

BusinessLine

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A seasoned choice

The BJP shows its southern ambitions by picking M Venkaiah Naidu for Vice-President

After the pomp and predictability of the presidential polls, parties are now gearing up to elect the Vice-President of India. Against the erudite Gopalkrishna Gandhi, author of a play in verse on Dara Shikoh, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) has pitted their man of vapid verses, Urban Development Minister M Venkaiah Naidu. Given his party's supremacy in the electoral college, Naidu's election is a foregone prospect. The Vice-President is elected by the members of the electoral college consisting of MPs in both Houses of Parliament in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote. The present strength of electors is 790, including 233 elected members of the Rajya Sabha and 12 nominated members, and 543 members of the Lok Sabha. In the political alignments already formed during the just-concluded presidential election, the BJP estimates over 527 voters choosing Naidu, which is set to give him a thumping two-thirds majority to be elected Vice-President.

The former BJP president's selection as VP is not without its merits for all the mirth he causes by his signature rhymes and limericks. Sample his call to investors in Jharkhand — "State is beautiful, People are dutiful, Resources are plentiful, Brand ambassador is powerful, Chief Minister is mindful, Prime Minister is helpful..."; or his response to the possibility of being BJP's VP candidate — "I don't want to be Rashtrapati. I don't want to be Up-Rashtrapati. I am happy to be Usha's (his wife) pati". From the political powerhouse that BJP president Amit Shah has turned the ruling party into, Naidu's candidature has a message for the southern States. The BJP's southern ambitions have grown in the last three years during which it performed better than ever before. The BJP in 2014 Lok Sabha elections contested 66 seats in the southern States of Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, and won 21 of them, a strike rate of over 30 per cent. The party's southern expansion decidedly gets a symbolic boost with a southerner as Vice-President. Secondly, while statesmanship and erudition are desirable traits for an occupant of the high office, the most critical aspect of his functioning is as chairman of the Rajya Sabha. And here, by virtue of his 25 years' experience in the Upper House in both treasury and Opposition benches, Naidu scores over his opponent.

Given the sharply polarising, even bitter discourses which have come to dominate parliamentary proceedings, a politician as Presiding Officer is far more effective than a scholar. Naidu belongs to the BJP's old school of the charming Atal Behari Vajpayee, the courteous LK Advani and the impressive Sushma Swaraj who command respect and adoration across party lines. He more than compensates for scholarship with the easy geniality and tactfulness of a battle-hardened politician.

FROM THE VIEWROOM

Mutual benefit

Kerala should continue to welcome migrant workers

Over two lakh migrant workers move to Kerala annually and there are over 25 lakh such workers in the State according to estimates of Thiruvananthapuram-based Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation, an autonomous institution under the Kerala government. Most come from West Bengal, Bihar, Assam, Uttar Pradesh and Odisha. What makes them travel such long distances? Higher wages and ample opportunities for unskilled and semi-skilled workers, and even some skilled workers.

Wages in Kerala's informal sector are among the highest anywhere in the country, and that's thanks to the bargaining power of unionised labour. The recent NSSO report of studies conducted in 2015-16 show that informal sector wages in Kerala were 1.43 times the national average; and as much as 2.3 times the wages in Assam. A worker in the informal sector in Kerala earned about Rs 1,25,616 in 2015-16 compared to Rs 53,726 earned by a worker in Assam. The average wage in Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal was about Rs 58,700 per annum.

Migration is a reality that Kerala has lived with and will continue to do so. Until a few years ago, migration was mostly outwards from the State to elsewhere in the country and to overseas destinations such as West Asia. Remittances by migrant workers made the State prosperous and various government and private initiative over the years made it India's first fully literate State with social development indicators comparable with the developed world. Therefore, the reluctance of younger Malayalees to take up blue collar jobs is not surprising. This has created a wide gap in the demand and supply of labour in the State. That gap needs to be filled and it would be in Kerala's interest to embrace workers from other parts of the country and help them assimilate with its culture, as it has done over centuries when traders from different parts of the world landed on its shores.

