

# THE MASS SPREADER

## FROM THE DESK

welcome to the latest issue of THE MASS SPREADER

Politics and corruption:

The causes of corruption in India include excessive regulations, complicated tax and licensing systems, numerous government departments with opaque bureaucracy and discretionary powers, monopoly of government controlled institutions on certain goods and services delivery, and the lack of transparent laws and processes.

-SAMVIT

NATURE:

Nature gifts many benefits to humans. From the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the food we eat, nature enhances our wellbeing and freely provides the essentials for our survival.

-PRARTHANA

AWARENESS FOR LGBTQI COMMUNITY:

It's the year 2020 and still a lot of people doesn't even know what LGBTQI actually is or what it stands for which is why it is important to spread awareness to support LGBTQI Community.

- ANSHITA

BUSINESS

Businesses create job opportunities because they need people to produce and sell their goods and services to consumers. Thus, businesses are important because they provide goods, services, and jobs. Without these things, nations' economies would be much smaller and weaker than they are.

- AKSHAT

SPORTS

The IPL has been designed to entice an entire new generation of sports fans into the grounds throughout the country The dynamic Twenty20 format has been designed to attract the fan base including children and women.

-SPARSH

# THE MASS SPREADER

## IS POLITICS AND CORRUPTION MOVE HAND IN HAND?



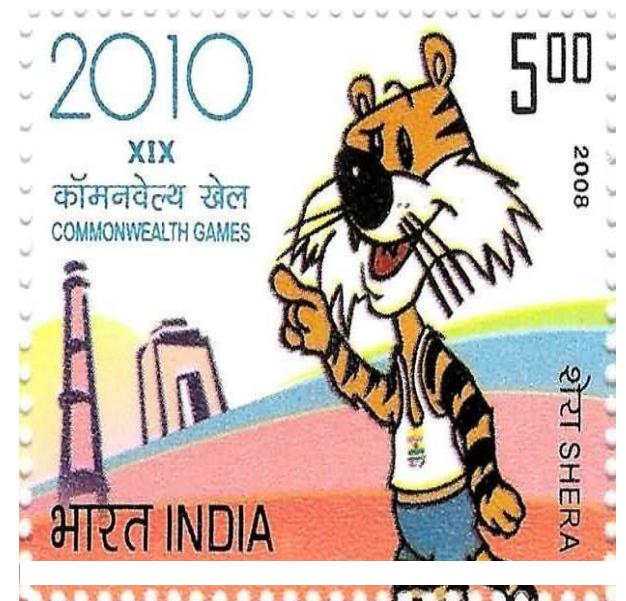
Corruption in India is an issue which affects the economy of central, state and local government agencies in many ways. Not only has it held the economy back from reaching new heights, but rampant corruption has stunted the country's development. A study conducted by Transparency International in 2005 recorded that more than 62% of Indians had at some point or another paid a bribe to a public official to get a job done. In 2008, another report showed that about 50% of Indians had firsthand experience of paying bribes or using contacts to get services performed by public offices.



The largest contributors to corruption are entitlement programs and social spending schemes enacted by the Indian government. Examples include the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act and the National Rural Health Mission. Other areas of corruption include India's trucking industry which is forced to pay billions of rupees in bribes annually to numerous regulatory and police stops on interstate highways.



Corruption in India is a problem that has serious implications for protecting the rule of law and ensuring access to justice. As of December 2009, 120 of India's 542 parliament members were accused of various crimes, under India's First Information Report procedure wherein anyone can allege another to have committed a crime.



The 2010 Commonwealth Games ran into many scams and troubles. They are, Swiss Timings Scam: Suresh Kalmadi, the then Indian Olympic Association president, was appointed as the chairman of the games' organizing committee. The main accusation against Kalmadi was of the Swiss Timings Contract. Swiss Timings was offered a Rs 141 crore contract for its timing equipment during the games. It was stated that the amount was inflated by Rs 95 crores.

## THE MASS SPREADER



### ARE ELECTION RUNS ON BLACK MONEY?

In terms of donations above Rs 20,000, the BJP raked up Rs 437 crore in FY 2017-18 compared to Rs 26 crore by the Congress party for the same year. Overall, the ruling party earned 13 times more than the combined similar donations received by other national parties

WHERE DO THESE DONATIONS COME FROM ?

