditor@thehindu.co.in or by post to 'Letters to the Editor', The Hindu Business Line, Kasturi Buildings, 859-860, Anna Salai, Chennai 600002.

NSE trading halt

This refers to your edit 'More than a glitch' (July 11). Trading halts in stock exchanges all over the world are not uncommon when the entire operation is computerised. So let us not press the panic button after the trading halt at NSE on Monday.

We have to wait for the complete audit report to know the reason for the glitch and also to know whether the NSE handled the crisis in the best possible way. Concentration of derivative trade has just happened in NSE and no one can explain why.

NSE was formed to meet the challenge of BSE, when BSE was dominated by brokers and when they were reluctant for reform or change.

The formation and national-level presence of NSE had compelled BSE to adopt similar measures. One hopes that competition between these two exchanges will

be in the interest of the investor community.

S Kalyanasundaram
Email:

Nitish Kumar in a fix

This refers to 'How will Nitish Kumar retain his credibility?' (July 11). The conglomeration of political parties inimical to the BJP-led NDA formed a grand alliance to fight the Bihar Assembly election which worked to its advantage.

But the JD(U) started realising its politically incorrect stand of allying with its arch rival RJD whose chief is involved in the fodder scam.

For Nitish Kumar, continuing with the Grand Alliance is like being caught between the devil and deep sea. Opposition parties crying themselves hoarse about the CBI raids on the family members of Lalu Prasad Yadav is sheer politics. Opposing for the sake of opposition cuts no ice, and neither

will the CBI stop investigating the scam because of such criticism.

HP Murali
Bengaluru

Suddenly Nitish Kumar finds himself between the devil and deep sea. On the one hand he has almost broken away from the Opposition by rooting for the NDA's Presidential poll candidate. His continuing alliance with the Lalu clan in the light of cases filed against them by CBI has also become untenable. He cannot take the risk of allying with the BJP either as he accused that party of fomenting communal trouble time and again.

The charges of corruption against Lalu Prasad and his family have been going on for decades. Nitish Kumar has compromised his good image by allying with RJD. It is high time he chalks out an independent course of action in politics. He is being seen as one of

the last able administrators with a higher level of integrity. He should not endanger his own credibility.

V Subramanian

Chennai

An actor's fall from grace

The sordid and sensational case of abduction and molestation of a Malayalam actress with actor Dileep as the key conspirator has surpassed fiction. The immense entertainment he has given millions has not deterred sharp criticism from upright citizens. For them it is a kind of catharsis.

Presumably, for all his fame and fortune he was not sufficiently sophisticated to understand that the truth has an uncanny knack of coming out. The event has revealed the dark underbelly of the Malayalam film industry and it is sure to have some impact on the 'actor worship syndrome'.

G David Milton
Maruthancode, Tamil Nadu

Amarnath massacre

The bizarre act of gunning down seven Amarnath pilgrims from Gujarat, including six women, has cast a pall of gloom all over the country and deserves the strongest condemnation. The terrorists carried out the cold-blooded murder under cover of darkness when a minibus ferrying the pilgrims was on its way back after visiting the holy shrine. It is baffling that the bus was neither the part of the main convoy nor registered with the Amarnath Shrine Board.

Besides, the bus driver had also violated rules as no yatra vehicle is allowed on the highway after 7 p.m. as security cover is withdrawn beyond that hour. While one becomes wiser after an event it is imperative that security is beefed up and no effort is spared to nab the assailants.

NJ Ravi Chander
Bengaluru

Smart power

Transforming electricity distribution

NITIN S KULKARNI

India is the world's third-largest producer of electricity, after China and the US. Even as demand grows some 10 per cent a year, the country is on track to produce more power than it consumes. Yet power outages are a way of life for the average Indian. Many Indians have limited or no access to electricity. Why?

One reason is, Indian utilities grapple with so-called "non-technical losses," which include electricity theft, meter tampering and non-payment by customers. These losses have a huge impact on the utilities' profitability, service predictability, and operations performance. Tangles of wires atop electricity poles criss-cross India's villages and cities, stealing power.

