

# EDITORIAL

## Unsporting Decision

The bcci has set a grossly wrong precedent and killed the very spirit of sports by shifting the ipl home matches of chennai super king (csk) to pune following volatile protests in tamil nadu over the centre's delay in setting up a cauvery water sharing board as directed by the supreme court. With this move, not only has the bcci made sports subservient to politics but let a violent mob mentality hijack mature thinking, assertive action and most flagrantly subjected a gentleman's game to hoodliganism, one that involved cheap threats like letting snakes loose at chepauk stadium and cowardly action of hurling shoes at cricketers. In a country where cricket is no less than a religion, such a precedent compromises its ability to override sectarian zealots who always target mascots of popular culture to get mainstream legitimacy. They have done it with films — the protests over padmaavat are all too fresh — and now they will do it with cricket. With this summary move, the bcci has commodified cricket as a bailable ransom to be availed by any extremist fringe. For the csk itself, the shifting of home matches is a big blow. Having served a two-year suspension on charges of spot-fixing in 2013, this comeback edition is its way of reassuring home fans that they are clean and are back in the groove as they trumped kolkata knight riders under the cool captaincy of ms dhoni. Post-match, he reiterated that he wanted to infuse "a positive spirit" among team members but clearly he cannot do it for chepauk loyalists or the game anymore.

Although the supreme court has asked the centre to formulate a draft scheme on sharing water between karnataka, tamil nadu, kerala and puducherry by may 3, the modi government has its own imperatives for buying time with regard to setting up a cauvery management board. Considering cauvery is an emotive issue, it won't risk its electoral prospects in karnataka by hastily cobbling up a board and be seen to be giving into tamil pressure tactics. Besides, the supreme court, while increasing the share of the 270 tmcft cauvery water for karnataka by 14.75 tmcft, has also averted a drinking water crisis in tamil nadu by allowing extraction of 10 tmcft ground water from the river basin. But tamil politicians are not looking at this concessionary clause and, self-servingly, setting their own agenda by insisting on establishment of a water-sharing board. Part of the problem lies in the fact that in a post-jayalalitha vacuum, a weakened palaniswami government at the helm and a jaded dmk reduced to a mumble, the agenda of the cauvery discourse has been completely taken over by popular film icons like rajnikant and kamal haasan, who have demi-god status and have recently stepped into the political arena. Overnight their followers and industry colleagues are floating outfits peddling tamil pride. Much of the protesters and vandals belonged to such groups.

Is india facing a new challenge over chabahar, a port central to new delhi's alternative outreach to central asia? If the recent statement by iranian foreign minister javed zarif welcoming pakistan and china to become partners for chabahar port development has any strategic bearing, india needs to rethink about its future approach to chabahar. India has largely followed a "singular" approach to the port, by collaborating bilaterally with iran and trying to configure a trilateral understanding among india-iran-afghanistan to enrich an alternative and secured route to central asia through chabahar. This approach requires an overhaul, particularly in the context of iran's growing relationship with china and the evolution of the shanghai cooperation organisation (sco) as a greater eurAsian platform.

In inviting pakistan and china to participate in chabahar development, zarif said chabahar is not meant to "encircle" or "strangulate" anyone in the region. Hitherto, chabahar has been portrayed as a "success" channel in india-iran relationship. India has nurtured chabahar with iran's cooperation through strong investment to enhance its new connect central asia policy and to promote the intercontinental north-south transport corridor (instc). India and iran agreed recently to connect chabahar within the instc framework and acknowledged the two countries' centrality in promoting multi-modal connectivity.

For long, iran has tried to

dispel the popular notion that strategically, chabahar rivals gwadar. In iran's perspective, the two are "sister ports" and iran has plans to export electricity and other resources to gwadar. Situated in the sistān-balochistan province on the energy-rich iran's southern coast, chabahar is a strategic hub establishing a direct link for maritime commercial diplomacy between india's western coast and iran-afghanistan region. A trilateral india-iran-afghanistan ministerial meeting further enhanced the idea of an integrated development of connectivity infrastructure that will boost road and rail networks, port development and offer impetus to regional market access and integration. Even though india sees chabahar as competing with gwadar for india's maritime and energy interests in the region, still india's approach to chabahar is based on a framework of regional cooperation and coordination. India's maritime vision of sagar — security and growth for all in the region — expounds this perspective. Keeping this in view, india needs to embrace a regional mode of understanding on not only how to nurture chabahar but also how to establish it as a regional connecting hub. More than this, india needs to read the evolving relationship between china and iran and the context of the shanghai cooperation organisation (sco), which would be discussing connectivity as one of the principal issues in coming times. The qingdao sco summit scheduled for june this year in china might witness a beginning to this

effect.