Tina Edwin Senior Deputy Editor

There's no sting in audit committees

This vital element of corporate governance needs to be recognised as an effective tool and given due respect

RAMA RAMASUNDAR

The concept of audit committees of the board has gained prominence in the corporate world in India and globally after the series of financial scandals, including Enron. The Companies Act introduced Section 292A through an amendment in the year 2000 providing for the formation and functioning of the audit committees. Subsequently, SEBI formed regulations on corporate governance in India.

Composition and role

An audit committee (AC) is required to consist of three directors with independent directors forming the majority. Its members are expected to be financially literate with a reasonable ability to read and understand financial statements and familiarity with internal controls and financial management.

Broadly speaking, the AC is expected to perform a threefold role:

- (a) Provide strong oversight of financial reporting process and identify "Hot Button" issues; (b) Ensure that a robust internal control mechanism exists in the company by encouraging thinking strategically on Enterprise Risk Management issues and add value; and (c) Share recommendations on auditors' appointment, their fees, and review the performance and effectiveness of audit processes. The audit committee's role, therefore, is critical to protect and safeguard the interests of all stakeholders

Reporting under the new Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) will result in a significant increase in penetration and disclosure requirements in financial statements (such as revenue recognition policies, impairment testing of businesses/assets, etc). Hence, the audit committee should have the necessary bandwidth to have a meaningful dialogue with auditors to assess the situation and make recommenda-

tions to the board of directors. Regrettably, barring a few enlightened corporations, most view the audit committee more as a compliance requirement and not as a strong second line of defence.

What really happens

A quick dipstick survey of the listed and public companies raises several concerns regarding the actual effectiveness of ACs.

- For instance, (a) AC meetings tend to be very short (45 minutes to 1 hour), and are convened just one hour before the board meetings. Thus, there's insufficient time for meaningful review. (b) The agenda papers are generally sketchy with inadequate details; risk management as well as internal control aspects are hardly ever discussed. (c) Most members of the AC do not even understand financial statements, leave alone the changes in accounting policies and their implications.

Besides, (d) although management is always present at the AC meetings there is hardly any follow-up on management's implementation of audit recommendations by internal and/or external auditors. (e) Related party transactions are hardly ever subjected to rigorous scrutiny. In fact, (f) the AC is invariably not involved in the appointment of internal auditors of the company. In most cases, the internal audit function reports to the CFO rather than to the CEO/

audit committee; the internal auditor's relatively low status in the organisation's hierarchy doesn't empower the function with the authority it demands. In theory, AC is supposed to be a specialist committee of the board to ensure strong oversight on financial management and reporting, but in practice, it is a rubber stamp of the CEO and management.

Unluckily, shareholders do not have any say in the composition and selection of AC members nor is there any communication to them.

Burning issues

The process of constitution and composition of ACs is far from



There's more to auditing Than merely complying with rules ONE PHOTO/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

transparent. Some basic questions remain unanswered.

- (a) How are the members selected and appointed; what are the criteria? Is there an impartial assessment of their competence to discharge this critical role?

In quite a few ACs, there are members from diverse backgrounds such as general management, sales and technical streams who are not capable of delivering.

- (b) Do they have enough bandwidth to discharge their responsibilities? If, for instance, a director is a member of say 10 audit committees, can he perform this fiduciary responsibility with the diligence it deserves?

(c) How is the succession planning issue managed regarding AC membership? This is critical. If there is a vacancy in the AC, it is invariably filled up from the existing pool of directors, in an ad hoc manner.

Unfortunately, shareholders do not have any say in the composition and selection of AC members nor is there any communication to them.

Transparency is essential to the process.