It is estimated that India loses approximately \$16.2 billion a year just through electricity theft. This is the highest total loss to theft in the world. Several Indian States are now strengthening vigilance against power theft. With the Centre's focus on boosting energy output through programmes such as National Smart Grid Mission and Ujwal Discom Assurance Yojna, utilities are looking for ways to meet the growing demand while cutting losses.



By adopting the Internet of Things (IoT)-based metering infrastructure, using smart meters and smart grids, utilities can make further strides toward reliable power generation and distribution in India. Smart metering pilots are underway in Kolkata, Delhi, Chandigarh, Tripura and Puducherry.

Smart meters can record electricity, water, or gas usage in homes or buildings, and send this data back to the supplier and consumer at regular intervals. Both customers and utilities benefit from real-time data on energy consumption. The instantaneous information allows the customer to make adjustments and the utility company to better manage energy consumption at peak times.

For Indian utilities these technologies will be a game changer in their battle against power theft.

Tapping a wire hook directly on to the electricity line is the most prevalent form of power theft in the country. Economic implications aside, this practice is unsafe. Imagine a scenario where utilities have real-time visibility to this unmonitored consumption, and are alerted to unusually heavy demand on the grid, meter bypassing, and unaccounted-for consumption. With advanced sensor technologies and software analytics, load imbalance on the grid can easily be detected and this data is then transmitted back to the utilities.

Similarly, using smart meters, utilities can monitor households or commercial establishments that do not pay their bills and can shut down their services remotely. Another common theft technique is tampering with conventional meters to show a lower consumption reading. Smart metering infrastructure can also help utilities quickly respond to tamper events. With built-in tamper detection and protection functionalities, they have the ability to send a real-time notification to the utility when there is an attempt at tampering.

Advanced metering solutions and technologies tailored to Indian needs represent a clear path forward for Indian utilities in their transformation journey. They can provide economic benefits for both consumers and utilities, allowing providers to increase operational efficiency, reduce energy theft and avoid revenue losses, while giving customers more stable electricity service and the ability to control their usage and expenses.

The writer is President, Smart Energy, Honeywell Home and Building Technologies

CAG charges on Vizhinjam are baseless

Long concession periods are justified given the risk involved in the transshipment business across the globe

Ever since it was conceived some 25 years ago, the Vizhinjam port project has been dogged by several controversies. The latest in the series seems to have arisen on the observations made by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) on issues in the concession agreement entered by Kerala government with Adani Ports.

Based on the nature of the cargo handled, ports are classified into two: gateway ports and transshipment ports. At a transshipment port transfer of cargo takes place from a mother ship to a daughter ship. A gateway port depends largely on its export/import cargo originating from or destined to its hinterland.

Cochin is a gateway port where 90 per cent of the throughput comes from or goes into its hinterland. Vizhinjam as a transshipment port has to depend almost entirely on the cargo volumes brought by mother ships plying on the international shipping routes.

Transshipment ports the world over face an uncertain future and the current market environment is so depressing that even the most well established transshipment ports such as Singapore, HongKong and Tanjung Pelepas in Malaysia are losing traffic volumes heavily.

Moreover, the trend of building mega container ships is halted now and major Container Lines are either cancelling or postponing the delivery of ultra large container vessels already ordered. This would mean less number of mother vessels in service and consequent decline in transshipment volumes.

A very risky business

There is no certainty or guarantee that mother vessels will call at a transshipment port even with a favourable geographical location. Moreover, an investor in the con-

tainer transshipment terminal at Vizhinjam has to take into account highly efficient transshipment ports in Singapore, Port of Tanjung Pelepas in Malaysia and Colombo in Srilanka. Colombo which is situated just 202 nautical miles from Vizhinjam is now the 25th largest container port in the world, having handled 5.7 million twenty-foot boxes (twenty-foot equivalent unit or TEU is measurement of cargo capacity).

