### **Best Poll Conditions** for J&K: Hold Polls

Over a year of central rule has done its job

There are reasons why President's rule in Jammu & Kashmir, in place since December 20, 2018 — after six months of Governor's rule since June 20 — is being sought to be extended by another six months from July 3. Whether the reasons are compelling enough is what's being debated in Parliament. The argument used by home minister Amit Shah to move his statutory resolution is not as anti-democratic as the Opposition benches make it out to be: since the Election Commission (EC) has reportedly decided to hold assembly elections in J&K after the sensitive weeks of Amarnath Yatra — July 1-August 15 — it's essential that President's rule be extended by another half-year. Shah underlined on Friday that under central rule

first via Governor's rule, then via President's rule - GoI has, unlike prior state governments, succeeded in keeping a lid on unrest and terrorism. His colleague in the home ministry, minister of state for home affairs G Kishan Reddy, had earlier stated that stone-pelting incidents ha ve 'declined in 2019'. But what are the criteria for holding



free and fair elections? On Novemb 21, 2018, Governor Satya Pal Malik had dissolved the J&K assembly citing horse-trading' and the 'lack of stability to form a government', not threat to security or breakdown of law and order. An EC committee had earlier sugges ted holding assembly polls immediate-

ly after Lok Sabha polls, once pressure on security forces deployed across the country had subsided. The home ministry, however, in a meeting with EC, insisted polls be held around October-November, citing the need to deploy forces for the 'Amarnath Yatra, tourist season, apple harvest season in September-October, return of the Bakarwal community after summer'— a litany of seemingly 'poll-unfriendly' events. J&K is, indeed, a 'sensitive' state. But while one awaits 'perfect' poll conditions, extending President's rule could, by itself, discourage prospective voters. While Shah has holding free, fair and safe elections top-most on his mind, he should consider that holding elections as soon as possible could be the best way to make conditions suitable for polls. The egg of elections can, indeed, come before the chicken of 'suitable election conditions'

# When Jonathan Ive Leaves Apple

resident design wizard Jonathan Ive leaving the company That might not fully reflect what Jony Ive is worth on his own: after all, what one person does in the company of and working with people like Steve Jobs and his successors might not be replicable without the creative frisson provided by their collec tive interaction. Yet, it would not be surprising if Ive did not choose to leave to set up his own design company to monetise some of the value he brings to the table.

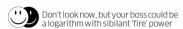
Ive became vice-president of industrial design at Apple in 1996, soon after Jobs rejoined the company. Jobs obsessed about design and spent a lot of time with the design team. The iMac



that launched Apple's rebirth, the iPod, the iPhone, the iPad and stunning iterati ons of portable computers resulted from such collaboration. Does this mean that his departure would leave Apple designchallenged? Hardly. Big trees throw a large shadow and prevent much growth of fresh life within its perimeter. Their fall

is likely to unleash fresh exuberance of life and energy. Apple is many to unleast means after the mow has a woman chief of industrial design. Evans Hankey, Ive's departure is likely to bring her under the spotlight a little more than in the past, along with Alan Dye who heads human interface design. This should inspire young people, especially omen, to dream big and achieve big in design, far away from

Ive has left his stamp on Apple, even if not as decisively as Steve Jobs. Thanks to Apple's product excellence, his imprint is marked on the products of Apple's rivals as well. Apple's space-ship campus would bear concrete testimony of Ive's design genius for decades. And, of course, he just might create just as impressive a legacy outside Apple as well.



## When Our Machines **Have Machinations**

Rudvard Kipling left machine dystopia to God's will: "Thovanish and the stars will shine again,/ Because, for all our power and weight and size,/ We are nothing more than children of your brain!" However, as the child is said to be the father of the man, the children of the human brain can become the masters of men, and women. Sci-fi has long spun scaIf you find this Cricket World Cup a bit boring, you may have a valid reason

# Give It a Sporting Chance



Uday Damodaran

f over the last three weeks, the 2019 ICC Cricket World Cup se-ems to you to be a bit too predic-table, with boring, one-sided matches, rest assured, you're

Illiatures, 150 motalone.

