

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA
CHENNAI | WEDNESDAY 23 | OCTOBER 2019

WEATHER

Max: 31°C
Min: 25°C
Rainfall: 3 mm

ASTROGUIDE

Vikari: Aippasi 6
Tithi: Dashami
Star: Aayilyam/ Magam
Rahukalam:
12 noon to 1.30 pm
Yamagandam:
7.30 am to 9 am
PRAYERS
Fajar: 4.49 am
Zohar: 11.58 am
Asar: 3.14 pm
Maghrib: 5.46 pm
Isha: 6.58 pm
SUNSET TODAY 5.47 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.01 AM
MOONRISE TODAY 1.04 AM
MOONSET TOMORROW 2.07 PM



WORLD

Trudeau poised to form minority govt

7

17

TABLOID

'Shaadi soon, but invite fake'



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Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Indian-American Nobel laureate Abhijit Banerjee, who won the Nobel Prize for Economics this year, during a meeting at the Prime Minister's residence, in New Delhi, on Tuesday. — PIB/PTI

Govt should cut stake in public banks: Abhijit

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO
NEW DELHI, OCT. 22

Citing serious concerns over banking sector in India, Nobel laureate Abhijit Banerjee who won the Nobel prize winner for economics in 2019, on Tuesday, said that the government should consider cutting stakes in state-owned banks below 51 per cent as soon as possible. In a bid to see better health of the banking sector, he urged government to bring in important and aggressive changes to deal with 'crisis' in the banking sector. "There is need to bring down stake of the government to below 51 per cent in banks so that the decisions are taken without fear of Central Vigilance

Commission (CVC). The fear of vigilance authorities is making state-owned banks take fewer risks, which results in downturn of the sector," Banerjee said while interactions with media after meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi earlier in the day. It has been observed that the banking system has been affected very badly by rising NPAs for nearly five years now, which led to networth erosion and discovery of scams in the sector, with the Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative Bank (PMC) being the new addition. "Overhang of regulations like CVC also deters to take proper action of irregularities in the system," he said. Earlier in August, the

CVC had constituted Advisory Board for Banking Frauds (ABBF) headed by former Vigilance Commissioner TM Bhasin to examine bank fraud over ₹50 crore and recommend action. However, when asked about the state of the economy of the country, Banerjee refused to take questions on economy and refrained from commenting on policies of the present government. "I had a cordial and good meeting. Prime Minister Modi started by cracking a joke on how media is trying to trap me to say anti-Modi things. He's been watching TV and he's been watching you guys. And he knows what you are trying to do," he said.

Indo-Pak pact on Kartarpur likely to be inked tomorrow

New Delhi, Oct. 22: India and Pakistan have deferred by a day the signing of an agreement to operationalise the Kartarpur corridor due to logistical issues, and the deal is now expected to be sealed Thursday, official sources said. The ministry of external affairs on Monday said India would be ready to sign the agreement on the corridor on Wednesday. They said a joint secretary-level officer in the Union home ministry will meet Pakistan officials at zero point near the site of Kartarpur corridor on Thursday and sign the MoU on India's behalf.

Initially, the two sides agreed that the pact will be signed on Wednesday. The corridor will connect the Dera Baba Nanak shrine in India's Punjab with the gurdwara at Kartarpur. — PTI

INX MEDIA CASE

SC grants bail to Chidambaram but ED custody to continue

New Delhi, Oct. 22: Former finance minister P. Chidambaram, who spent 2 months in custody of enforcement agencies and jail, was on Tuesday granted bail in the INX media corruption case filed by the CBI but he can't walk free as he is currently under the ED's custody in a related money laundering matter. Chidambaram, 74, was arrested by Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) officials from his Jor Bagh home here in a late night drama on August 21. A city court on October 18 remanded the Congress veteran to the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) custody till Thursday after multiple spells of CBI



and judicial remand. Setting aside the Delhi High Court's September 30 verdict denying bail to Chidambaram, the apex court said he is neither a "flight risk" nor there is a possibility of "his absence from the trial". Chidambaram had moved the apex court challenging the high court verdict. The court, however, made it clear its order will not

have any bearing in any other proceedings. The statement made by the CBI that Chidambaram has influenced witnesses and there was a likelihood of his further influencing them cannot be the ground to deny bail to him when there was "no such whisper" in six remand applications filed by the agency before the trial court, it said. Rejecting the CBI contentions that Chidambaram tried to influence two material witnesses in the case, a bench headed by Justice R Banumathi said no details are available as to "when, where and how those witnesses were approached". — PTI



Japan's Emperor Naruhito completed his ascension to the Chrysanthemum throne on Tuesday in a ceremony steeped in the traditions and grandeur of a monarchy that claims 2,000 years of history. — AFP

Assam: Starting 2021, no govt jobs for those with more than two kids

Guwahati: The Assam Cabinet on Monday decided that no government jobs will be given to persons having more than two children after January 1, 2021. The important decision was taken at a Cabinet meeting held late Monday evening that also adopted a New Land Policy, which will give three bighas of agricultural land to landless indigenous people and half a bigha for constructing a house.

Trump to celebrate Deepavali at White House tomorrow

Washington: US President Donald Trump will celebrate Diwali at the White House on Thursday, three days ahead of the formal celebrations of the festival of lights in India. This would be Trump's third Diwali celebration at the White House, a tradition that began with his predecessor Barack Obama in 2009.

COUNTER POINT



He wants to know if Kashmir Valley is thrown open to tourists!

Market report

GOLD 24 ct (1 gm): ₹3,850.00
22 ct (1 gm): ₹3,652.00
SILVER Bar (1 Kg): ₹48,500.00
INDICES Sensex 38,963.84 pts
Nifty 11,588.35 pts
EXCHANGE US\$: ₹70.94 Euro: ₹70.00

Infosys shares fall on whistleblower complaint

New Delhi, Oct. 22: Shares of IT services firm Infosys on Tuesday plummeted nearly 17 per cent, wiping ₹53,451 crore from its market valuation, on concerns over a whistleblower complaint which alleged that two top executives of the company were indulging in unethical practices to increase short-term revenue and profits. The scrip tanked 16.21 per cent to close at ₹643.30 on the BSE. During the day, it tumbled 16.86 per cent to ₹638.30, the most since April 2013. On the National Stock Exchange (NSE), it plunged 16.65 per cent to close at ₹640. The sharp fall in the scrip wiped out ₹53,450.92 crore from the company's market valuation which now stands at ₹2,76,300.08 crore. It was the worst-hit among the frontline companies on both Sensex and Nifty. In terms of traded volume, 117.70 lakh shares of the company were traded on the BSE and over 9 crore shares on the NSE. — PTI

SC transfers all Aadhaar-social media linking cases to itself

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 22

The Supreme Court on Tuesday transferred to itself petitions seeking the linking by social media profiles with identity proof including Aadhaar. The petitions that top court transferred are currently before Madras, Bombay and Madhya Pradesh high courts. The social media platforms - Facebook, WhatsApp and others - had moved the top court seeking the transfer of cases pending before different high courts to the apex court. Noting that the draft Information Technology Intermediaries Guidelines (Amendment) Rules, 2018, are likely to be completed by January 15, 2020, a bench of Justice Deepak Gupta and Justice Aniruddha Bose directed the listing of the matter in the last week of January 2020 before an appropriate bench. The draft Information Technology Intermediaries Guidelines (Amendment) Rules are intended to check the misuse of social media platforms and make them



share with the investigating agencies the decrypted messages of the people under probe.