By the time Vizhinjam becomes operational in 2019, Colombo — thanks to a strategic co-operation agreement with China — will have ultra modern container terminals, consolidating its position as a major container transshipment hub in South Asia. Despite four attempts, Vizhinjam did not attract port investors mainly because of the heavy risks involved in the transshipment business.

Concession period

Now, the CAG's objection is that, as against the normal period of 30 years, the agreement provides for a longer period of 40 years and further extension of 20 years. In major ports, it is true that normal concession for PPP projects is for 30 years.

But major ports make available only terminals or berths for development in an environment where developed infrastructure like roads, rail and inland waterways connectivity exist.

When an entirely new port is to be built on new locations, a longer period is granted to enable the investor to develop basic infrastructure such as breakwater, approach channels, navigational aids, berths, back up area, and equipment.

The concession period given by Andhra Pradesh in 2008 for Krishnapatnam port in Nellore is for 50 years; 30 years with provision for extensions of two 10-year periods up to 50 years. Maharashtra has given a 50-year concession to develop Jaigarh port in Ratnagiri with an option to have another 50



Vizhinjam is dogged by controversies S GOPAKUMAR

years on mutual consent. Many new concessions in Malta and Latin America are now based on a 40-year period. Very recently, Brazil announced a programme under which current concessionaires can apply for another 25 years even though they may have just renewed the concession for 25 years which, effectively, would mean giving them 49 years. Australia has recently implemented a policy whereby lease holds over port assets are given for 99 years.

The rationale behind giving longer periods of concession for port developers is that port projects have a very long gestation period and the projects are likely to reach breakeven stage only after about 15 years depending on the market environment, capital invested, commodity mix and other relevant factors.

There is an argument that additional decade from 30 to 40 years will help concessionaire get ₹29,129 crore. This is purely a hypothetical calculation based on business projections. It is quite misleading to refer income alone while analysing such projects involving large investment. It

would have been prudent if operating expense, revenue sharing, tax payable, Internal Rate of Return (IRR) etc, are taken into account. Strikingly, the CAG report itself agrees that Equity IRR of the Concessionaire is 15 per cent only. Such Equity IRR is within the range of allowable returns in regulated infrastructure projects.

Vizhinjam was considered financially not viable even with a significant financial participation of the Kerala government. That was why the State approached the Centre for viability gap funding and, perhaps, the largest viability gap funding of ₹818 crore or 20 per cent of the project cost was granted for this project.

Yet, only a single bidder — Adani Ports — came forward to take up this project, because of the heavy risks involved in the transshipment business. With a concession period of 40 years if only one bidder came forward how many would have come forward had a shorter period of 30 years been fixed?

None would have quoted and the fifth attempt also would have resulted in failure. The state was

left with one choice and it wisely chose the first one.

State investment

The CAG says in the investment of ₹7,525 crore, about 67 per cent of the costs is borne by the State and only 33 per cent by Adani Ports. Seaports involve what economists call "public goods". Public goods are goods or services which are unlikely to be provided sufficiently and satisfactorily by the private sector.

The provision of breakwaters, dredged approach channel, navigational aids, communication, pilotage are special cases of "public goods" and for reasons which also apply to uncongested bridges and roads. State or the Centre will be the ideal agency to provide such "public goods". Private sector will be the right agency to get involved in building berths, container yards, cranes, handling equipment and the actual cargo operations of a port.

In Vizhinjam, the State is building breakwaters: a very important item of port infrastructure in addition to providing road and rail connectivity, power, water supply, acquisition of land and back up area to make the port an attractive destination for investment. Kerala's share in the total investment has gone up to 67 per cent for this reason. In the absence of such substantial State/Central investment, no investor would have shown interest in Vizhinjam.

The development strategy of Vizhinjam should base on what India will stand to gain. About 73 per cent of Colombo's container traffic is Indian cargo and out of a total volume of 5.7 million TEU handled in 2016, Indian cargo represents 4.16 million TEU. The value would come to \$50 billion (₹32,5000 crore). It would be a shame if Indian cargo continues to get transhipped via Colombo. Vizhinjam alone can change that.