Towards efficacy

How can ACs be made effective governance tools? Here are some suggestions:

Selection and appointment should not be a matter of Kitchen Club appointments by the CEO/MD/board; such critical appointments should be handled through professional search firms who can map the universe, identify the right talent fit, and bring in the relevant competence and capability to the committee. The involvement of professional firms for selecting AC members will bring objectivity to the process and eliminate bias, especially in the context of a huge dearth of talent for such positions. A professional approach by an outside search firm would also assure the shareholders of the integrity of the audit committee composition.

The AC should only consist of independent directors and the chairman of the AC should be a proper qualified accountant/finance pro-

fessional with the necessary background and experience. There should be a well-defined and standardised charter for ACs of listed companies (to begin with) and the AC should submit a formal report to the board based on this charter.

Also, a clearly defined remuneration policy for the AC members is urgently needed. The challenge is how to remunerate well while at the same time avoiding conflict of interest issues. We need to recognise that the AC is a vital institution of corporate governance and investor protection to prevent corporate malfeasance. Money belonging to millions of retail investors is at stake and there is a need to strengthen this institution. As Warren Buffett once said about taking risk: "Never test the depth of the river with both feet."

The writer is Partner-India, Alexander Hughes

ECB is aboard the slow boat to change

It's in line with the tendency to do thing slowly. Besides, tapering's the easy option

DANIEL NISS

The European Central Bank is wrestling with how to exit the super-accommodative policy that's dominated Mario Draghi's tenure as president. In trying to determine the path of this off-ramp, it might be instructive to look backward. To December of last year, to be precise. That's when the ECB took what looks in retrospect like a first tentative step back from quantitative easing, the huge programme of bond-buying aimed at keeping interest rates low. At that time, officials were loath to call the initiative a taper. They may be more relaxed about labels this time, given the revival of the euro region's economy.

Draghi's scheduled appearance next month at the Federal Reserve's Jackson Hole retreat — a kind of Davos in the world of central banking — fuelled speculation he'll unveil the exit here.

In reality, the ECB governing council's September 7 meeting

looks like a surer thing. That's the day policymakers will be given new forecasts on inflation and growth, providing justification for whatever route officials ultimately choose. There's a meeting this week that may begin preparing the ground.

Don't look for a sudden end to bond purchases, and don't even think about an increase in the ECB's benchmark interest rate. The latter probably won't come until 2018, if then, according to most economists.

Although inflation is crawling upward, it hasn't hit the ECB's target of just below 2 per cent since 2003. True, Draghi isn't the only central banker battling too-low inflation. (Remember when that would have been a good problem to have!) The Fed, by way of comparison, at least hit its 2 per cent target in February, though it has subsequently slipped.

So in terms of inflation, the ECB really starts the conversation in a different place from the Fed, the



Escape route From the terms set by Mario Draghi APF

Bank of Canada and the Bank of England. The first two have raised interest rates and the latter might do so as soon as next month.

As Draghi noted last month at the ECB's own confab in Sintra, Portugal, deflationary forces are on the run and reflationary forces are at work. Economic confidence is up, growth has accelerated for three consecutive quarters, spending and investment are on the rise.

He didn't say deflationary trends have been banished altogether.

That go-slow approach is likely to carry the day. Make no mistake, the ECB does have to do something: The current programme of €60 billion (\$69 billion) a month of bond purchases is due to end in December.

So in coming months they are likely to announce reductions in the amount of bonds they purchase to keep interest rates low. It will still be stimulative, just less so. The direction is clear: it's all about the pace officials travel.

Useful hints

Recent remarks from Bank of France Governor Francois Villeroy de Galhau are instructive, and not just because he is a contender to succeed Draghi, now in the home stretch of his eight-year term. In a Bloomberg Television interview, Villeroy referred a couple of times to "adapting the intensity" of policy in the autumn. The easy translation of that is this: The ECB will begin a tapering programme. Officials already sort of did that in December when bond purchases went

from 80 billion a month to 60 billion.