The court directed the registry to place the matter before the Chief Justice of India for the listing of the matter before a bench.

The hearing on Tuesday saw both the Centre and the Tamil Nadu government asserting that intermediaries were mandated under the Section 69 of the Information Technology Act to provide the investigating agencies with decrypted messages, the social media platforms resisted it saying that they could not be fastened with such obligations.

Attorney General K.K. Venugopal appearing for Tamil Nadu said that "once they (social media platforms) have come here, they can't say that they can't decrypt the messages." ■ PTI

Govt 'no' to pre-dawn shows for Bigil

D. SEKAR | DC
CHENNAI, OCT. 22

It seems a case of 'no love lost' between the subaltern Tamil film hero Vijay and the AIADMK government in Tamil Nadu, as the actor's latest film, *Bigil* is due for release on 'Deepavali' eve amid huge fans expectations.

While the Tamil Nadu Theatre Owners Association president Tirupur Subramanian has sought the government's



permission to allow early morning shows of *Bigil*, at

3 am, for the first three days of its release as an added bonus to the stars' excited fans, the government rejected the proposal, but strangely with a rider. State Information minister, Mr Kadambur Raju said at Kovilpatti on Tuesday that the Government has not given permission for special early morning screening of any film so far. "We will take action against the cinema theatres who defy," the minister warned.

However, in an apparent afterthought - as the Government's negative stance against a popular hero could turn counter-productive as it did with Vijay's earlier film, *Mersal*, the minister said the State could consider the Theatre Owners plea for special pre-dawn screening of *Bigil* in cinema houses if they gave an undertaking that they will not charge premium rates for tickets for such shows. ■ PTI

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Birthday wishes

Dy chief minister O. Panneerselvam, in a message on Tuesday, greeted Union Home minister Amit Shah on his birthday



I wish Rajnikanth joins the BJP

— Pon Radhakrishnan, BJP leader

SHORT TAKE

Nissan launches CVT in Datsun Go, Go+

Chennai: Nissan has launched the CVT version of its Datsun GO and GO+ at an introductory price of ₹5.94 Lakh and ₹ 6.58 Lakh respectively. Datsun GO and GO+ are the first models in their respective segments introduced with CVT (continuously variable transmission). "In line with our mission of - Progressive mobility, we are introducing Nissan's proven CVT technology in Datsun GO and GO+ to cater to the demand of the customers looking for stress free drive experience," said Rakesh Srivastava, MD, Nissan Motor India. The interior designs of Datsun GO and GO+ are fitted with a premium instrument panel, seven-inch touchscreen infotainment system equipped with voice recognition and Android Auto/Apple Car Play. The new CVT in GO and GO+, offers smoother shifting of gears and better city, highway and hill driving. Unlike other automatic transmission technologies, there is no lag while accelerating providing better control. With improved insulation, the Datsun GO CVT & GO+ CVT give out low engine noise in the cabin, even during high acceleration.

Attorney General cites provisions of IT act

FROM P1

Citing the provisions of Information Technology Act, Mr Venugopal said that the law provides for decryption of data and information and these sections of the IT Act have not been challenged and thus intermediaries cannot claim they cannot decrypt. Raising doubts whether intermediaries are under legal obligation to provide the decrypted messages, Justice Gupta said, "Prima facie, we don't agree. We may agree with you eventually, but we do not agree straightway that they are mandated to share information."

High Court reserves orders on PIL relating to J&K Reorganization Act

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, OCT. 22

The Madras high court has reserved orders on the maintainability of a Public Interest Litigation, which sought to declare as unconstitutional and null and void, the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act.



A division bench comprising Justices M.Sathyarayanan and N.Seshasayee reserved orders on the maintainability of the PIL filed by Desiya Makkal Sakthi Katchi represented by its president M.L.Ravi.

According to Ravi, Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act is an act of the Parliament of India to reorganize the state of Jammu and Kashmir into two union territories, one to be called Jammu and Kashmir and the other Ladakh on October 31, 2019. The Jammu and Kashmir with legislature and Ladakh without legislature, he added.

Petitioner's counsel K.Sakthivel submitted that the Union of India by enacting the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act has reduced a state into two union territories only by way of an act of parliament and thereby, the petitioner's party was apprehending that the same analogy was adopted by the Union of India, shall not only reduce all the states into Union Territories which has not been contemplated in the Constitution of India, but

Decision follows students' demand due to new syllabus

Duration of board exams increased by half-an-hour

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, OCT. 22

The department of school education announced on Tuesday that the board exam duration for classes 10,11 and 12 will be increased from two and a half hours to three hours this year. The decision comes after several students, teachers and educationalists demanded for a time extension following the implementation of revised curriculum for classes (2,7,10 and 12) this academic year.

The students of classes 10, 11 and 12 will now get three hours to write the exams, 10 minutes for reading the question paper while five minutes will be provided for ver-

ifying the particulars of the candidates. The examination will commence at 10 am and end at 1.15 pm. At present, the class 10 examination is conducted for a total of 500 marks, while 600 is the total marks for class 11 and class 12 exams. While the students of class 10 are allotted two hours and 45 minutes for their examination(out of which 15 minutes are for reading the question paper), class 11 and 12 students are given two and a half hours to complete the paper.

Termining this a 'welcome decision', P.B. Prince Gajendra Babu, General secretary, state platform for common school system-Tamil Nadu opined,"

The adequate time for any exam depends on the number of questions and the length of the answers to them. Having said that, the extra time allotment is a good move as it will provide children more time to comprehend the questions."

The department of school education identified the need for reconstruction of the curriculum in 2017, following which committees and sub-committees for curriculum development were constituted. A government order (GO) dated July 22, 2017, hinted at a number of significant alterations to the existing education system ranging from incorporating the use of technology in learning, eliminating rote

learning to some major changes in the higher secondary education. The reforms included changing the minimum pass percentage to 35 per cent, shortening of the exam duration to two and a half hours from three hours, equal weightage for both 11th and 12th boards, 10 per cent marks allotment for internal assessments and an option for students to choose their subjects of study for board exams.

While the syllabus for classes 1,6,9 and 11 was revised last year, the curriculum for classes 2,7,10 and 12 was modified this academic year. The syllabus revision came after almost 9 years for classes 1-10 and after 12 years for higher secondary classes.

HC quashes order disallowing Selvah from instituting fresh suit against Atlee

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, OCT. 22

The Madras high court has set aside an order of a city civil court, disallowing K.P.Selvah, Assistant Director and story writer from instituting a fresh suit against Atlee, Director of Tamil film "Bigil", starring popular film star Vijay, alleging infringement of copyright.

Justice R.Suresh Kumar allowed the Revision Petition filed by K.P.Selvah alias Panner Selvam, challenging an order of the XIV Assistant City Civil Court, Chennai, permitting him to withdraw his suit but disallowing his request to grant leave to institute a fresh suit.

Originally, claiming copy right over the story "Bigil", Selvah filed a suit before the City Civil Court to restrain the makers of the film "Bigil" from releasing the movie. He claimed that the story of "Bigil" resembles his script, which he had already registered with the South Indian Film Writers Association. For many years, he has been discussing the story with many producers. However, the makers of "Bigil" have produced the film completely resembling his script,



which amounted to infringement of his copy right over the script, he had added. However, subsequently, he sought court's permission to withdraw the suit and to grant leave to file a fresh suit before the appropriate forum. The City Civil Court permitted him to withdraw the suit but disallowed his request to grant leave to file a fresh suit. Aggrieved, he filed the present revision petition.