## BIDEN AS PRESIDENT WILL BE GOOD FOR INDIA , PERHAPS NOT THAT GOOD FOR MODI

A Biden administration is likely to strengthen India-US ties while ticking Modi government off for Hindu fundamentalism and Kashmir policy.

Biden won't be silent, Juxtaposing these two incidents will tell you why Mr. Narendra Modi may not be so keen about seeing Biden and Kamala Harris in the White House. Both leaders have on record taken positions that make it clear they back a liberal India, and care about it. We can be sure that Biden-Harris won't give Modi the free pass that Trump did. Biden has expressed disapproval of the CAA and the National Register of Citizens (NRC), and Kamala Harris' words on the abrogation of Article 370 should alarm New Delhi: "We have to remind the Kashmiri's that they are not alone in the world. We are keeping a track on the situation. There is a need to intervene if the situation demands."

# THE MASS SPREADER NATURE

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

### PG. 1

This page gives a brief introduction about the topic that is nature.

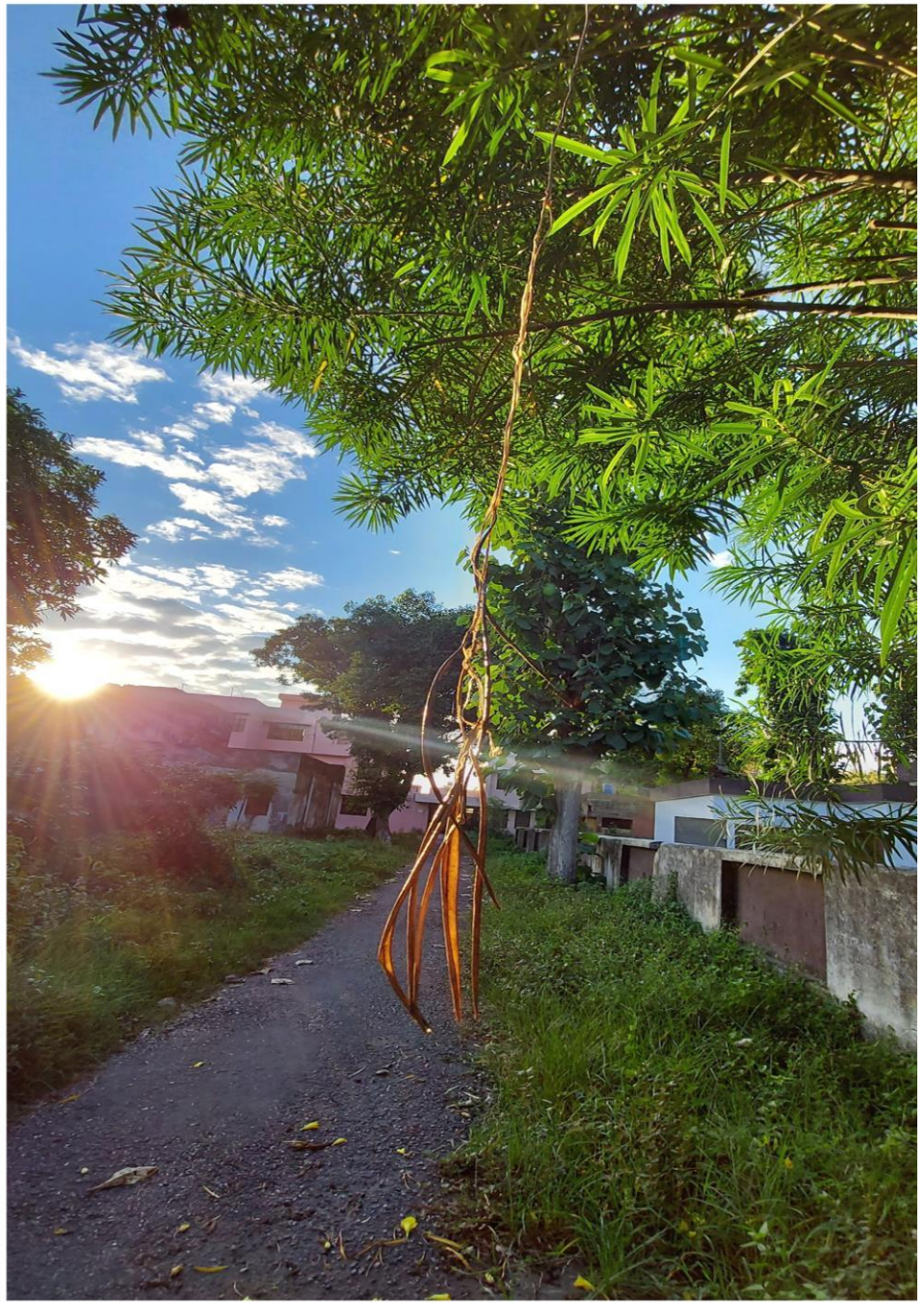
### PG. 2

This page contains what human beings has done to our mother earth, basically focuses on two cases that has recently shaken our world:

- 1.Australia Bushfire
- 2.Russia Oil Spill

### PG. 3

Mother Earth is healing !!



## NATURE

"There is a pleasure in the pathless woods, there is a rapture on the lonely shore, there is society where none intrudes, by the sea and music in its roar: love not man less, but nature more"

Nature, in the broadest sense, is the natural, physical, or material world or universe.

"Nature" can refer to the phenomena of the physical world, and also to life in general. The study of nature is a large, if not the only, part of science. Although humans are part of nature, human activity is often understood as a separate category from other natural phenomena.