Not that everyone agrees. The head of the Dutch central bank frets openly about a policy mistake. Bond buying could go on too long and create a crisis by ploughing too much money into the financial system.

Aid Bundesbank President Jens Weidmann uses terms like "monetary policy normalisation", usually code for ending quantitative easing much more quickly than Draghi would and getting on with the task of raising rates.

Absent a crisis, central banks tend to do things gradually. That's why some kind of taper looks like the easy option.

Meanwhile, the clock ticks down to December when the ECB's bond-buying authority expires.

After the summer holiday seems like a fine time to get everyone on board, Draghi will be hoping the region's recovery doesn't "adapt its intensity" in the wrong direction before he can do so. BLOOMBERG

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Political strategy

By nominating Venkaiah Naidu for the post of Vice-President, the NDA has made it obvious that it is not open to fielding an apolitical person for the job ('Venkaiah Naidu is NDA's VEEP candidate', July 18). The offices of President and Vice-President are not to be treated on the same lines as Governor of a State. The BJP has time and again shown that it cares little for consensus on crucial issues, including on matters of national security.

Moreover with the Government struggling to find a replacement for the defence ministry after Manohar Parrikar's resignation, the departure of one more high profile Union minister would unsettle the Union Council of Ministers.

V Subramanian  
Chennai

The BJP has pulled a rabbit out of the hat by picking Venkaiah Naidu. That a Union minister from South

India has made the cut mirrors the party's intention to push hard in the south ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha and Assembly elections.

The move also assumes significance considering that the NDA is unlikely to get a majority in the Upper House till 2019.

NJ Ravi Chander  
Bengaluru

The irrepresible Venkaiah Naidu is all set to win as the MPs are sure to vote along party lines. Just like Ram Nath Kovind, Naidu too was a dyed-in-the-wool party apparatchik. With numbers on its side, the BJP has not missed opportunities to install party veterans in the country's top constitutional positions. Thankfully worse choices were not made.

On becoming Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu will have to transcend party loyalty and ideological affinity.

Further, he will have to guard

against "Modi worship" bordering on sycophancy. It will be interesting to watch how he conducts proceedings in the Rajya Sabha and how Opposition parties lend their co-operation to him. He is said to have friends from across the political spectrum.

G David Milton  
Maruthancode, Tamil Nadu

Exchanges must behave

This refers to 'Can NSE show some humility, please?' by Lokeshwarri SK (July 18). Let us not forget that in the nineties when BSE was dominated by brokers and it was reluctant to enact reforms, it led to the formation of NSE to service investors at the all-India level with its trading platform. Hence arrogance by any business entity will lead to other consequences such as customers switching to competitors. But one expects SEBI to put down any misadventure by stock exchanges.

As for the disproportionate volume of derivatives, though the purpose of derivatives is to provide a mechanism to hedge, speculators cannot be driven out, as they provide volume and depth to the market.

Any measures to avoid speculation in the market will be counter-productive. It should be left to market forces to find their own level; the exchange must only ensure proper margin and safety of settlement.

S Kalyanasundaram  
Email

Right stand

The Centre is correct in informing the Supreme Court that it cannot give any more time to deposit old notes of Rs 500 and 1,000 denomination with banks. If it gives more time, the whole purpose of demonetisation will be lost.

When most people responded swiftly to the policy, where's the

Need to extend the time further?

S Ramakrishnasayee  
Ranipet, Tamil Nadu

Everyone's equal

The startling revelations made by DIG (Prisons) D Roopa about special treatment being given to VK Sasikala who is alleged to have paid huge bribes are shocking ('Sasikala bribery charge: jail officials booted out', July 18). In a panic reaction, the authorities have lived up to the public criticism by transferring police officials. Prisoners, whether affluent or otherwise, have to be treated in the same manner without prejudice. It is time people who matter revamped the system by keeping a close watch on the goings-on in the prison. Given the power at its command, it is not impossible to monitor the proper running of the prison.