Justice Suresh Kumar said this court was of the considered view that, the trial court in the order, while allowing the petitioner to withdraw the suit, ought to have permitted him to institute a fresh suit before the appropriate court on the same subject matter of the suit, in view of the language used in Order XXIII Rule (1) sub-rule (3) of CPC. Failure to give such a liberty and rejection

of such plea made by the plaintiff, in the order, was nothing but an erroneous exercise of power by the trial court. In that view of the matter, this court was also of the considered view that the order in so far as it disallowing the petitioner to get such liberty was to be set aside, the judge added.

The judge made it clear that "This court has not expressed any view on the merits of the suit as to whether there had been any infringement of copyright as claimed by the plaintiff and whether the plaintiff has got any right to claim remedy as has been sought for in the plaint, since those issues are completely under the domain of the court, where, if any suit is instituted afresh, to decide on merits, of course after full fledged trial".

'READY TO GIVE UNDERTAKING TICKETS WON'T BE MORE THAN ₹190'

FROM P1

"We are ready to give a written undertaking that the ticket will be priced at not more than ₹190 (₹150 plus GST) throughout Tamil Nadu. We hope the government will give us the permission," added Tirupur Subramanian.

If shops and commercial establishments can be allowed to be kept open 24X7, why not cinema theatres, he wondered. In recent years, films starring actor Vijay in the lead role has been consistently running into controversies with the ruling AIADMK, whether it was with Mersal or Sarkar. The faceoff continues with Bigil also, it may be underscored.

Asked about the minister's response, Mr. Subramanian said they had sought nod for pre-dawn special screening of the film for three days from 3 am on October 25, 26 and 27. Bigil is scheduled for release on October 25.

He assured that the theatres would not collect excess rates for these shows.

Anti-dengue steps woefully inadequate, says Stalin

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, OCT. 22

With more than 2,000 persons affected by dengue fever and being treated in various hospitals, the opposition leader and DMK president M K Stalin said on Tuesday it showed the ineffectiveness of the preventive measures claimed to be taken by the Tamil Nadu government.

The State should take more intensive steps to prevent dengue and other deadly fevers, Stalin urged speaking after a health camp organised at its party headquarters in Chennai. A large number of children in particular have been affected and the Health department should do something about it, he said.

The Health minister C Vijayabaskar should show the same sense of urgency and commitment to combat dengue, Stalin said, taking a dig at him.

In a bid to make a point to the AIADMK government, Stalin personally distributed the herbal drink 'Nilavembu Kashayam' to scores of people on the occasion, as a preventive measure against such fevers. Stalin also called upon DMK party cadres to distribute the herbal drink in their respective places.

Mr. Stalin, who also visited the Anna Centenary Library in the city, regretted that the prestigious library was not being maintained properly. Government should go beyond political prejudices to preserve and maintain the Library in a proper manner, he added. Stalin also enrolled himself as a member of the Library today.



DMK president M K Stalin drinks 'Nilavembu Kashayam' at a health camp organised at DMK party headquarters on Tuesday. —DC

ONE MORE VELLORE GIRL SUCCUMBS TO DENGUE

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, OCT. 22

Less than a week after four-year-old Nakshatra from Pallikonda, Vellore lost her life to dengue one more child, also from Vellore, has succumbed to the disease. Dengue is reportedly on the rise in the district and thousands of people have been admitted to the hospitals.

According to sources, Divya(12) and her sister Puviarasi(13) were running a high fever for the last five days. Following this, the sisters were admitted to Gudiyatham government medical college and hospital. As they did not respond to treatment, they were shifted to Vellore Adukamparai Government hospital. However, Divya's condition reportedly worsened and she passed away last night. Her sister Puviarasi is also critical and is currently undergoing treatment.

Meanwhile, in a media interaction on Tuesday, health minister



Divya

C Vijayabaskar informed that 3,900 people in the state are presently being treated for dengue. He also added that a far less number of dengue cases have been reported in Tamilnadu, as compared to the other states. A meeting to discuss the measures to tackle communicable diseases during the monsoon season and control dengue was also held at the Health and Family Welfare Training Centre.

With a total of six deaths being reported in the state, the public has taken to criticizing the government for their inadequate preventive measures.



Health minister C.Vijayabaskar checks on a child admitted in the fever ward at Egmore childrens hospital on Tuesday. —DC

We have not fled the country, not abandoned you, Kalki tells followers

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, OCT. 22

Vijayakumar, the self-styled godman calling himself as Kalki Bhagavan, has released a video addressing his followers to assure them he has not fled the country following the recent Income-Tax raids that reportedly yielded unaccounted cash, including dollars, plus diamonds and other wealth.

"Firstly, we have not fled the country or gone anywhere. We are only in Neman and wish to inform you we are in very good health, perfectly fine", said Kalki in the video. He was seated next to his wife who goes by the title 'Amma Bhagavan'. "We would like to thank all our devotees, who stood by us and have been posting wonderful messages on social media," the 70-year-old godman said on the video.

The Kalki facilities, such as the Wellness courses at Neman, are out of bounds



for media persons and all visitors are said to be closely verified before admission.

It may be recalled that extensive raids on his 40-odd ashrams and other institutions in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka by huge posse of IT sleuths had revealed unaccounted wealth that included cash amounting to Rs. 45 crore, besides US dollars worth 20 crore, 88 kilos of gold, 1,271 carats of diamonds, and cash

receipts indicating massive undisclosed income.

I.T. officials on Monday had stated that they found evidence of investments, including real estate, in India and abroad, plus money transfers through hawala operations. While some reports suggested that son Krishna and daughter-in-law Preetha were questioned by the I.T. officials but did not cooperate, there were also reports that Krishna got himself admitted in a hospital to evade questioning.

Meanwhile, a statement from 'Amma Sri Bhagavan Foundation' sought to underplay the tax raids and seizures, claiming that it was all part of a routine government process. "The government keeps track of any developing organisation to ensure the functioning is on legal terms. We respect the nation's law. We will face it legally. We will abide by the government if our activities are not as per law", said the statement.

Government bans stocking and sale of Chinese crackers

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, OCT. 22

With just a few days ahead of Deepavali, Chinese firecrackers have flooded the Indian market, forcing the government on Tuesday to warn people involved in smuggling and sale of 'Made-in-China' crackers to face action under the Customs Act 1962.

In an official press release from the Principal Commissioner of Customs, "Smuggling of firecrackers of Chinese origin and their illegal sale in the Indian market is a matter of serious concern. The import of firecrackers is restricted, and as such, any person who

acquires possession of or is in any way concerned in carrying, depositing, harbouring, keeping, concealing, selling or purchasing or in any other manner dealing with Chinese firecrackers, will be punished under the Customs Act 1962," read the press release.

Stating that the use of Chinese crackers is against Explosive Rules 2008, the department said, "Buying ohinese crackers also affects the economy of India. The use of Chinese crackers is harmful as they contain banned chemicals like red lead, copper oxide, lithium etc. These chemicals are also highly dangerous and inimical to

the environment. Buying Chinese crackers also affect our economy, and pose a threat to the domestic industry." The department advised people to void buying such hazardous Chinese crackers by looking at the labelling details. "If the general public comes across any sale or storage of such Chinese crackers, they are requested to inform Chennai Customs Control room over telephone 044-25256800," it added. The custom department said it will initiate strict action against any persons involved in illegal import, selling, buying of Chinese crackers.