The writer is former chairman of Mormugao Port Trust

5 THINGS to WATCH OUT for TODAY

A commerce ministry

delegation is in Brussels to convince the European Union to defer by two years its decision to bring down the tolerance level for fungicide tricyclazole used by Basmati farmers to 'near-zero' levels. Rice exporters fear the move, which is to come into effect from January 1, 2018, will adversely impact the current kharif crop.

Volvo will introduce the V90



Cross Country in India today. The V90 is based on the luxury carmaker's executive sedan S90 and is sold as a station wagon or estate globally. In India, it will be offered as a cross country model.

The net neutrality

issue will take centre stage today as thousands of sites across the web take part in a massive online protest against the US Federal Communication Commission's proposed move. The US FCC, in May, voted 2-1 to advance a Republican plan to reverse the Obama administration's 2015 internet rules.

Motorola will launch the



Moto E4 Plus in India today. Featuring a massive 5000mAh battery, the device is powered by Qualcomm Snapdragon 425 quad-core processor and comes in 2GB RAM and 3GB RAM variants. The Moto E4 and Moto E4 Plus were launched globally in June.

India will vie with Australia

for a semi-final spot in the ICC Women's World Cup, in Bristol. India's four-match unbeaten streak was brought to a halt by South Africa. Similarly, Australia's four-match unbeaten run was stopped by England in the previous game. Neither of the teams has yet qualified for the semi-finals.

A THOUSAND WORDS



A sparrow is being fed at a hospital in Hortobagy National Park, Hungary. The hospital is saving the lives of wild birds, including many who sustain severe injuries during their long migratory journey to Africa to escape the harsh winters of northern Europe LASZLO BALOGH/REUTERS

BusinessLine TWENTY YEARS AGO TODAY

FI, bank chiefs to discuss infrastructure funding

The Ministry of Finance has called for a high-level interface between the Chief Executives of major financial institutions (FIs) and public sector banks with top officials of the infrastructure-related Ministries, led by the Secretaries. The interaction is aimed at sorting out the long-term funding problems of the infrastructure sector. The meeting, which is to be chaired by the Cabinet Secretary, Mr. T.S.R. Subramaniam, would be attended by the Finance Secretary, Mr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, the Petroleum Secretary, Dr. Vijay Kelkar, Power Secretary, Dr. E.A.S. Sarma, Telecom Secretary, Mr. A.V. Gokak, the Surface Transport Secretary, Mr. Yogendra Narain, etc.

5% service tax on clearing, forwarding agents

The 5 per cent service tax levy will now be also imposed on clearing and forwarding agents and rent-a-cab operators. The levy comes into force on July 17. The levy will apply to services rendered by clearing and forwarding agents who undertake, among other things, services of receipt, warehousing, despatch, record maintenance and account of goods on behalf of the principals who appoint or engage such agents.

ED chargesheets Deveshwar, others

The Enforcement Directorate today chargesheeted the ITC Chairman, Mr. Y.C. Deveshwar, along with others, for alleged contravention of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act to the tune of \$110 millions. The Enforcement Directorate said the FI nominee directors manning the ITC board between 1991 and 1994 were also served with chargesheets. This was possibly the first time in the history of Indian corporates that institutional nominees were being chargesheeted.