HP Murali  
Bengaluru

# Immigrant dilemma

When supporting migration gets tricky

**CGOPINATH**  
**AMERICAN PERISCOPE**

Earlier this year, reports from Australia proudly declared that tourism's contribution to the economy has exceeded that from coal exports. For a country that is known for the predominance of its mining sector, this is indeed a unique distinction. This news, of course, does not help Adani group's Carmichael coal project that has received the approval of the Australian government and the disapproval of several environmentalists who are protesting. 'It's good for the economy' will not be a strong supporting argument any more for projects that have a sorry impact on the environment since alternatives exist.



We, as a society, do need the oil, coal, chemicals and other products since while we dislike their damaging effects on the environment on the one hand, on the other hand, we continue to buy and use the products and services that those sectors make possible. A similar contradiction arises when we consider tourism. As large numbers of people who 'look' different walk about our streets, how do we distinguish between those who are here for tourism, as compared to those who are here to settle, take away our jobs and introduce alien cultural practices that we dislike?

I was recently at the Gold Coast, on the western coast of Australia, that seems to be attracting its share tourists as people warm up to the beautiful beaches. Visitors from Asia are a growing segment of tourists in Australia. Gold Coast also has its share of Thai massage parlours, and Indian restaurants, who employ 'different' looking people. It was not too long ago when Australian newspapers reported that a Chinese 'looking' woman was attacked by a

Caucasian 'looking' man in Sydney who yelled 'Get out of my country!'

Residents have a point when they look unfavourably at immigrants. We have seen the migration from Syria and other troubled regions of MENA to Europe cause political upheavals in Turkey, Greece, Germany, France and Scandinavia. Anti-immigration as an election platform has helped many fringe parties in Europe expand their base over the years and nationalists resent the drain on their welfare services when immigrants are helped to settle in.

A letter to the editor published in the *Gold Coast Bulletin* makes a parody of the Australian national anthem. The original verse includes such welcoming and generous phrases such as, 'Our land abounds in nature's gifts' and 'For those who've come across the seas, We've boundless plains to share.'

The letter writer instead suggests 'Our lands abound in welfare gifts, To migrants from elsewhere' and 'For those who've come across the seas, We've boundless plains to share, But we expect some due respect, To advance Australia fair.'

The storefronts of real estate agents in the Gold Coast have posters announcing property details in English and Mandarin, making it clear where some of the business is coming from. When you walk down the streets, how do you make out if this person who talks, walks, and dresses differently is here as a migrant soaking up benefits or is here to invest and create jobs?

This is the problem that arises in the interstices between national policies and the reality on the streets. This space is occupied by both the kindly letter writer and the disgruntled local who sees his job opportunities undercut.

The writer is a professor at Suffolk University, Boston

# The colour factor in Indian politics

Skin colour of candidates plays a significant role in our electoral processes, and it is not always in favour of the fair

**AMIT AHUJA**  
**INDIA IN TRANSITION**

Indians, it is said, care about skin colour. In 2014, people in the country spent ₹3,695 crore (\$550 million) on fairness products; cosmetic conglomerate advertisements constantly remind consumers that success in marriage and the job market are only a fairness cream away. But can fair skin enable candidates to win elections? To study electoral consequences of candidate skin colour, I teamed up with Susan Ostermann, assistant professor at the University of Notre Dame (starting fall 2017) and Aashish Mehta, development economist at UC Santa Barbara.

During elections, typical voters are not well-informed about candidates. As a result, voters typically use shortcuts to make broad judgements about candidates most likely to represent their interests, paying attention to factors such as party affiliation, caste, religion, and/or gender. Our research found that dalits (and the poor, in particular) express support for dark-skinned candidates more frequently than the rest of society — findings that were later published in the *Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Politics* in 2016.

**Fair is lovely**  
Research from all over the world has established that voters do respond to the physical appearance of candidates, including skin tone (referred to by scholars as colourism). Generally, fair skin is preferred to darker skin. In the US, for example, lighter-skinned African Americans are more likely to be elected to office than those who are dark-skinned.