# WHAT'S HAPPENING?

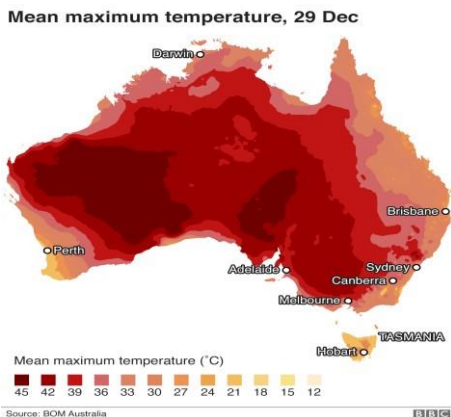
- Bushfires have been blazing in Australia since September, and they've intensified this week to "apocalyptic" levels, as more than 15.6 million acres have burned so far.



- The fires have killed at least 25 people and destroyed 22,000 homes. Experts also estimate that over 1 billion animals have died since the fires began in September.



- If you're having trouble visualizing the scope of these fires, here's a comparison using a map of the US. Officials say that the fires may burn for months.



# WHAT CAUSED IT?

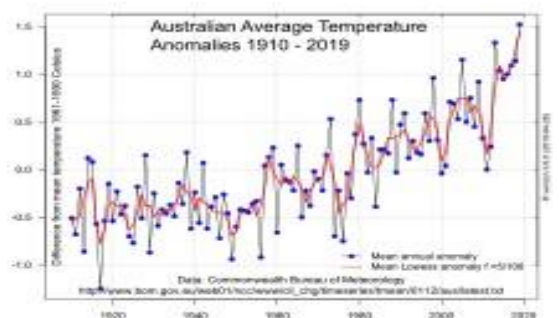
- Australia typically has an annual fire season, lasting from September to March. Unfortunately, this year has been exceptionally dry, hot, and windy (prime conditions for the spread of fire). This year, Australia experienced its hottest day and driest spring on record.



- While the Australian prime minister has publicly downplayed the influence of climate change on the country's fires, other leaders are speaking up about its impact.



- Experts and emergency leaders in the country are indicating that climate change is exacerbating the fires and the conditions that make them possible.



- While 24 Australians have been arrested since November for deliberately starting fires during wildfire season, Victoria police are making it clear that arson is not the sole contributor to what's happening across the country right now.



## WHAT'S BEING DONE?

- Both professional firefighters and thousands of volunteers are working to stop the fires' spread. Australia's police, military, and navy are helping with firefighting and evacuation efforts.



- Helpers abound, like the volunteers from the Australian Islamic Centre who travelled four hours to distribute supplies



to survivors and make meals for firefighters.

- Several animal care providers are stepping up to rescue and treat animals injured by the fires, including the Irwin family.