There has been much talk about the competitiveness — or paucity of it — in this year's matches. The debate actually started much earlier — from tually started much earlier — row when the International Cricket Coun-cil (ICC) decided to alter the format of this edition (Intorically) to produce mo-re closely fought contests between evenly matched teams. Unlike the previous two editions of the World Cup that featured 14 teams, this time there are 10. While hosts England and Wales, and seven other countries canned direct curry two

this time there are 10. While nosts England and Wales, and seven other countries gained direct entry, wo other sides — Afghanistan and West Indies — came in through a quality indies — came in through a quality indies — came in through a quality all full member nations of ICC parti-cipating, Ireland and Zimbabwe not having qualified. It is also the first World Cup in which not a single ICC associate member na-tion features. ICS hope was that a fe-wer number of better teams would pro-duce a better fare Well, so Rar. ... Comparisons are often drawn to contrast ICC sapproach to ricket aga-inst Fifa's approach to football. The Fia Fia Football World Cup started off featur-ring 13 countries in 1800, then 18 from 364 to 1978; 24 from 1862 to 1984; 32 affor

1978: 24 from 1982 to 1994: 32 afti

Competitive balance is a serious issue in sports. This

might be the right time for ICC to give a serious thought

to it if it wants world cricket to keep getting 'customers'

Cup to be hosted by Canada, Mexico and the US. Pità believes the more nations participating qualitatively the merrier the tournament.

The more closely fought the contest is, the better is the product. Or is it? Do spectators prefer closely fought slug-fiest between two competitors to one-sided slaughters of one by another? What is that elusive level of competitiveness that will ensure that the 'product' sells and, at the same time, will meet other constraints—politics, moquer seis and, at the same tune, win
meet other constraints — politics, money logistics, etc? Almost every aspect
that sweet spot, that level of optimize
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that ment design, substitution rules, use of technology, or scoring systems.

#### Boxing Your Way In

'Competitive balance' is one of the most researched areas in sports econo-mics. Writing in 1964, Walter C. Neale in the article, "The Peculiar Economics of Professional Sports,' compared the be-

thear total; The rectual reconstituted the behaviour of business firms in a normal product market to that of sportspersons and teams. While business firms on a normal product market to that of sportspersons and teams. While business firms on the sport of the sport int creators of the 'product'. 'Doubt about the competition,' he wrote, 'is

'Doubt about competition' is what

unity? By not investing enough in the promotion for the game in more countries, are the top teams of the world running arisk of becoming Neade's heavy-weight champion with no one to fight? Domestic leagues in the top cricketing nations (read: PIL) may thrive with greater competitive balance and higher outcome uncertainties. But if even the most stingly selected to take the competitive balance and early through the competitive balance; and early throw up the swith high outcome uncertainty, we should be worried about waining speciator interest. But maybe it's not all gloom. Even if world cricket lacks enough competitive balance and can't waining speciator interest.

world cricket lacks enough competitive balance, perhaps spectators will still not desert the game. In 2015, Brad R still not desert the game. In 2015, Brad R. Humphreys and Li Zhou published a study (bit. do/eWNQg) using data from Major League Basketball (MLB) over 2006-10 that showed that the effect of outcome uncertainty on speciator interest may be overrated.

terest may be overrated.
Using econometric methods that have evolved since Neale's paper, and drawing from concepts from behavioural economics, the two economists sho-

actually be too bothered about the clo-seness of contests.