We surveyed 599 randomly chosen voters to determine if skin tone does in fact influence voters' perceptions of candidates, and what this influence might look like. These voters were selected

from across six polling stations: three from South Delhi (a relatively affluent area) and three from East Delhi (a relatively poor area). Post-hoc analysis of our data indicates that our sample was fairly representative in terms of caste, socio economic status, and gender.

We created three candidate profiles of a hypothetical candidate running for office. They included the same man's photograph — with his skin tone modified to be recognizably fair, wheatish, or dark — and an identical campaign promise designed to be ideologically neutral. We showed each voter only one randomly assigned photograph and asked whether they would vote for the hypothetical candidate if he were to run for office in their assembly constituency.

Our surveyors recorded each voter's willingness to support the potential candidate and that voter's own skin tone. We also asked our respondents about their caste, income, education, and other relevant attributes. As expected, the three sub-groups of voters were not entirely similar in terms of demographic and socio-economic characteristics (we addressed these imbalances with the help of statistical techniques).

Our research indicates that the general preference for fair skin tone found in the rest of the world is also present in electoral politics in Delhi. But it is weak — not because people do not discriminate based upon skin tone in electoral contexts, but because candidate skin colour preferences are diverse.

True to the impulse behind colourism, all our respondents showed substantial support for the potential candidate with fair skin tone, enjoying an 8 percent advantage over other candidates in our survey. This advantage may explain why most Indian politicians are depicted in posters with a lighter skin tone than they actually have. Interviews with makers



**Skin tone** Politics has helped mitigate the stigma against dark skin in India

of political posters point to a widespread practice of lightening of the politician's complexion.

**Dark is also lovely**  
The expected preference for the light skin tone was matched, at least among some groups, by relatively strong support for the candidate with the dark complexion. This unexpected support for the dark-skinned candidate came from marginalized groups, the poor, and Dalits. Among the respondents in these two categories, the difference in the support for the fair- and dark-skinned candidates was small and not statistically significant.

The poor and dalits appear to treat dark skin colour as an implicit marker for lower caste and lower socio-economic status, even though these groups are not mobilized by overt skin color-based appeals. This behaviour is not irrational; our data also indicate that survey respondents from these marginalized groups are darker-skinned, on average, than their counterparts from higher caste and socio-economic backgrounds. A dark-skinned candidate likely appears familiar to these voters when they think about

choosing someone who will represent their interests.

We also found that dark-complexioned survey respondents are more likely to support a fair-skinned candidate than a dark-skinned one. This echoes the preferences of survey respondents with fair and wheatish skin tones. On its own, voter skin tone does not influence candidate selection. Similarly, when we controlled for other demographic and socio economic status, gender of the respondent also did not influence support for a candidate.

**Why is this important?**  
Throughout India, dalits and the poor form a substantial portion of the electorate. In a democratic context, in which numbers matter and where dalits and the poor turn out to vote, support for dark-skinned candidates among the marginalised suggests that dark-skinned candidates can be elected to office despite evidence of colourism we find among certain segments of the population.

Our analysis of Delhi state legislature and Parliament confirms there are a significant number of dark-complexioned candidates in elected office in India. To assess

the skin tone of legislators on a scale, we built a dataset that contained multiple pictures for each legislator (we did not use their official portrait picture which tended to be lighter than their actual skin tone). We found that 28.5 percent of the members of parliament elected in 2014 and 25 percent of the members of the Delhi State Legislative Assembly elected in 2013 have dark complexions.

The election of substantial shares of dark-skinned politicians associates dark skin with power and prestige in the public sphere, and can therefore potentially reduce the longstanding stigma associated with dark skin tones in India. Our study raised a many questions as it answered. Going forward, it will be crucial to examine whether or not this bias in favor of fair skin manifests similarly between rural and urban areas, North and South India, and male and female candidates.