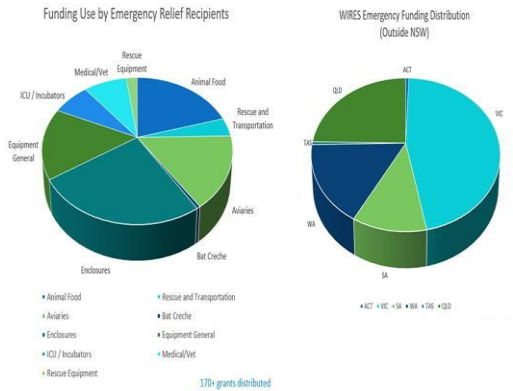


- Folks worldwide are showing their support for Australia amid this crisis, primarily through donations. Among them are several celebrities like Chris Hemsworth, Elton John, Nicole Kidman and Keith Urban.
- Australia's government has received criticism over its climate change inaction and the perceived absence of Prime Minister Scott Morrison.



# WHAT CAN WE DO?

1. Support firefighting, rescue, and disaster relief efforts. The Australian Red Cross, the NSW Rural Fire Service, the WIRES Emergency Wildlife Rescue Fund, and a First Nations Fundraiser are all accepting donations.



3. Donate needed household items. Australian not-for-profit GIVIT is calling for specific donations like bedding, toys, and grocery vouchers. Make a donation offer through their site.



2. Buy some books for a good cause. Through the #AuthorsForFireys tag on Twitter, authors are auctioning off books, artwork, and services to raise money for Australia.

**Buy a book**  
for a child or young adult  
affected by the recent bushfires

Donate online at  
[givit.org.au/donate-funds](http://givit.org.au/donate-funds)  
Add "BOOK" to the comments  
or  
Pay by direct deposit:  
GIVIT Listed Ltd  
BSB 034 064 Acc 293 485  
Reference: BOOK

100% of funds received will be used to purchase books from local independent retailers to support those impacted by the current fires.

*Raising is my SECRET POWER*

**GIVIT**

# Russia Oil Spill 2020



## Russia Oil Spill 2020 Emergency

Russia's President Vladimir Putin has declared a state of emergency after 20,000 tonne of diesel oil leaked into a river within the Arctic Circle.

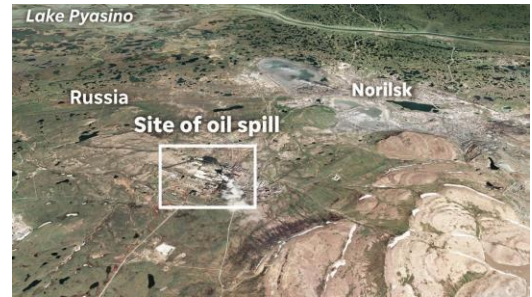
The spill happened when a fuel tank at a power plant near the Siberian city of Norilsk collapsed. The power plant's director Vyacheslav Starostin has been taken into custody until 31 July, but not yet charged.





The plant is owned by a subsidiary of Norilsk Nickel, which is the world's leading nickel and palladium producer.

The Russian Investigative Committee (SK) has launched a criminal case over the pollution and alleged negligence, as there was reportedly a two-day delay in informing the Moscow authorities about the spill.



Ground subsidence beneath the fuel storage tanks is believed to have caused the spill. Arctic permafrost has been melting in exceptionally warm weather for this time of year.

President Putin expressed anger after discovering officials only learnt about the incident on Sunday.

Almost a week following the incident, officials from Russia confirmed that the oil spill had been stopped and contained. As of June 5, Russia's Emergencies Ministry confirmed that it has already removed 200 tons of fuel in the affected region.





**Sooner or later, we  
will have to  
recognize that  
the Earth has  
rights, too,  
to live without  
pollution.**

## **MOTHER EARTH IS HEALING!!**

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Being indoors has made us all realise just how great the great outdoors are.

Lower carbon emissions-: First, we saw it from space, and now we can see it around us – the air is clearer. Even in India, which falls in the top 5 countries of high carbon emissions, has seen a drastic drop in its levels.

Cleaner water-: It's not just our airways that are clearer, the water quality has improved as well. In India too pictures of a cleaner River Ganga as well as Varanasi have appeared.  
Wildlife takeover

Wildlife takeover-: From the otters in Singapore to the goats in Wales and deer in Japan to the orcas in North America, while we may have lockdown restrictions, wildlife has been using this lack of human spreading to venture out of their own territories. It's showing us just how much the natural world can thrive if we just gave it a little space.

# AWARENESS FOR LGBTQI RIGHTS

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE



“ANY DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION VIOLATES FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS. HISTORY OWES AN APOLOGY TO THE LGBTQI COMMUNITY. THEY WERE MADE TO LIVE A LIFE FULL OF FEAR.”