Apollo hospitals bid to create awareness on breast cancer

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, OCT 22

In recognition of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, which is observed in October every year, Apollo Hospitals Chennai organised a panel discussion session on the importance of "Early Detection of Breast Cancer" among students at Stella Maris College, Chennai on Tuesday. Over 100 students participated in the event. The discussion also saw the presence of Breast cancer survivors, treated at Apollo hospitals who used the platform to share their stories of recovery. The students also pledged to support the

fight against breast cancer and showcased their artworks and paintings based on the theme "Importance of Breast Cancer Awareness".

A panel of experts from Apollo Cancer Centre educated the students about the stages of Breast Cancer and the need for awareness. The panel included Dr.Bhagyam Raghavan, Senior Consultant Radiologist, Breast and Onco Imaging Specialist, Apollo Cancer Centre, Dr.Rathna Devi,Senior Consultant Radiation Oncologist, Apollo Cancer Centre, Dr.Selvi Radhakrishna, Senior Consultant Breast and Oncoplastic Surgeon,



Apollo Hospitals and Chennai Breast Centre, Mr. Dinesh Madhavan, President, Apollo Hospitals Group Oncology and

International . The doctors briefed the students on the symptoms, diagnosis - Mammogram, risk factors, treatment, care and coping skills in fighting breast cancer.

Apollo Hospital Group organised a panel discussion on the importance of 'Early Detection of Breast Cancer' among students at Stella Maris College, Chennai. Picture shows the Group's vice-chairperson Preetha Reddy (left) and managing director Suneeta Reddy signing the campaign board during the panel discussion that also involved taking the Breast Cancer Awareness Oath.

Speaking at the event, Ms Preetha Reddy, Vice Chairperson, Apollo

Hospitals said, "In India, breast cancer has become the most common cancer in women and delayed diagnosis of the disease leads to a high mortality rate. Today, an unfortunate statistic is that almost every 13 minutes, a woman dies of breast cancer."

"It's critical that early on, women become aware of reducing risk factors of breast cancer and also the importance of early detection of cancer. Students are change-makers and we at Apollo Hospitals are keen to partner them in building a healthier India", added Ms Suneeta Reddy, Managing Director, Apollo Hospitals.



Greetings

DMK president M K Stalin greeted TNCC president K S Alagiri on his birthday, on Tuesday



Total prohibition is not immediately possible. It can be achieved only in phases

— D Jayakumar, Fisheries minister



Four kg gold worth ₹1.7 crore seized

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, OCT. 22

Four kg of gold worth ₹1.7 crore was seized in three separate incidents at Chennai airport, customs officials said on Tuesday. The seizure was effected in separate incidents reported over the last two days.

According to airport sources, two Sri Lankan passengers, Anantha Regan (37) and Mary Chandrakala (41) who had arrived from Colombo by a Sri Lankan Airlines flight on Tuesday morning were intercepted. On a search of their persons and baggage, six gold chains and one bracelet weighing 614 grams valued at ₹24.3 lakhs was recovered from both and seized under the Customs Act 1962.

In a major case on Monday, based on a specific tip-off, Razak Ahmed (50) of Karnataka who arrived as a domestic passenger from Delhi was intercepted at the Kamaraj domestic terminal for carrying gold. On his personal search 20 ten tola gold bars with foreign markings and weighing 2.33 kg valued at ₹92.33 lakhs was recovered from his trouser pocket and seized as he did not produce any documents evidencing licit purchase or import of gold. He informed officials that the gold was handed over to him by some unknown person in the transit lounge of IGIA, Delhi, for delivery to some unknown persons who would recognize him and take delivery outside Chennai domestic airport. However, no one approached him to take delivery outside the airport after which the passenger was arrested.

In another case on the same day, four passengers, Hikmathulla (40) who had arrived from Sharjah by Air Arabia Airlines and another three, Rawther Naina Mohamed (36) Musthafa, (27) Mohamed Noovan, (23) arrived from Dubai by an Air India flight, all from Ramanathapuram, were intercepted at the exit. They concealed gold paste in their rectum. On extractions, 1.5 kg gold valued at ₹60.27 lakhs was recovered and seized under the Customs Act 1962.

A total 4.44 kg gold valued at ₹1.77 crore was seized under the Customs Act 1962. Further probe is on.

Riot victims highest in TN; crime graph climbed in 2017

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, OCT. 22

The crime graph showed a 3.6 per cent rise in 2017, with over 50 lakh cognisable offences registered across the country during the year, according to the data released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). The data was finally released late Monday after much delay.

Uttar Pradesh, the most populous state, tops the dubious list for the third year in a row, registering 3,10,084 cases in 2017-which was 10.1 per cent of the total in the country. The state also showed 43 per cent share in hate crimes in country and emerged as the most unsafe terrain for the minorities and Dalits, besides also topping in the number of crimes against women. Delhi showed downward trend in crime against women for the

third consecutive year. NCRB data also showed decline in the murder cases by almost six per cent to a little under 27,000 cases from 30,450 the previous year. Disputes of various nature and personal vendetta have been listed as the motive behind most cases of murder, the Bureau said.

Though its overall crime and law and order status remained under control, Tamil Nadu, sadly, threw up scary data in the 'riot scene' in 2017, when the NCRB data showed the nation's riots-graph was on a downward though the intensity of riots seemed growing in ferocity. And in this, TN has registered the most dubious record: though the state had witnessed 1,935 rioting cases in that year, there were as many as 18,749 victims, which meant that the ferocity of riots in the state was

most intense as statistics revealed there were on average nine victims for every riot in Tamil Nadu. That is to say, TN had witnessed only 3.28 per cent of all the riot cases in India (2017) but registered 21 per cent of the riot victims. Bihar had continued its dubious distinction of being the 'riot-capital' of India with 11,698 cases in 2017, but the ferocity and the victim toll were much lower than Tamil Nadu, according to the NCRB data.

The NCRB, under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, is responsible for collecting and analysing crime data as defined by the Indian Penal Code and special and local laws (SLL) in the country. The IPC is the official criminal code of the country and covers all substantive aspects of criminal law.

— (With PTI report)



Man tries to open ATM, nabbed within one hour

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, OCT. 22

Chennai city police arrested a 25-year-old man in less than an hour after he attempted to break an ATM kiosk in Pozhichalur in the early hours of Tuesday. He was identified as Arul Mani (25), a native of Ulunthurpet in Villupuram district. He was caught by Shankar Nagar police after he attempted to open the ATM machine owned by ICICI bank on Nehru Nagar Main Road in Pozhichalur.

According to police, the man came into the ATM kiosk at around 1.30 am and attempted to break open the vault with a hammer and screwdriver. However, alert security teams from Mumbai who were monitoring the bank and the ATM remotely through CCTV cameras, triggered the alarm and alerted the Chennai city police control room, who alerted Shankar Nagar police. A patrol team rushed to the spot and scanned the CCTV footage which recorded the man breaking open the ATM. The team traced the man to a construction site where he works, one kilometre away from the ATM kiosk. The man was identified and arrested by police. He was taken into custody and during interrogation, disclosed he had been planning to rob the ATM for more than a month. He was not aware of security monitoring from Mumbai. Police arrested him and are conducting inquiries.