EASY

ACROSS

- 01. Very accomplished people (4,7)
- 07. Went over the work done (7)
- 09. Bowdlerise, censor (4)
- 11. Chop into small pieces (5)
- 12. Impose a fee (6)
- 14. Method of printing (11)
- 18. Minding (6)
- 20. Muse of love poetry (5)
- 22. Nearly (4)
- 23. Speaks emphatically (7)
- 24. Tending away from a centre (11)

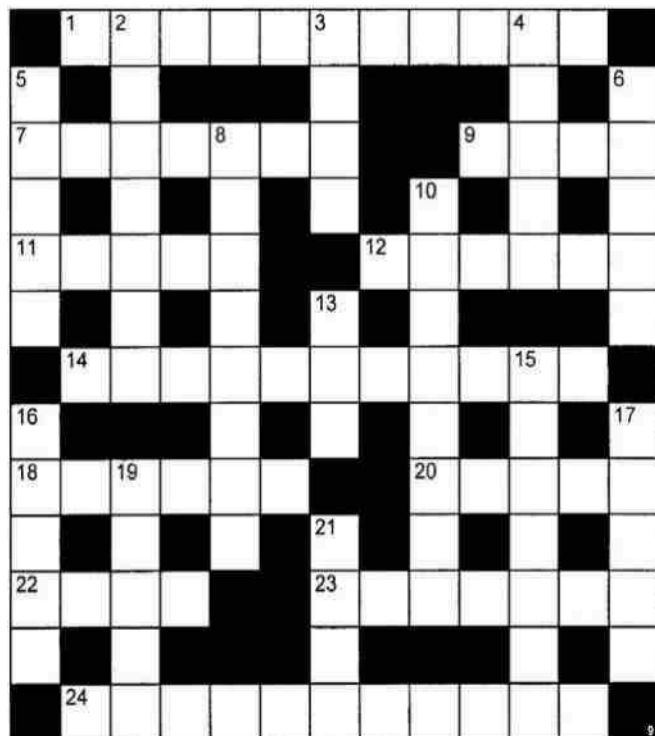
DOWN

- 02. Put forward, promote (7)
- 03. Assists (4)
- 04. Equestrian (5)
- 05. Hobo (5)
- 06. Spirited horse (5)
- 08. Makes sugary (8)
- 10. Cuts in length (8)
- 13. Weep (3)
- 15. Welsh port (7)
- 16. Poorly supplied, meagre (5)
- 17. Parasitic insect (5)
- 19. Sport, rascal (5)
- 21. Small car, short dress (4)

SOLUTION: BL Two-way Crossword 890

- 12. Ewe 13. Tango 17. Rib 19. Necessity 21. Chide 22. Eminent 24. Dusty 25. Trestle
- DOWN 1. Impact 2. Portray 3. Ton 4. Shrug 5. Investors 6. Loose 7. Spares 11. Intensely 14. Evident 15. Braced 16. Myrtle 18. Bliss 20. Chest 23. Ire

BL TWO-WAY CROSSWORD 891



NOT SO EASY

ACROSS

- 01. Such highly skilled people as history teachers? (4,7)
- 07. Changed one's opinion of the verse I'd arranged (7)
- 09. It may be Spring returns, so prepare for publication (4)
- 11. To speak so affectedly is to cut it fine (5)
- 12. It may be explosive to impose a fee (6)
- 14. Way of printing reading-matter (11)
- 18. One is mindful of the automobile in Gateshead (6)
- 20. In Summer at Olympics she revealed herself a muse (5)
- 22. It doesn't completely follow a day, but nearly (4)
- 23. Persistently maintains sin is wrong about the Street (7)
- 24. If Luger can't be assembled, this force may throw it out (11)

DOWN

- 02. Go ahead and get part of one's

- pay before it's due (7)
- 03. It helps author if Dictionary supplies openings (4)
- 04. One mounted a clause in addition (5)
- 05. Vagrant will make a racket after the end of a fortnight (5)
- 06. Spirited horse has energy instead of a loss (5)
- 08. One adds sugar to stew, seen as being necessary to it (8)
- 10. Abbreviates North's confusion with the Southeast (8)
- 13. Romantic cover-story finishes, so let the tears fall (3)
- 15. There's a pen on the water in South Wales (7)
- 16. It's barely enough for a body-picture, the top of torso (5)
- 17. Nit will be one of the callous executives to be exposed (5)
- 19. It's a sport to see an elephant wild (5)
- 21. Dress length, being fashionable, I'm turning up (4)