The china-iran relationship is much stronger today than it was a decade earlier. Over the years, china has pursued a multi-pronged engagement with iran: connecting bilaterally, and by establishing a stable network of contacts regionally through sco. It may be noted that beijing was instrumental in the 2015 iranian nuclear deal amid western pressure to curb iran's nuclear programme. Iran, to date, remains a major oil supplier to beijing. Iran joined sco as an observer in june 2005 along with india and pakistan, with china vigorously pushing iran's case.

New delhi's approach to chabahar is based on a central asia-plus-south asia concept, which constitutes the core of new delhi's connect central asia policy. The turkmenistan-afghanistan-pakistan-india (tapi) pipeline that india promotes is a reference to that. India's approach of reactivating instc is another illustration of how india wants to connect with the region physically. Connectivity, energy exploration, sharing security concerns on terrorism, and establishing political presence are some of the factors that shape india's central asia policy. China's approach to sco is equally based on a south asia-plus-central asia construct. China sees sco as an important eurAsian organisation and aims to induct iran as a member at some point, and possibly afghanistan also. China lobbied hard to bring afghanistan as an observer during the 2011 sanya sco summit.

Sco bids fair to emerge as

one of the most important bodies in the eurAsian region where china-russia understanding will evolve further. Xi jingping and vladimir putin agreed in may 2015 to establish strategic convergence between china's silk road economic belt (sreb) and russia's eurAsia economic union (eeu). This convergence is noticeable in areas like local-currency settlement in bilateral trade, financial cooperation through the silk road fund (srf) and under the asia infrastructure investment bank (aiib). For india, the greater challenge is how to participate intently in a sino-russian regional design while advancing its own strategic interest. The bigger test for india is how to integrate and accept sco's future undertaking where connectivity is one of the most important aspects. India has maintained strategic silence over sreb and has opposed the china-pakistan economic corridor (cpec), which is planned through pakistan-occupied kashmir (pok). Can india realistically oppose sco undertakings involving these connectivity issues where india and pakistan have joined as sco members? This calls for a serious policy deliberation on india's part since the coming qingdao sco summit might discuss some of these issues. Qingdao will prepare a five-year plan to advance cooperative projects under the sco framework, including belt and road initiative (bri) projects. India, therefore, needs to prepare how to pitch chabahar as a port in the context of these evolving regional conditions. India's massive requirement for energy

resources is a defining aspect of new delhi's connect central asia policy. For energy resources, india would be facing stiff competition from china. Sreb is an important aspect of china's outreach to central asia today. Through its maritime silk route (msr), china is attempting not only to make an inroad into the indian ocean region (ior) but also connect central asia-south asia economic corridors where both gwadar and chabahar are seen as two important strategic points in china's indian ocean strategy. In terms of challenges for india from sreb, the biggest challenge comes from cpec, which is an integral part of sreb. The challenge is fourfold. First, the investment involved. Cpec is estimated to involve an initial grant of \$46 billion, now \$62 billion, to establish linkages between china and pakistan. China has now announced that it will run the karot hydropower project for the next 30 years, which is roughly estimated to cost \$1.65 billion, before handing it over to pakistan. The karot project is supposed to be in operation by 2020.

Second, cpec is meant to connect kashgar in china's xinjiang province with gwadar. India has always been concerned about the china-pakistan understanding on gwadar. The volume of financial backing that gwadar receives from china is far superior to what india can match as regards chabahar.

Third, the outlay on cpec that intends to run through india's pok region is a challenge for india. It even portends that china may emerge as a silent third party in the kashmir dispute in future. Even though china has

maintained a somewhat neutral position on the kashmir dispute in recent years after the kargil conflict between india and pakistan, terming it mostly as a "bilateral historical dispute", the chinese pursuit of cpec may impel china to revisit its position on kashmir in future. Cpec will run through the strategic gilgit-baltistan, which is a region adjacent to india.

Fourth, as one of the local immediate powers in the region, china has managed to outmanoeuvre india on many energy-related deals. India's core aim in this region has been how to push tapi and iran-pakistan-india (ipi) pipelines. China has lately shown an interest in ipi, while tapi remains somnolent. Consensus over the routes, price of the gas, and securitising the pipelines remain stumbling-blocks to progress in the matter.

In brief, gwadar is an important part of cpec as well as sreb. China's control over gwadar would mean beijing challenging indian energy and security interests in the immediate ior. China will also be interested for a new strategic understanding with pakistan, iran, afghanistan and russia within the sco mandate.