HM robbed of gold chain

Chennai: Two bike-borne men snatched a three sovereigns gold chain from a woman in Thandaraipettai near Madurantakam on Tuesday evening. The incident has been captured on a CCTV camera installed in the area. According to police, the victim was identified as Jaya Lakshmi (48), headmistress of the Thandaraipettai elementary government school. The incident happened on Tuesday around 4.30 pm when Jaya Lakshmi and teacher Thamizh Selvi were walking towards Thandaraipettai bus stop, when two bike-borne men attacked the headmistress and robbed her of her three sovereigns gold chain. They also tried to snatch Thamizh Selvi's chain but in vain. Subsequently, a complaint was lodged at the Madurantakam police station. A case has been registered and a manhunt has been launched.

Pastor commits suicide in church

Chennai: A 37-year-old Pastor allegedly committed suicide in Church premises in Vysarpadi on Monday night. The deceased, Martin Sauriappan (37), a church pastor at St. Anthony's Church, Vysarpadi hanged himself to death from a ceiling fan in his room. The incident came to light on Tuesday morning. He was pursuing a course in correspondence at the Madras University. According to reports, Pastor Martin stayed at the church. On Tuesday morning a few pastors noticed him missing and tried to open his room door. As it was locked from the inside, they used a spare key to open the door, when they found him hanging from the ceiling fan in his room. The Vysarpadi police have filed an FIR. Preliminary investigation has revealed that Pastor Martin appeared disturbed for the last week and did not talk much to anyone. His body has been sent to Stanley government hospital for post-mortem. Investigations are on.

PRECONDITION TO DISCHARGE FIR

HC directs law student to do social service

JSTALIN | DC CHENNAI, OCT. 22

The Madras high court has directed a Law Student to do social service by way of planting at least 10 tree-saplings in the campus of Dr. Ambedkar Government Law College, Pudhupakkam, as a pre-condition for discharge from a police FIR arraigning him among other accused in a case of Pachaiyappa's College Students unrest in the city.

Justice M.S.Ramesh gave the directive on a petition filed by E. Durai Raj, a second year B.A., LLB student of Dr. Ambedkar Government Law College, Pudhupakkam. The case of Durai Raj was that there was a discrepancy in the FIR that he belonged to Pachaiyappa's college and raised slogans in support of students on the opening day of Pachaiyappa's college, whereas he was a stu-

dent of Dr. Ambedkar Government Law College. However, the petitioner admitted that he was present at the scene. Holding that the young man's career should not suffer on account of this case, Justice Ramesh took the magnanimous view that the ends of justice would be served, if Durai Raj gives an undertaking that he will do social service by planting at least 10 tree-saplings in Dr. Ambedkar Government Law College, Pudhupakkam. The judge said, "The petitioner should ensure that the trees are well watered, at least for one month and report the action taken to the Principal, D. R. A. M. B. E. D. K. A. R. Government Law College, Pudhupakkam. With such a condition, the impugned FIR on the file of the Ayyanavaram police, stands quashed".

HC upholds discharge of woman employee from judicial service

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, OCT. 22

The Madras high court has upheld an order of the Principal District Judge, Salem, discharging a woman employee from judicial service from the cadre of Office Assistant on the ground that her performance was not satisfactory during the probation period. A division bench comprising Justices R. Subbiah and C. Saravanan dismissed the petition filed by the woman employee M. Priya. The bench said the appointing authority has come to a conclusion that the petitioner is unsuitable for continuance in the government post, to which she was appointed. In the order of discharge, there was no allegation of misconduct leveled against the petitioner. The appointing authority has simply formed an opinion based on the reports given by the III Additional District Judge, Salem and Subordinate Judge, Attur and independent

ently examined the past performance of the petitioner to conclude that the discharge of duty by the petitioner is not satisfactory and refused to declare the petitioner's probation and discharged her from service. In such circumstances, the order of discharge is only an order simpliciter and it is not attached with a stigma, as has been contended by the counsel for the petitioner, the bench added. The bench said, "On perusal of the records, we have noticed that there were allegations against the petitioner that from the date of joining service, she did not seriously pursue the tasks assigned to her. There were also allegations against the petitioner that she failed to discharge her duties properly, she was found conversing in her mobile phone during office hours, engaged in a conversation with policemen who attended Court duty, availed leave without prior permission from the employer, confrontational

attitude towards the higher officials, lack of devotion to her duty etc., The petitioner was periodically issued notice reminding her that she is on probation and that she must improve her performance. At every stage, the petitioner was informed of the derelictions committed by her and therefore, the petitioner ought to have devoted her time and attention to efficient discharge of her work. We have also gone through the various explanations offered by the petitioner as and when she was called upon to do so. In one of the explanations, we have noticed that the petitioner has adopted a confrontational attitude towards the subordinate judge, Attur. The explanation dated May 4, 2015 was also sent by the petitioner to the Chief Justice of this court for intervention, which in our opinion is not warranted. Such an attitude on the part of the petitioner shows desperation and lack of devotion to duty".

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Dengue

The government has provided treatment to about 3,900 dengue cases, health minister Dr C. Vijaya Baskar said

CM reviews situation with top officials anticipating intense northeast monsoon TN gets ready army of rescuers, helpers

D. SEKAR | DC
CHENNAI, OCT. 22

Gearing up for any eventuality during this northeast monsoon season, the state government, aided by the Tamil Nadu State Disaster Management Authority (TNSDMA), said on Tuesday that a massive rescue, relief and mitigation plan is now in place with weathermen predicting very heavy rains.

The state has put together a virtual army of emergency rescuers and helpers, it was stated here after a high-level review meeting with ministers and officials, chaired by the Chief Minister, Mr. Edappadi K. Palaniswami.

The huge disaster mitigation paraphernalia includes organising 4,399 teams for the entire state. The teams will be involved in executing special tasks including early warning, search, rescue, transport arrangements, evacuation, first aid, shelter and relief (food, water and sanitation) in the event of any emergency situation in any of the districts, as per the protocol drawn up by the TNSDMA.

Mr Palaniswami who made a detailed review of the level and extent of preparedness, has directed that all rescue teams should reach the affected areas at the earliest with all the necessary paraphernalia. Attention in particular should be paid to draining out flood water from inundated places for which motor pumps should be kept ready and sufficient men and equipment should also be kept ready for cutting and removal of fallen trees in any affected area, an official release said. The extent of preparation can be gauged from the fact that the State in all has readied 21,957 first responders (at least ten per vulnerable area), including 9,162 women who will rush to any badly hit place for search, evacuation and rescue operations. For rescuing heads of cattle, 8,871 first responders' have been positioned, besides 9,909 'first responders' to cut and clear fallen trees, the release said.

On the flood preventive measures on the infrastructure side including desilting of canals, lakes and other water-bodies,



Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami chairs a high-level review meeting with ministers and top officials to tackle northeast monsoon in Chennai on Tuesday. — DC



Heavy water-logging due to recent showers affects people on Dr Besant Road in Triplicane, Chennai, on Tuesday. — DC

Mr Palaniswami said all pending works should be completed expeditiously before the NE monsoon gets intense over Tamil Nadu.

As many as 121 multi-purpose protection centres to house people shifted from low-lying areas, besides 4,768 school buildings, 105 college buildings and 2,394 marriage halls and community centres have also been kept ready to meet any contingency of mass evacuation across the districts, the release said.

