**Comment**

"The way government is working, our hopes have increased as to the Ram temple at Ayodhya. Now, there is no point in waiting.

— UDDHAV THACKERAY, Shiv Sena chief, speaking on the construction of the Ram temple

"As far as the conversation on mental health is concerned, I think we’ve come a long way. But we have a long way to go.

— DEEPAK CHOPRA, actress, at The Live Love Laugh Foundation Lecture Series in Delhi

"Opening is a specialised job. He’s been opening in limited-overs cricket, but test cricket requires a massive adjustment in mindset.

— NEIL HARRIS, former cricketer, on Rohit Sharma opening in Test matches

**Day In Words**

us anything, it is that we need to start there was no plot to be lost in the first to deflect the deepest fear of all: that Seumas Milne.

Corbyn is not the political prisoner of does not control Johnson, and Jeremy doesn’t need to control his boss. Johnson, the puppeteer, is in the driver’s seat: he has the puppet on a string. If he needs to pull the puppet one way, he will. The puppeteer would have to work harder.

The way government is working, our hopes have increased as to the Ram temple at Ayodhya. Now, there is no point in waiting. Johnson, the puppeteer, is in the driver’s seat: he has the puppet on a string. If he needs to pull the puppet one way, he will. The puppeteer would have to work harder.

The puppeteer would have to work harder. Johnson, the puppeteer, is in the driver’s seat: he has the puppet on a string. If he needs to pull the puppet one way, he will. The puppeteer would have to work harder.

"What is important is to spread confusion, not eliminate it.

— Salvador Dalí

"It’s much easier to restrain our wrath when the other fellow is bigger than we are.

— Woody Allen

**NEwsMaker Of The Day**

The FM’s ‘last mile’ gambit

by Deepanshu Mohan

In another episode of sector-specific reforms to arrest the current economic slowdown, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced measures to revive growth in the housing sector, to push for greater exports.

These featured: an easing in foreign borrowing norms for those looking to invest in affordable housing projects. ₹50 crore for last mile connectivity of housing construction, and significant changes in tax-exemptions up to the range of ₹50 crore to benefit exporters in.

Downside in exports

A new scheme — The Remission of Duties or Taxes on Export Products will replace the Merchandise Export from India Scheme (MEIS). While this step would lead to a revenue forgone up to the range of ₹50 crore, the effect of this in boosting exports — especially in areas of textile (of non-Basmaty Rice Garments), remains unclear.

A closer look at the Indian exports may help one ascertain that the last few years have seen a negative Current Account Balance, with a poor export performance trend. In fact, over the last five years, Indian exports have performed dismally across all markets. One of the key concerns in this regard has been the worsening of ‘farm-to-factory’ production line, which in an agrarian economy like India’s, helps in boosting agri-based exportables in regional markets. India’s agriculture sector and manufacturing sector (i.e. depending on agri-inputs), have been witnessing a slowdown with declining incomes. It is understandable to see the wrath of sector-based performance declines on the aggregate export performance levels too. Further, an overvalued (and a poorly competitive) position of the Rupee — within other exporting markets, hasn’t helped India’s export scenario as well. It is also useful to highlight that while big-bang incentives through tax-exemptions are often argued as the ‘most ideal’ scenario for textile-led (or other medium scale) export productions, a reflection from ex-Chief Economic Advisor, Dr. Arvind Subramanian’s own Economic Survey study — released a couple of years ago — offered some useful insights on how most export tax-exemption policies don’t work.

For example in June 2016, the Union Cabinet announced a ₹500 crore package for the apparel sector. The largest component of this package included rebates on state levies (ROS) in an attempt to offset indirect taxes levied by the states (when VAT was there) that were embedded in exports. After the package, the ROS increased export incentives by between 2.8 per cent — 3.1 per cent. Subramanian’s team, in testing the success of this export package, highlighted that “the package increased exports of ready-made garments (RMO) made of man-made fibres (MMFs), but made no ‘statistically significant’ increase in exports of ready-made garments made of other fibres (aka cotton etc.), and the impact man-made fibres increased gradually over time, by September 2017.

**KAMAL HAasan**

Tamil-Nadu based actor and politician Kamal Haasan has joined the ranks of those opposing Union Home Minister Amit Shah’s remarks about using Hindi across the country. He put out a video on Monday asserting the need to respect all languages.

**Day In Numbers**

 ₹19L
in cash robbed from Punjab National Bank branch in Udupur by six men

250
cases of malaria in 2019 reported in New Delhi, including 53 cases in September

**Around The World**

The Guardian

ON NEED FOR A VILLAIN IN THE UK

No single evil genius behind Brexit debacle

BORIS Johnson’s adviser Dominic Cummings, is nicknamed the Mekon after the comic-book villain who has a starring role in the drama ‘Brexit: The Uncivil War’. The fact that the campaign Cummings led was found guilty of breaking the law was mentioned once in the drama. The narratives claim Cummings’s success as director of the Vote Leave campaign is because of talent, not a willingness to break rules. Still the profiles tell a tale of the outsider genius moving his way into the heart of politics.

Britain always needs a villain to blame for situation

The trope of the evil genius feeds off another cliché, that of the hapless political leader who is overwhelmed, and surrounded by plotters and in need of a firm hand to steer him or her through political crises. Cummings does not control Johnson, and Jeremy Corbyn is not the political prisoner of Sineads Miller.

These stereotypes stick as they serve to deflect the deepest fear of all: that there was a single hand that was the first place. If the Brexit debate can teach us anything, it is that we need to start questioning political leadership and our political elite knows what it is doing.

**Daily Humour**

What is important is to spread confusion, not eliminate it.

— Salvador Dalí

It’s much easier to restrain our wrath when the other fellow is bigger than we are.

— Woody Allen