#### **Keep Getting Customers**

While this might provide cheer for games in which competitive balance is on the decline, caution is advised by Jonan Lehrer in his December 2015 blog (bit.do/eWNQJ). While the short-term

nian Lenter in his December 2015 biog oft do eWNA3). While the short-term of the control of the companion of the companion of the companion of the long run, a league or competition with severe competitive imbalance might drive away fains. Competitive balance is a serious is-sue in sports. This might be an oppor-tume time for ICC to give a serious the opposed to league cricket — to keep opposed to league cricket — to keep serious thought to the financial dispar-tities among ICC members that may have let of damagding the competitive balance in World Cup-level cricket.

The writer is a faculty member, Indian Institute of Management Udaipur, Rajasthan



More matches like this, please

Citings

#### Chinese **Syndrome**

THE SPEAKING TREE

Forests are Elixir of Life

Forests are special. Forest grov

Forests are special. Forest grov-es were looked upon as the abo-de of gods. Sages living in fores-ts imparted education to their pupils. Trees were held sacred. Some trees were given special attention. Forests were ideal as spiritual retreats; they were re-garded as life-support systems. Plants were treated as God's gif-

Plants were treated as God's spit-its. Any injury caused to plants was considered an actof violence. The Sanskrit word 'Osadhi' means a substance with in-bul-tenergy; it denotes plants and herbs with medicinal value. Ma-ntras honoured them, "O plant, you are like mother to me. Kill all my diseases and make me healthy to (for splurations to

all my diseases and make me healthy. I offer salutations to you and bow down before you as token of gratitude."

The words forest and tree appears several times in Indic scriptures. In the Ramayana, good and evil coexist in forests. Ashrams were located in forests. Ashrams were located in forests host obey they down the state of the scriptures.

Aranyakas consist of forest bo-oks that give philosophical interpretation of Vedic rituals for those in vanaprastha, the third stage of life, to prepare them for entering the fourth stage, sanyasa.

themore them in the incommendation of them in stage, samyastam says that a tree is the greatest example of generosity and selfless service; they give everything they possess to others, such as fruit, flower, leaves, roots, bark and even trunk. In villages, the Pipal tree is venerated like any other delity. Offerthes ero medic and a lemb.

ted like any other deity. Offe-rings are made and a lamp lit under the tree with utmost faith. The Buddha sat under this tree and attained illumi-nation. The Banyan tree is also special; under it sat

Hindu sages in trance to attain Self-realisation.

#### DINNY MCMAHON

DINNY MCMAHON
State firms might account for only a quarter of the Chinese economy, but they've borrowed almost 80% of the country's corporate debt. China has little mortgage debt relative to the US, and official government debt is very low, but China's companies—and in particular its State-owned companies—have borrowed incredible amounts. According to the consulting firm McKinsey. dible amounts. According to the consulting firm McKinsey, between 2007 and mld-2014, China's companies — both State and private — went from owing \$3.4 trillion to \$12.5 trillion, a faster buildup than in any other country in modern times. Still, the question commonly posed is, if most of China's corporate debt is government-owned, why should anyna's corporate debt is govern-ment-owned, why should any-one worry about if? Certainly, China's State companies don't seem to... The term 'zomble company' was originally col-ned to describe Japanese com-panies shat were be high keptall-ve after Japan's property-mar-ket collapse in the early isses, but, in recent years, 'zomble' has gained currency among Chinese officials as well. Chi-nese pop culture has a zomble tradition that differs a little from the brain-earling unideal tradition that differs a little from the brain-eating undead version that has been the US standard since George A Romero's Night of the Living Dead. China's zombles — or ji-angshi, 'rigid corpses' — trace their lineage at least to the Qing dynasty....