The writer is an associate professor of political science at the University of California at Santa Barbara. This article is by special arrangement with the Center for the Advanced Study of India, University of Pennsylvania

## 5 THINGS to WATCH OUT for TODAY

■ **A nine-judge** Constitution bench will decide whether the right to privacy can be declared as a fundamental right. A five-judge bench said that the larger bench would examine the correctness of the two judgments delivered in the cases of Kharak Singh and MP Sharma in which it was held that the right to privacy was not a fundamental right.

■ **Congress** vice-president Rahul Gandhi will address a farmers' rally at Banswara, in Rajasthan.



The total loan burden of the farmers of Rajasthan is estimated to be ₹20,000 crore. Seeking to corner the BJP over the agrarian crisis in Rajasthan, Rahul will raise issues on loan waivers.

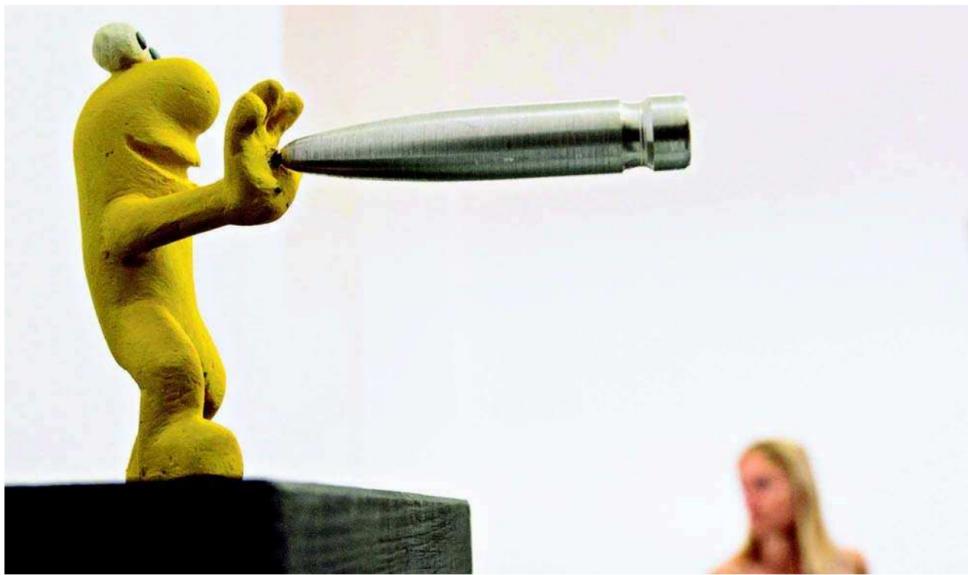
■ **The Bank** of Japan's two-day policy meeting will open today. It is widely expected to keep the monetary policy steady and offer a more upbeat assessment of the economy than it did in June. But Japan's central bank is likely to cut its inflation forecast for the current year ending March 2018, and possibly that for year after.

■ **Italian** marquee brand MV Agusta will launch its second gen Brutale 800 bike in the country today. MV Agusta's portfolio consists of a range of exotic high-performance machines such as the Rivale, Turismo Veloce, F3 and the range-topping F4.



■ **Senior US** and Chinese officials will meet to discuss bilateral economic issues under the US-China Comprehensive Economic Dialogue in Washington. The meet will be the first covering economic and trade issues in a new format for US-China dialogue agreed after a summit between Trump and his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, in April.