-SUPREME COURT



“IF I WAIT FOR SOMEONE ELSE TO VALIDATE MY EXISTENCE, IT WILL MEAN THAT I’M SHOTCHANGING MYSELF.”

-ZANELA MUHOLI



“There’s nothing wrong with you, there’s a lot wrong with the world we live in”

It's the year 2020 and still a lot of people don't even know what LGBTQI actually is or what it stands for. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex (LGBTQI) persons face specific obstacles when it comes to accessing many of their rights, including their right to social protection.

They are entitled to the enjoyment of all the rights outlined in international, regional and domestic human rights law. Yet, due to strongly held cultural and social norms surrounding gender expression and sexuality, LGBTQI people are often excluded.

# LGBTQI RIGHTS



India is not exactly a country known for being a leader in LGBTQ rights. Since last year though, it has got a lot right! It's not easy being from LGBTQI community especially in India but times are changing, and slowly and steadily we can see people being more open and more understanding towards them.

However, by no means has the past year been all bad news. Whilst the law may be stuck in the 19th century, many of India's population aren't. In fact, the past year has seen an outpouring of support and initiatives for LGBTQ groups, as with all important social movements, the first step to overturning laws and winning rights is simply to be seen and for voices to be heard. The advancement of LGBTQ rights in India depends extensively on individuals and the community coming together and creating the change themselves. With this as a starting point, it'll pave the way for the rest of it to follow.

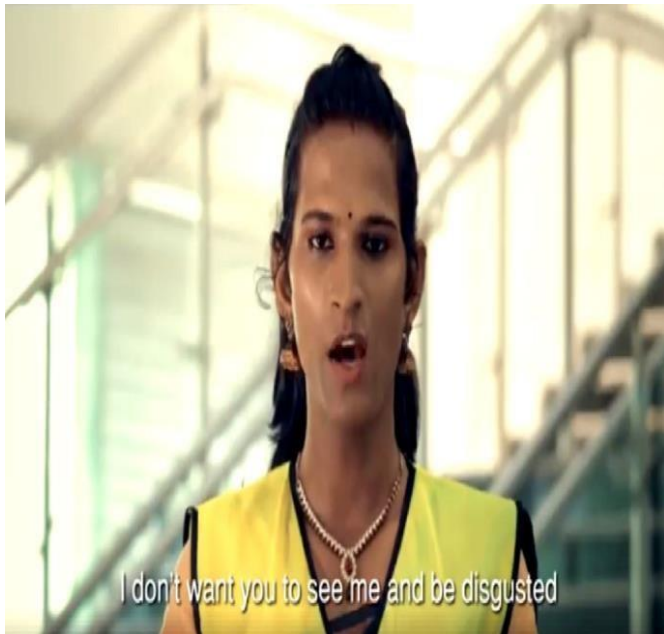
Many positive steps are being taken right now and it's still in progress but it's still a long way to go. Our so-called "society" needs to stop forcing their wrong opinions on others, also, we need to understand that it is us who make the society and it depend on us to make a change and stop this nonsense and discrimination against LGBTQI. so rather than blaming others we should create an environment which is safe for everyone because only we can do it.

We need to make it the new normal. when we talk about equality, it's not just for male or women it's for everyone no matter what religion, culture, sexual orientation the person has. Also, it's their right which should have been given to them way back. LGBTQI possess equal rights as any other citizens.

The idea of human rights rests on the central premise that all humans are equal. It follows that all humans have dignity and all humans should be treated as equal. Anything that undermines that dignity is a violation, for it violates the principle of equality and paves the way for discrimination.

The human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people (LGBTQI) are coming into sharper focus around the world, with important advances in many countries in recent years, including the adoption of new legal protections. The preamble to the Indian Constitution mandates justice -- social, economic, and political equality of status -- for all.