Given india's geographical distance from central asia, connectivity is an issue between india and the region. Land route connectivity through china, reviving the traditional ladakh-xinjiang route is an option, but may not be feasible given india's reservation about sreb. India did share traditionally a greater bonding with eurAsia through the silk and spice trade routes.

## A Farce of Democracy

Fearmongers would have you believe that democracy is under threat in india but while india's democracy is far from perfect, one only needs to look across our western borders to realise how the deep state can undermine and take over a democracy. The disqualification of nawaz sharif for life by the pakistani judiciary is a decision that rightly deserves to be mocked. Sharif and earlier benazir bhutto were the only two popular national politicians in pakistan and while the latter was likely murdered by elements from the army, the courts have used corruption as a shield to go after sharif.

There is no doubt that nawaz sharif and his family have enriched themselves with their connections to power, and to use a pun, they may not be as sharif as they claim to be. There is also no wavering in the fact that corruption should be punished in pakistan like in india. But much like some attempts to target corruption are nothing but political vendetta, so is the pakistani judiciary and military's attempts to target the sharif family. Now that they believe they have finally neutered the head of the family, attempts will almost certainly be made to ensure that other family members are also kept out of the political fray. The sharifs, for better or for worse, were pakistan's best opportunity for sustained economic growth as well as a negotiated de-escalation on the indian border. Almost

certainly nawaz sharif and his family would not have allowed the colonisation of pakistan by china and, possibly, given the regime change in saudi arabia — a country that mentored nawaz sharif — attempts could have been made to go after islamic hardliners in pakistan.

Instead, what we have is pretty much the final chapter of pakistani democracy. While everyone knew the military ran things, the civilian government did have some power.

Now it is unlikely that things will change for the better in the short-term in pakistan with the military happy to become a chinese vassal state and the judiciary happy to let islamic fundamentalism thrive. Indeed, aam aadmi party chief arvind kejriwal ought to look at pakistan to see what a truly emasculated government looks like. Along with other examples in south asia such as in the maldives and increasingly in pakistan, democracy is beating a hasty retreat. That is truly a pity for the people of this region and india should now shine a light of democracy across the area because for all its flaws, democracy has been one way that has ensured that a quantum of social justice has been delivered in this nation. And india itself would do well to ignore the voices that call for democracy to be reduced. Recent incidents potentially have us going down the slippery path taken by our sister-state, we should avoid emulating it.

# Once Again, Stray Crimes in Kerala

Yet another campaign for mass slaughter of stray dogs is reportedly under way in kerala and, this time, it is said, the plan is to extend it throughout india. According to reports, staff and students of schools are being mobilised and signatures are being collected for the elimination — in practice mass killing — of stray dogs.

Unfortunately, there has been no mentionable public protest against the campaign by animal lovers either in kerala or elsewhere in the country, which contrasts sharply with the uproar triggered by the large scale killings of stray dogs in bangalore and some other parts of karnataka in 2007. This is perhaps because karnataka had then several organisations like the compassion unlimited plus action (cupa), animal rights fund (arf), krupa and karuna and a strong animal welfare movement which not only protested locally but appealed to animal activists all over india for help. Kerala has nothing comparable.

The second factor may well be the difference in the situation on the ground. In karnataka, the uproar was so loud because the killing had started and was officially conducted. In kerala, the killings that occur are on a much smaller scale and officials deny involvement.

Besides, implicit in the campaign under way, is a demand for killing; there is no actual killing. Many seem to believe that there will be no mass killing as it would violate the law of the land. The animal birth control (dog) rules 2001 and animal birth control (dogs) amendment rules 2010, promulgated under the prevention of cruelty to animals act 1960, prohibit the killing of stray dogs. Under the rules, stray dogs can

be removed from their usual dwelling places only for neutering and vaccination against rabies and, both done, have to be released where they had been taken from. Besides, the rules are in consonance with the method of controlling stray dog populations recommended by the world health organisation (who).

In its technical reports series 931, the who's expert consultation on rabies, held in geneva from october 5 to 8, 2004, identified three practical methods of dog population management — "movement restriction, habitat control and reproduction control." as stated in guidelines for dog population management, issued jointly by the who and world society for the protection of animals in 1990, movement control meant preventing restricted or supervised dogs or family dogs from cutting loose to either mate or merge into the stray dog population. As for habitat control, each habitat has a specific carrying capacity for each species, including higher vertebrates like dogs, determined by the "availability, distribution and quality of resources (shelter, food, water) for the species concerned." effective removal and management of garbage, for example, would eliminate an important source of food for stray dogs. The guidelines further state that the only way of ensuring reproduction control was a serious, nationwide implementation.