## A THOUSAND WORDS



**Bullet point** A sculpture (Tan Cemal Genc, Ilhan Sayin, 2015) in memory of the killed cartoonists of Charlie Hebdo is displayed at the caricature exhibition 'Tough times for cartoons: Current satire from Turkey' in the Caricatura Galery in Kassel, Germany APJENS MEYER

## EASY

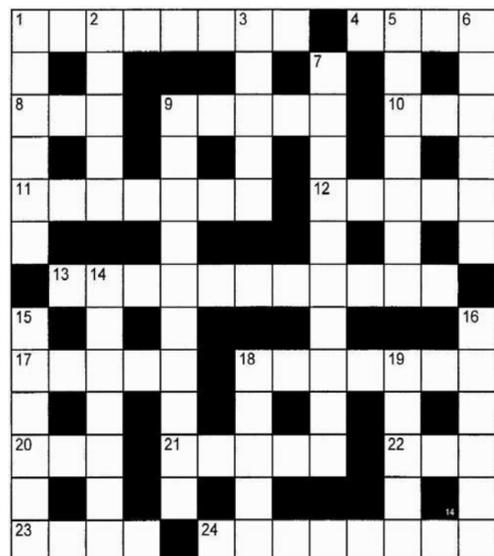
- ACROSS**  
01. Lack of hair (8)  
04. Holes in one (4)  
08. Sailor (3)  
09. Get to (5)  
10. Impair, spoil (3)  
11. Got clothed (7)  
12. A jape, frolic (5)  
13. Changing sides (sleeping) (7,4)  
17. Offensiveness, hatred (5)  
18. Large water-fowl with pouched bill (7)  
20. A couple (3)  
21. Unclothed (5)  
22. Catch from the sea (3)  
23. A vigorous frolic (4)  
24. Set of three painted panels (8)

- DOWN**  
01. Befall, happen to (6)  
02. Big (5)  
03. Be upright (5)  
05. Liken (7)  
06. Deliver a blow (6)  
07. (Goods) dirty through being on display (4-6)  
09. Feeling of injury, grudge (10)  
14. Livery (7)  
15. Mixture of cement, sand, water (6)  
16. Suddenly take (6)  
18. Gambling card game (5)  
19. Sweetmeat (5)

### SOLUTION: BL Two-way Crossword 895

- ACROSS 1. Major-domo 5. Cut 7. Dire 8. After all 10. Lambency 11. Pity 13. Dragon 15. Potted 18. Rose 19. Flurries 22. Ninepins 23. Bees 24. Woe 25. Rehearses  
DOWN 1. Muddled 2. Jorum 3. Office 4. Over 5. Chariot 6. Tally 9. Herod 12. Sorry 14. Absence 16. Desists 17. Flinch 18. Renew 20. Ideas 21. Spar

## BL TWO-WAY CROSSWORD 896



## NOT SO EASY

- ACROSS**  
01. 'Distressed' condition? (8)  
04. They are singularly spotted (4)  
08. Sailor taking Mac to the runway system at the airport (3)  
09. Get as far as this section of the river (5)  
10. How to spoil Mother, right? (3)  
11. Having come into line, prepared (7)  
12. What one may get up to is quietly foul (5)  
13. Setting it the other way up, is trading to some extent (7,4)  
17. The good I umpteen times reveal to be hatred (5)  
18. A pencil might describe a bird with a built-in larder (7)  
20. A number of Veronese brought into play (3)  
21. The sort of truth one II can't provide? (5)  
22. Sort of result that may call for second service (3)  
23. A bit of horseplay or return made by politician (4)  
24. Having three tablets it may make an abstainer chirpy (8)
- DOWN**  
01. Happen to exist with what is affected by the moon (6)  
02. The spillage of beer is on the grand scale (5)  
03. Be on one's feet but look for a seat (5)  
05. Show likeness to me, or cap it provides (7)  
06. How the clock will mark the time of industrial action (6)  
07. Stores lubricated, being marked by display (4-6)  
09. Sappers dispatched people to the junction causing grudge (10)  
14. Manhattan group one will model into a sort of similarity (7)  
15. Explosive piece of equipment found between courses (6)  
16. Grab a bit of air (6)  
18. This the impressive face of one under fire? (5)  
19. Letters standing for Cyprus in IVR are sweet (5)