## Here Are Some Of The Key Highlights:



- ❑ LUCKNOW HOSTED ITS FIRST GAY PRIDE MARCH (THE FIRST CITY IN UP TO DO SO), AND PEOPLE LOVED IT!
  - ❑ ELDER LGBTQ MEMBERS IN MUMBAI ARE BEING OFFERED A SAFE SPACE TO MEET FOR A 'CHAI AND A CHAT' TO TACKLE LONELINESS THROUGH A SOCIAL GROUP 'MUMBAI SEENAGERS'.
  - ❑ TUITION FEES WERE SCRAPPED FOR TRANSGENDERS AT THE MANONMANIAM SUNDARANAR UNIVERSITY (MSU) IN TAMIL NADU.
  - ❑ THE FIRST FORMAL PARENT GATHERING TO OFFER SUPPORT TO THE PARENTS OF INDIA'S LGBTQ MEMBERS WAS HELD IN MUMBAI.
  - ❑ INDIAN CINEMA CAST ITS FIRST TRANSEXUAL WOMAN AS THE LEADING ACTRESS, ANJALI AMEER.
  - ❑ 'PRIDE STATION': NORTH INDIA GETS FIRST METRO STATION DEDICATED TO TRANSGENDERS IN NOIDA
  - ❑ KOCHI METRO RECRUITED 23 MEMBERS OF THE TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY, BECAUSE, WHY NOT?
-

# BUSINESS

## Government Reaches Out To MNCs Over Global Digital Tax



**MUMBAI:** The tax department has reached out to some of the top multinationals and asked them about issues they could face under the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development's proposal to tax large corporates across jurisdictions.

India would be required to submit its suggestions to the OECD in December and wants companies to point out if there are any issues relating to the global taxation.

Under the Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) framework, large economies, barring the US, have come together to tax the global income of digital companies. India wants companies to discuss issues if any that they could face under the OECD's so-called Pillar-1 and Pillar-2 approaches.

The Pillar-1 approach includes how digital companies allocate profits and which countries have the first right to tax them. Pillar 2 proposes a mechanism that would determine how to calculate the amount of taxes each jurisdiction can charge from the total profit pool.

Large digital companies are under the scanner for escaping tax in several countries through complex holding structures.

**"Most multinationals are planning to make their presentations directly to the OECD, as they want the current system to continue,"** said a person with direct knowledge of the matter. Most of them are staying away from the Indian government because of this, he added.

The OECD had been trying to bring large economies on one page under the BEPS framework. ET on October 13, 2020 wrote that Google, Facebook, Amazon, LinkedIn and Netflix could face larger domestic tax liability after the OECD postponed a common tax framework for global economies, a move that would allow countries like India to go ahead with their own plans to tax the digital giants.

Tax experts also point out that some of the smaller companies or startups that may be valued in billions but may not have a particular level of revenues may escape the tax net.

**"Whether a particular activity will fall in scope of Pillar One will be dependent upon the quantum of threshold of revenue. If the various thresholds are set at the higher end of the spectrum (which seems to be a possibility) then, a sizeable number of small or mid-size e-commerce companies may be left out. This may make difficult for India to phase out equalization levy in entirety,"** said Amit Singhania, a partner at Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas.

The OECD was expected to come out with a common tax framework by December this year, but now it is expected to do so mid-next year. The US has already threatened reciprocal treatment of any economy that attempts to tax US-based digital giants. The US in June has already launched an investigation on how some of the countries including India were taxing companies such as Google, Twitter and Facebook.

There is a global push to bring the digital giants under the ambit of local taxes. Many such companies deliberately base themselves in low-tax jurisdictions. India has come up with a framework, whereby it can tax global giants taking their user base into consideration, a move objected by the US.

The issue, say industry trackers, is worth \$100 billion. Most of the large digital companies have created a maze of companies across the world as part of their tax planning. This also means they don't pay domestic taxes in several jurisdictions as per the liking of the local governments.

Take India for instance, government officials say digital giants earn as much as Rs 25,000 crore from India a year but do not pay tax here on the entire amount.

In most cases, these companies have created domestic units that only charge "fees" or "commissions" and the domestic tax (30%) is paid only on this portion of the amount.

To circumvent this, the Indian government has introduced an equalisation levy – 6% on advertising revenue and 2% on online purchases – on digital transactions.

According to people in the know, the concern among digital companies is that they might face tax in different jurisdictions for the same profits

# THE MASS SPREADER

## NEW FRENCH LOCKDOWN TO REDUCE ECONOMIC ACTIVITY BY ABOUT 15%: FINANCE MINISTRY SOURCE



**PARIS:** The new four-week lockdown to curb the spread of COVID-19 in France is expected to reduce economic activity by about 15%, a Finance Ministry source said.