This apart, 2,897 JCB machines, 2,115 diesel generators, 483 giant-size water pumps, and one lakh electric poles have also been mobilised to be put into disaster mitigation activities, involving personnel from Fire and Rescue Services department, Tangedco, Revenue

staff, etc.

The release said that TN disaster response force comprising 1,000 policemen, 4,155 police personnel trained by National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), besides other police personnel are also in a state of readiness in all the coastal districts including Chennai.

The total security personnel put together for flood relief and rescue works will be over 6,600 men, the release said. In addition, contingents of the NDRF men will also chip in wherever required. With the help of a web-GIS based decision support system, a 'TNS-MART' app, for relevant messages to be quickly communicated to the people has also been developed, the release said. Government and private hospitals have also been

alerted to be ready for any emergencies, it said, adding, steps have been taken to stock essential commodities needed for two months in all fair price shops.

Mr Palaniswami also asked the IAS officers specially designated to monitor and coordinate rescue, relief and rehabilitation activities in all the districts to keep an eye on implementation of all these measures and tone up things. The Deputy Chief Minister, Mr. O. Panneerselvam, senior ministers K. A. Sengottaiyan, D. Jayakumar S.P. Velumani, Vijayabhaskar, R.B. Udayakumar, Thangamani, Dindigul Srinivasan, Chief Secretary, K. Shanmugam and DGP, J.K. Tripathy among others participated in the meeting.



Nilgiris Collector J. Innocent Divya inspects the flood affected Ooty-Kundah road near Merland sector on Tuesday. — DC

Ooty rains: Red alert on day 1 a non-starter

B.RAVICHANDRAN | DC
OOTY, OCT. 22

Though the red alert sounded for the Nilgiris for Tuesday by the weathermen triggered a sort of scare among the hill residents as the recent heavy rains and resultant disasters began to flash in their minds, the alarm proved to be futile, as the hills received only scanty rainfall on Tuesday. Yet, the after-effects of the recent heavy rains in the preceding days could be seen in minor landslips and uprooting of trees at few places across the hills here on Tuesday.

The closure of educational institutions, evacuating people in low-lying areas into the nearby flood shelters, posting of the disaster management teams in wanton points across the hills that began on Monday evening made one think that some danger was waiting for the hills. But, fortunately the weather Gods proved the weathermen wrong as only low-intensity

22 passengers escape unhurt as bus gets stuck in slush

Udhagamandalam (TN) Oct. 22: Twenty two passengers and crew of a government bus escaped unhurt when the vehicle got stuck in slush at a spot about 20 km from here early on Tuesday. Police said the driver failed to notice a parked

tipper lorry as there was heavy fog, hampering visibility. The vehicle then veered sideways and its front tyres got stuck in slush. However, none was hurt in the mishap, they said. The bus was coming to this tourist town from Palakkad in Kerala.

occasional rainfall with cloudy sky made up for the weather profile since Monday evening.

While the uprooting of a tree and minor mud-slip at Gandhipuram area near Coonor along Ooty-Coimbatore NH on Monday night paralysed traffic for an hour there, there were reports about minor mud-slips and uprooting of trees in the Coonor and Kundah taluks.

This apart, heavy mist in the early hours on Tuesday

made the driver of a state-owned bus to lose the clear view of the road which resulted in the bus slipping off the road near Katteri junction along Ooty-Coimbatore NH and dashed against a slope along. However, all the passengers and bus crew escaped unhurt.

Meanwhile, the highway department has taken up repairing works in the Ooty-Kundah road which witnessed landslips in the recent rains.

11K festival spl buses to operate from Chennai from tomorrow

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, OCT. 22

Nearly 11,000 buses will be operated from Thursday onwards up to Saturday to enable people to go to their home towns from Deepavali. Buses will be operating from five points in the city.

The great exodus is expected to begin soon for the festival and Transport Minister M.R. Vijayabhaskar had held a series of meetings to chalk out the arrangements.

The outgoing buses from city leave from Dr. M.G.R. Bus Terminus (CMBT), Madhavaram New bus stand, K.K. Nagar MTC



bus stand, Arignar Anna bus stand, Tambaram-Sanatorium (MEPZ), Tambaram Railway Station bus stand, and Poonamallee Municipal bus stand on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Special reservation counters will be operating at all the departure points while a special reservation counter will be inaugurated by the Transport Minister on Thursday at CMBT. Commuters travelling more than 300 km in special buses can reserve their tickets through the website www.tnsc.in

The transport department said operation of all Tamil Nadu and APSRTC buses to Andhra Pradesh via Red Hills will depart from the Madhavaram New bus stand. Buses to Pudukcherry, Cuddalore and Chidambaram via ECR will depart from K.K. Nagar MTC bus stand.

Buses to Kumbakonam and Thanjavur via Tindivanam will depart from Arignar Anna bus stand, Tambaram Sanatorium.

Buses bound for Tiruvannamalai via Tindivanam and Madurantakam, Polur, Chetpet, Vandavasi and Gingee; buses to Parur, Neyveli, Vadalur, Chidambaram, Kattumannarkoil; and buses bound for Pudukcherry, Cuddalore, Chidambaram via Tindivanam will depart from Tambaram Railway Station bus stand. Buses bound to Kancheepuram, Arcot, Arani, Vellore, Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri, Tirupattur, Hosur, Chittoor and Tirupati via

Tiruttani will depart from Poonamallee bus stand.

The department also said buses from CMBT scheduled to other parts of the state via the GST road will go through Maduravoyal, Poonamallee, Nazarethpet, Outer Ring Road and Vandalur to reach the temporary bus stand in Urapakkam, instead of through the Tambaram-Perungalathur stretch.

On account of Deepavali, the state government also announced a local holiday on October 28 (Monday) for all government offices and educational institutions in the state.

Cheating case against ex-CM Karunanidhi's kin

Chennai: The City Crime Branch (CCB) launched a probe into the cheating charges made against V M Jothimani, who belongs to the family of former CM M Karunanidhi.

According to sources, a case of robbery and cheating was filed by Neelankarai police against Jothimani, and it was later handed over to the CCB. The alleged accused, Jothimani, is married to Ezhil Arasi, who is the granddaughter of Karunanidhi. Police sources said that

Jothimani runs a cosmetic business and cheated another businessman of Rs 80 lakh. A case was filed against him and four others who allegedly carried out the crime.

It is claimed that a few weeks ago, Jothimani's friend Zakir Ahmed contacted one Dinesh (33) of Sowcarpet, who also runs a cosmetic business. Zakir told Dinesh that if he could give ₹80 lakh in the denominations of ₹500 and ₹2,000, he would be given ₹100 crore in return, in ₹100 denomination. — DC

TAMIL UNIVERSITY CONVOCATION

Declare Tirukkural as Book of India, urges minister

G. SRINIVASAN | DC
THANJAVUR, OCT 22

Tirukkural should be declared as 'Book of India', urged Mafoi K. Pandiarajan, state minister for Culture and Archaeology here on Tuesday.

Speaking at the 12th convocation of Tamil University (TU), he appealed to Banwarilal Purohit, Tamil Nadu Governor who presided over the convocation, to impress upon the Central government to declare Tirukkural as 'Book of India'.