From "China's Zombie Firms Can't Lurch Forever"

### Chat Room

#### **Caution With** Cryptocurrency

Apropos 'This Money, It's Not a Gas' by Anirudh Rastogi and Ramani Ramachandran (Jun 28), it is incorrect to comment

# Protection, or Protectionist?



Sidhant Kumar

Of late, there has been an aggressive Of late, there has been an aggressive expansion of regulation on the internet in the country. This has led to an impression in the global market that such a move is protectionist under the mask of national security.

mask of national security. Recent regulatory changes by va-rious sectoral regulators have a common thread of mandating local-sation of data. RRI now requires payment systems to host data locally to enable regulatory access. Gol has also advocated data locallisation in the draft e-commerce policy and draft Personal Data Protection Bill. 2018. Proposals include drast creasures sects as required to protect sects as required to putting bashoss to sects as required on the bashoss to sections. Proposals include drastic measures such as requiring online business to incorporate locally and establish a local physical presence, seeking to regulate free movement of data across

the world.
Undeniably, law enforcement has a legitimate need for access from online intermediaries. Mandating localisa-tion in times of encryption, however,

doesn't meet the avowed goal of national security access. It's nearly universally recognised that the Indian security establish-ment is faced with monumental challenges in accessing data on legitimate grounds. Most data pertal-litation seeks bather a rower with legitimate grounds. Most data pertal-ning to users having a nexus with India is stored in the Us. The solution lies in developing a comprehensive framework for information sharing between India and the Us. The Clari-tying Lawill Overseas User O Enta Act, 2018 — the CLOUD Act — pro-vides the framework for such coope-ration through an executive agree-ment making for fine for the state of the coope-ration through an executive agreeent, enabling foreign States like

udicial review. GoI has proposed amendments to he Intermediary Guidelines under the IT Act that substantially reduces the safe harbour protection from liability to online intermediaries. The introduction of, say proactive mentioution, say, procure monitoring of content by inter-mediaries is certain to restrict online free speech. The proposed changes also place a heavy regulatory burden on online intermediaries entirely out of sync with forward-looking legisla

tion across the world.
Online intermediaries perform an essential function of bringing the



value-multiplier force of the interne business. This will stand diminished

by a regulatory bear hug.

The sweeping 'national security' access sought by India to be implemented through localisation is at odds with the laws of other major markets such as the EU. Aggressive regulation is likely to set off a counter-reaction from the US and EU. This, in turn, will have a deleterious impact on market access enjoyed by Indian IT majors, especially in the services and outsour

cing sector. Today, 12% of the world's online population is Indian. We still have huge appetite for growth in terms of purchasing power. For instance, each Facebook-user in Asia generates only \$11 of advertising revenue a year, \$112. The combined internet market of emerging economies (except China) is only \$100 billion a year. At the same time, Comcast, the US' 31st biggest listed firm, has the same yearly revenue. These facts put India's position in the digital world economy in the right respective and reaffirm.

position in the digital world economy in the right perspective, and reaffirm the crucial need of regulatory alignment with major foreign markets.

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Tral), in the past, has set an example of open, free and responsive consultative process. The recent policy proposals, however, have been issued without effective and wide

issued without elective and wide-ranging consultation.

The avowed purpose of security sought to be achieved by regulatory changes such as data localisation is only belied by the enormous advanta ge Indian internet companies shall receive. This does not augur well for the credibility of Gol's policy formula-tion globally.

tion globally. Regulatory certainty is a basic requirement for a robust digital economy. Policy formulation under the pretext of national security, for the collateral purpose of benefiting local players, diminishes the position of India as an economy of the future.

The writer is an advocate

URBAN PLANNING

# Free Transport Ain't a Freebie





Americai V Narayanan & Kavva Naravanan

Early this month, when Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal announced that Metro and Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) bus transport certain routes. So, it's fair to assume that a significant number of people would shift to public transport if it is

would shift to public transport if it is made free. Take Chennal city as a case study for the potential impact of making bus rides free — excluding Metro and suburban rallways transportation. Assume that three fourth (around 3,000) of the existing fleet of 4,000 buses be made fully free, and standing buses be made fully free, and 'standing only'—thus improving the capacity by 20% per bus—while the remaining one-fourth continues as a paid service. On an average, each bus drives 20 km from terminus to terminus, making 12 one way or six round trips a day. Most households (completion in corporations)