"We expect a much more moderate impact than that (the lockdown) of April, notably in France," the source said.

While the April lockdown cut business activity by some 30%, the impact this time would "more around 15%", the source added

## DISNEY WORLD TO LAY OFF 11,000 WORKERS AMID PANDEMIC

**Orlando (US):** Walt Disney World says it plans to lay off more than 11,000 unionized workers because of the new corona virus , bringing the total number of pandemic-related job casualties at the Florida resort to almost 18,000 positions. Disney World said in a letter to state and local leaders that the 11,350 union workers - mostly part-timers - will be laid off at the end of the year.

Company officials previously had said that another 6,400 nonunion Disney employees in Florida would lose their jobs.

Earlier this week, 720 Disney World actors and singers were laid off since many of the live entertainment shows at the Florida resort have gone dark, according Actors' Equity Association, the labour union representing the performers.



The layoffs are part of a decision by The Walt Disney Co. last month to eliminate 28,000 positions in its parks division in California and Florida because of the pandemic.

Disney's parks closed last spring as the coronavirus began spreading in the US. The Florida parks reopened this summer with restrictions on how many people could be in the parks at any given time and new requirements for social distancing and mask-wearing.

## The Electric Vehicle Industry Has A Lot Riding On The Outcome Of The Presidential

Both of the major-party presidential candidates have said they support electric vehicles, but a Joe Biden win could bring changes to significantly speed up the adoption of cars and trucks built by the likes of Tesla and Nikola.

Most transportation experts envision a future with road travel dominated by electric-powered autos. The outcome of the election could determine whether it takes a decade to get there, or much longer.

Biden's plan for the industry includes building more than a half-million charging stations by 2030, restoring the full electric-vehicle tax credit and instituting stricter regulations that would encourage the use of electric-powered autos. President Donald Trump is expected to maintain the status-quo - which has included loosening fuel emission standards and a plan for building a smaller number of charging facilities



# THE MASS SPREADER

## INDIAN PREMIERE LEAGUE



The toughest and largest league on this earth in the field of cricket.

This league was founded by the Board Control for Cricket India (Lalit Modi). It is contested during March or April and May every year in which eight teams represents different cities or states. Players are purchased in auction from different countries and then they play in this league.

## IPL 2020 DURING COVID\_19 PANDEMIC



The tournament was originally scheduled to commence on 29 March 2020 but was suspended until 15 April due to the global coronavirus pandemic. After Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced on 14 April that the lockdown in India would last until at least 3 May 2020, the BCCI suspended the tournament indefinitely. On 2 August 2020, it was announced that the tournament would be played between 19 September and 10 November 2020 in the United Arab Emirates.

On 4 August 2020, vivo pulled out as the title sponsor of the Indian Premier League (IPL) for this year's edition. On 18 August, fantasy cricket league platform Dream11 was named the title sponsor with a bid of ₹222 crore (US\$31 million) for the tournament.

On 29 October 2020, Mumbai Indians became the first team to qualify for the playoffs, followed by Delhi Capitals and Royal Challengers



Bangalore. Ahead of the last group match, Kolkata Knight Riders and Sunrisers Hyderabad were still in with a chance to reach the knockout phase of the tournament. In the penultimate group match, Delhi Capitals beat Royal Challengers Bangalore by six wickets to finish second in the table. Despite losing, Royal Challengers Bangalore also qualified for the playoffs, after finishing with a superior net run rate than the Kolkata Knight Riders.



### Points Table

Pos	Team	Pld	W	L	NR	Pts	<a href="#">NRR</a>
1	<a href="#">Mumbai Indians</a>	13	9	4	0	18	1.296
2	<a href="#">Delhi Capitals</a>	14	8	6	0	16	-0.109
3	<a href="#">Royal Challengers Bangalore</a>	14	7	7	0	14	-0.172
4	<a href="#">Kolkata Knight Riders</a>	14	7	7	0	14	-0.214
5	<a href="#">Sunrisers Hyderabad</a>	13	6	7	0	12	0.555
6	<a href="#">Kings XI Punjab (E)</a>	14	6	8	0	12	-0.162
7	<a href="#">Chennai Super Kings (E)</a>	14	6	8	0	12	-0.455
8	<a href="#">Rajasthan Royals (E)</a>	14	6	8	0	12	-0.569