He said that Armoogam Parsuramen, former minister of Mauritius, who got D. Litt (honoris causa) at the convocation has been trying



to declare Tirukkural as 'book of the world' by raising the issue at UNESCO.

Governor and Chancellor of Tamil University conferring D.Litt (honoris causa) on Armoogam Parsuramen, former minister of Mauritius and founder president of International Tirukkural Foundation at the convocation at Tamil University at Thanjavur on Tuesday. K.Pandiarajan, state minister for Tamil official language also seen. — DC

"Central government should take the initiative to declare Tirukkural as Book of India. I appeal to the Governor to convey this

matter to centre," he said.

He also said that Tamil Nadu government has decided to establish 'Tamil Development Centres' in various countries and the first country will be Mauritius. "We have approached the Central government for funds for this. Governor should use his good offices to get the fund," the minister said.

He also said that Keeladi excavations have raised the reputation of Tamils worldwide and many Tamils living abroad have come forward to help. Graduates from Tamil University should utilise this period

when Tamil language, Tamil culture and pride is uppermost in the minds of people world over to do good service to Tamil language, the minister said.

Tamil Nadu Governor Banwarilal Purohit, who is also the chancellor of Tamil University conferred D. Litt (honoris causa) on Armoogam Parsuramen, former minister of Mauritius, A. Sivasubramanian, Folklorist and S. Kalyanasundaram, (Kalyanji/Vannadhasan), poet and writer in the convocation.

Film actor (comedian) Charle also got a doctorate

at the convocation.

Dr S.P.Thiyagarajan, former vice-chancellor of the University of Madras, in his convocation address called for taking words from various languages and including in Tamil dictionary as is being observed in English language. He said that English has 1,71,476 words as on date. A total of 47,156 words which are not in use has been discarded from English. "But every day 17 new words are added to English from various world languages. Because of this English includes science of various countries, arts and culture and remain

as spoken language in various countries. Tamil should also do this, Tamil University can implement a scheme to enrich Tamil by including words from other languages," he urged.

A total of 10,421 candidates got degrees at the convocation including 150 Ph.Ds and 247 M. Phil degrees.

Gold medals were given to students who got good marks in various departments. G. Balasubramanian, vice-chancellor of Tamil University, Chinnappan, Registrar and others participated.



Exploring avenues

Chilean President Sebastian Pinera said he would meet opposition leaders to explore possibilities of social agreement



We have done all in our power to ensure orderly Brexit

— Jean-Claude Juncker
European Commission President

IN BRIEF

Curfew in Chile as violence rages

Santiago: Protesters defied an emergency decree and confronted police in Chile's capital, continuing disturbances that have left at least 11 dead and led the president to say the country is "at war." Police used tear gas and streams of water to break up a march by hundreds of students and union members on one of Santiago's main streets. Meanwhile, police and soldiers guarded Chileans who formed long lines outside supermarkets before they reopened after many closed over the weekend during which dozens of stores were looted or burned.

Disturbing trend in Pak worries US

Washington: Describing shrinking space for civil society and media freedom in Pakistan as "troubling", the US said it remains "deeply concerned" over reports of human rights abuses and discrimination faced by people in the country because of their faith. It urged the Pakistani government to uphold the rule of law and the freedoms enshrined in the country's constitution. Acting assistant secretary of state for South and Central Asia Alice G. Wells in a prepared statement to Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and Nonproliferation of the House Foreign Affairs Committee hoped that the reforms Pakistan is undertaking under its current IMF plan will lay the foundation for better economic management and growth, leading to an improvement in the democratic system and human rights situation.

Execute Hindu man: Bangla Muslims

Dhaka: Thousands protested against police across Bangladesh, a day after at least four people died when officers fired on a crowd in one of the country's deadliest religious riots to date. Some 20,000 Muslims called for the execution of a young Hindu man on Bholia island for writing Facebook messages that allegedly defamed the Prophet Mohammed, with police saying they opened fire after rocks were thrown at officers. Four people died and nearly 50 were injured. Mob attacks over online posts perceived to be blasphemous have emerged as a major headache for security forces in Bangladesh, where Muslims make up some 90% of the country's 168 million people. The deaths sparked a new round of protests as thousands of Muslims shouted slogans and called for the officers involved to be put on trial. The Hindu man whose Facebook account hosted the original messages was charged with inciting religious tension.

MIGRANTS' DNA SAMPLES MAY BE COLLECTED

Washington, Oct. 22: The Trump administration is planning to collect DNA samples from asylum-seekers and other migrants detained by immigration officials and will add the information to a massive FBI database used by law enforcement hunting for criminals. The Justice Department issued amended regulations that would mandate DNA collection for almost all migrants who cross between official entry points and are held even temporarily. The rules would not apply to legal permanent residents or anyone entering the US legally, and children under 14 are exempt, but it's unclear whether asylum-seekers who come through official crossings will be exempt.

Trudeau poised to form govt

Canadian Prime Minister will be in power, but Liberals lose majority

Montreal, Oct. 22: Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau will remain in power but with a minority government that will require the support of a smaller left-leaning party after a hard-fought election in which he was dogged by scandals.

The Liberals had won or were leading in 156 out of 338 seats in Monday's vote, according to Elections Canada. That put the Liberals far short of the 170 seats needed for a second straight majority government.

"You did it, my friends Congratulations," Trudeau told supporters in Montreal early on Tuesday. Trudeau, who took power in 2015 as a charismatic figure promising "sunny ways," saw his popularity drop over old photos of him in blackface and his handling of a corporate corruption case.

"I think a Liberal government supported by the NDP is likely going to lean farther left," said John Manley, a former Liberal finance minister who now works in the private sector. "It raises a series of issues about what are the demands that an NDP party would make. What's the price of governing going to be? And I think businesses are going to be reluctant to make any moves until they get some satisfaction around that."

Ahead of the vote, polls showed a tight race between Trudeau and his main rival, Conservative leader Andrew Scheer. The Conservatives, who trailed on Monday with 121 seats, actually won the national popular vote, according to preliminary results. Trudeau, 47, who has championed diversity as prime minister, was endorsed by former US President Barack Obama.

— Reuters



Prime minister Justin Trudeau celebrates his victory with his supporters at the Palais des Congres in Montreal on Tuesday. — AFP

Indian-Canadian Singh is kingmaker

Toronto, Oct. 23: Opposition New Democrat leader Jagmeet Singh says he congratulated Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and will be a constructive participant in the new Parliament.

Trudeau's Liberal party was projected to win the most seats in the 338-seat Parliament in Monday's national elections. That outcome would give it the best chance to form a government. Still, the Liberals were poised to fall short of a majority, meaning they will have to rely on an opposition party to stay in power.

Trudeau will now have to rely on the New Democratic Party (NDP) to push through key legis-



Jagmeet Singh

lation. Although the NDP had a disappointing night, as the number of seats it was projected to win was down sharply from the 2015 election, the party could exercise significant influence over Trudeau's next government. Minority governments

in Canada rarely last more than 2-1/2 years. Singh vowed to "work hard to deliver on the country's priorities."

Trudeau would now require at least 13 legislators from his Left-leaning rival parties to reach the "magic number" of 170 to form a Liberal Party-led minority government in the 338-seat House of Commons.