By making the free buses 'only standing', conservatively one can assume there are 30 extra commuters per bus (who have shifted from two-wheelers). This means saving some 5.4 lakh litres of petrol a day in Chennal alone — assuming a mileage of 40

nariable—assuming a lineage of 4km a litre on a two-wheeler.
The direct annual incremental cost to the exchequer for running these 3,000 free buses, including maintenarce, depreciation, fuel and manpower ce, depreciation, tuel annumpower costs, will be aboute550 crore a year. But the monetary savings to the people and the city are immense. By saving fuel on two-wheelers, Chennal would save about #1,200 crore a year Anothers some composits in

Kannagi Nagar. A socioeconomic profile of such a dwelling, published profile of such adwelling, published by the information and Resource Centre for the Deptived Urban Committee (RECDUC) and Housing and Land Rights Network (HLRN) in 2017, shows that nearly a quarter of the population has to travel 26-40 km and the control of the

with most people in these areas foregoing more remunerative work in the cities for lesser-paying Jobs nearby. By providing free transport, the economic potential of job aspirants who will have the incentive to seek the best pay exhibit; most care best.

ry scenarios in which robots ensiave the numarrace, and recent reports suggest that life might ominously be imitating art. Computer programs monitor employees, second by se

cond in real time, and assess their individual performances. In effect, these cyber-snoops have become super-bosses who rate and reward, or punish, human endeavour by increasingly taking charge of the hiring and firing of the staffers, who often can't even appeal to any higher authority. Isaac Asimov postulated that robots, powered with artificial intelligence (AI), can never harm humans. The problem with AI is that it can on occasion be just artificial, as underscored by the story of the passengers on a pilotless aircraft who received a recorded message from the cockpit, "This is a fully automated flight in which there is no chance of human error and nothing can go wrong... nothing can go wrong... nothing can go wrong...

ters, and was accused of being an election gimmick and expensive dole. Finding its vitrue as simply being a safety measure for women, however, would be pigeonholing the proposal. Free mass transit is not a novel idea. But wherever it has been implemented, that been on a limited scale. Luxembourg, a small country with a population of arounds it laikh peptle, became the world's first country to amounce from March 2002, citing congestion and communiting wose.

Ommuniting wose. The predictive of nearly 90,000, in September 2018. One month in, bus ridership was up50-85% on

nousenous, even lower-income own a two-wheeler in Chennai.



estimated v25 a ticket for a full trip) estimated v25 a ticket for a full trip) mill be saved by those already paying for tickets who will now travel free. These are not just savings, but purchasing power that one is directly putting in the hands of the lower

putting in the hands of the lower economic sections.
Such a move will also lead to large frore savings (an estimated \$81 mill-lion a year for Chemnal alone) due to lower need for crude imports. Not to mentions savings on logistics, with roads more decongested and the roads more decongested and for own.

Proceedings of the process of t

leashed. This will have an intergenerational impact on their children, due tomored ispossible income.
Additionally the environmental 
impact of making public transport 
reefor all would be immense. As a 
corollary some is million nomes of 
Co-emissions will be saved. 
To believe that five mass transit is a 
threelor of wasterful is, therefore, quite 
misteading. By providing an attractive alternative people cam be 
gently mudged towards cleaner and 
greener habits without hidd becoming a transity State.

Americai Narayanan is a Tamil Nadu Congress spokesperson, and Kavya Narayanan is a commerce graduate

the Step Janes Hay RDI as ham-handed approach due to the fear of the unknown. When con-ventional currency has been based on gold or silver, Bitcoin Is based on mathematics. Alre-ady, the European Banking Au-thority and other sources have warned that Bitcoin users are not protected by rethind rights warned that Bitcoin users are not protected by rethind rights allowing cryptocurrency are well-known. Any currency must undergo the test of dura-bility, portability and divisibi-lity and sovereling nuarrantee for its value and acceptance.

S KALYANA SUNDARAM