The technical report series 931 says, "since 1960s, abc programmes coupled with rabies vaccination have been advocated as a method to control urban street male and female dog populations and ultimately human rabies in asia. The rationale is to reduce the dog population turnover as well as the number of dogs

susceptible to rabies and limit aspects of male dog behaviour (such as dispersal and fighting) that facilitate the spread of rabies. Culling of dogs during these programmes may be counterproductive as sterilised, vaccinated dogs may be destroyed."

Referring to killing, the guidelines categorically state, "all too often, authorities confronted by problems caused by these [stray] dogs have turned to mass destruction in the hope of finding a quick solution, only to discover that the destruction had to continue, year after year with no end in sight." the guidelines further state that killing was practised in the past to a large extent "simply because knowledge of the composition and dynamics of dog population" as well as "crucial data on the density, composition and turnover of dog population" were lacking. The guidelines emphatically add, "removal or killing of dogs should never be considered as the most effective way of dealing with the problem of surplus dogs in a community; it has no effect on the root cause of the problem, which is the over-production of dogs." Experience also underlines the futility of large-scale killing. In almost all urban areas in india, regular, large-scale killing of stray dogs, from the time of the establishment of municipal bodies to the promulgation of abc rules, could not prevent a continued increase in their numbers. Dr jf reese writes in dogs and dog control in developing countries, "in delhi, a concerted effort at dog removal killed a third of the straying dogs with no reduction in dog population." in his paper, "abc responsible for decline in human rabies cases", dr chinny krishna, co-founder of the blue cross society of india, cites the

instance of the madras corporation's "catch-and-kill" programme that started in 1860. He quotes dr theodore bhaskaran, a former post master general of madras (and author of book of indian dogs), as stating in an article, "in 1970s, the number of stray dogs destroyed by the corporation was so high that the central leather institute, madras, designed products — such as neckties and wallets — from dog skins." dr krishna has pointed out elsewhere that the number of dogs killed by the corporation had risen to 30,000 per year by 1995. Yet the dog population and incidence of rabies in the city continued to rise.

It has been the same experience the world over. Dr reese writes in dogs and dog control in developing countries, "in hong kong approxi-

mately 20,000 dogs were killed by the government and another 13,000 by welfare organisations every year...with little impact on the free-roaming dog population. In equador, the elimination of 12 to 25 per cent of the dog population every year for five years did not reduce the dog population (who 1988). In rural australia, a 76 per cent reduction in free-roaming dog population failed to drastically reduce their population, and the number of free-roaming dogs returned to their pre-cull level within a year (beck 2005). In kathmandu, street dogs have been poisoned for at least 50 years with little long-term effect on the population." On the other hand, the abc programme has successfully brought down dog populations wherever it has been seriously implemented.

In india, jaipur and chennai provide good examples. The answer clearly lies in stepping up its implementation and not mass murder of stray dogs. Unfortunately, there are people who cannot recognise facts and reason. Their basic emotion is hatred born of fear whipped by frenzied, highly-exaggerated propaganda about the "deadly menace" stray dogs pose to humans. The fact is that humans pose far greater threat to fellow beings than animals, including stray dogs. Erich fromm writes in his epic work, the anatomy of human destructiveness, "man's history is a record of extraordinary destructiveness and cruelty and human aggression, it seems, far surpasses that of man's animal ancestors, man is in contrast to most animals, a real "killer."

**PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE**

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Whereas  
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of property/ Date of Possession	Date of Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Sanjay Rajendrabhai Shah/ Vaishali S Shah- LBBRD0002300181	Property Address 1) Flat No 904 9th Floor Wing A Tower A Gratte Ciel, Nr Vraj Vihar Soc, Nr Raneshwar Temple, Rs No 364 Fp No 24/2 Paiki, Vadodara 390015 Property Address 2) Flat No 901 Wing A Tower B Gratte Ciel, Nr Vraj Vihar Soc, Nr Raneshwar Temple, Rs No 364 Fp No 24/2 Paiki, Vadodara 390015 Property Address 3) Flat No 401 Wing A Tower A Gratte Ciel, Nr Vraj Vihar Soc, Nr Raneshwar Temple, Rs No 364 Fp No 24/2 Paiki, Vadodara 390015 Property Address 4) Flat No 901 9th Floor Wing A Tower A Gratte Ciel, Nr Vraj Vihar Soc, Nr Raneshwar Temple, Rs No 364 Fp No 24/2 Paiki, Vadodara 390015/ May 2, 2018	March 27, 2017/ Rs. 1,07,52,072.00/-	Vadodra

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ Co-borrowers(s) are hereby given a 30 days Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged property will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date: 05-May-2018  
Place: VADODRA

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Authorized Officer  
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