"The New Democratic Party is poised to play kingmaker in a minority parliament after Singh spearheaded a turnaround on the federal campaign trail that may have saved his leadership and pulled his party from the brink of irrelevance," the *Toronto Star* said. Singh said his party's

elected officials will now head to Ottawa to tackle a number of issues, including taking "real and urgent action" on climate change, making life more affordable for Canadians and making sure the "super wealthy pay their fair share". Singh, who was himself a prime ministerial contender, said he wants the NDP to play a "constructive" role in the new Parliament, reported CBC.

Singh, a leftist former criminal defence lawyer, tweeted: "The winner of this election is not a leader or a party — the winners should be Canadians. They want a government that works for them. Not the rich and the powerful." — PTI

Putin-Erdogan talks begin

Russia, Oct. 22: Russian President Vladimir Putin met his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Tuesday to discuss the situation in northern Syria, where Turkey has vowed to resume an offensive against Kurdish fighters. "The situation in the region is very severe," Putin told Erdogan at the start of talks in the Russian city of Sochi, adding he hoped that the good rapport between Russia and Turkey "will let us find an answer to even the most difficult questions."

The Turkish president threatened to resume Turkey's military offensive in Syria "with greater determination" unless the withdrawal of Kurdish fighters is completed under a US-brokered deal, before he headed to key talks with his Russian counterpart.

Russia, a crucial ally of Syria's President Bashar al-Assad has demanded that Turkey respect the country's territorial integrity and Putin will likely seek such commitments from Erdogan. "We will have the opportunity to discuss steps to end (Kurdish fighters') presence in regime-held areas," Erdogan said at an Ankara airport.

Russia and Turkey have emerged as the main foreign players in Syria's conflict, with Moscow's position strengthened after US President Donald Trump announced this month he would be withdrawing American forces from the north of the country. The announcement cleared the way for Turkey to launch a cross-border offensive on October 9 against the Syrian Kurdish YPG militia, viewed by Ankara as "terrorists" linked to the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). Russian forces moved in to replace US troops last



WE will have the opportunity to discuss steps to end (Kurdish fighters') presence in regime-held areas

RECEP ERDOGAN, Turkey President

week in support of the Syrian army. Erdogan rejected French President Emmanuel Macron's suggestion to extend cease-fire. — AFP

US TROOPS FROM SYRIA CANNOT STAY IN IRAQ

Baghdad, Oct. 22: US troops leaving Syria and heading to neighboring Iraq do not have permission to stay in the country, Iraq's military said.

The statement appears to contradict US defense secretary Mark Esper, who has said that under the current plan, all US troops leaving Syria will go to western Iraq and the military would continue to conduct operations against the Islamic State group to prevent its resurgence in the region.

The Iraq statement, however, said that all American troops that withdrew from Syria have permission to enter northern Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdish region, then from there to be relocated out of Iraq. "These forces do not have any approval to remain in Iraq," it said. — AP

Brexit: Boris tries hard to get votes

London, Oct. 22: British lawmakers from across the political spectrum were plotting on Tuesday to put the brakes on Prime Minister Boris Johnson's drive to push his European Union divorce bill through the House of Commons in just three days, potentially scuttling the government's hopes of delivering Brexit by Oct. 31.

The bill faced two votes on Tuesday, with lawmakers first being asked to approve it in principle, followed by a vote on the government's schedule for debate and possible amendments. "If this House backs this legislation, if we ratify this new deal, we can get Brexit done and move our country on," Johnson said as he opened debate in the House of Commons.

"We can turn the page and allow this Parliament and this country to begin to heal and unite." While many analysts expect the bill to be approved, lawmakers may reject the three-day timetable because of concerns it doesn't provide enough time for scrutiny of the 115-page document, which sets out the terms of Britain's departure from the 28-nation bloc. Major bills usually take



If this House backs this legislation, if we can ratify this new deal, we can get Brexit done and move our country on.

BORIS JOHNSON, British PM

weeks or months to pass through Parliament, giving time for line-by-line scrutiny by lawmakers.

Green lawmaker Caroline Lucas tweeted that lawmakers "had more time to debate the Wild Animals in Circuses Act (affecting 19 animals) than they will to decide the future of 65 million people. It's hard to think of anything which better illustrates this Govt's contempt for people, Parliament & democracy." — AFP

Political novice trying to oust Netanyahu

Jerusalem, Oct. 22: Former armed forces chief Benny Gantz has a shot at ending Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's record-breaking term in office, but still faces a tough battle to capture the premiership.

Netanyahu announced he could not form a new government following a deadlocked September election, making way for Gantz to try.

But although Gantz's centrist Blue and White alliance won 33 seats in parliament, one more than Netanyahu's Likud, he has not so far secured the support of the majority of the 120 lawmakers needed to

form a stable coalition. Gantz, a 60-year-old former paratrooper, had no previous political experience when he declared himself Netanyahu's electoral rival in December.

Blue and White and Likud each won 35 seats in an April election, but Netanyahu was given the first chance to try to form a majority coalition.

He failed and rather than leaving Gantz to have a go, he opted for a snap second election, held on September 17, despite facing potential indictment for corruption.

This time around, Blue and White inched ahead of Likud, but neither has a



Benny Gantz

clear path to a majority coalition.

"Gantz managed to do what much more experienced politicians than him... all failed to accomplish over the years," analyst Yossi Verter wrote Tuesday in Israeli newspa-

per *Haaretz*. But he said that Gantz's chances of succeeding where veteran political operator Netanyahu had failed were slim. "The election results are familiar to all, and no fairy can appear and magically move blocks around so that they add up to a governing majority," Verter wrote.

Gantz presents himself as someone who can heal divisions in Israeli society, which he says have been exacerbated by Netanyahu. Gantz was born on June 9, 1959, in Kfar Ahim, a southern Israeli village that his immigrant parents, both Holocaust survivors,

helped to establish. He joined the army in 1977, completing the tough selection course for paratroopers. He went on to command Shaldag, an air force special operations unit. In 1994, he returned to the army to command a brigade and then a division in the occupied West Bank.

He was Israel's military attaché to the US from 2005 until 2009. A security hawk, he is determined like Netanyahu to keep the Jordan Valley in the occupied West Bank under Israeli control and to maintain Israeli sovereignty over annexed Arab east Jerusalem. — AFP

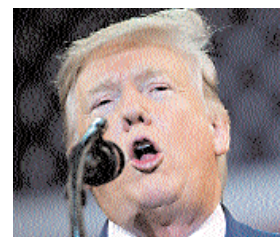
Trump to celebrate Diwali

Washington, Oct. 22: US President Donald Trump will celebrate Diwali at the White House on Thursday, three days ahead of the formal celebrations of the festival of lights in India.

This would be Trump's third Diwali celebrations at the White House, a tradition that began with his predecessor Barack Obama in 2009.

According to the White House, Trump will participate in the Diwali celebrations by lighting a ceremonial 'diya' on Thursday.

No other details of the celebrations were immediately available. Trump's first Diwali celebrations at the White House was in his Oval Office in 2017 in the presence of a select group of Indian-American community leaders and members of his administration. Last year, Trump invited the then Indian ambassador to the US, Navtej Singh Sarma, for the Diwali celebrations in the Roosevelt room. Meanwhile, Diwali celebrations have already begun in the US.



Donald Trump

Texas governor Greg Abbott celebrated Diwali on Saturday with the Indian-American community. In 2017, after lighting the ceremonial lamp,

Trump hailed the Indian community's contribution in different fields.

"You have made extraordinary contributions to art, science, medicine, business and education. America is especially thankful for its many Indian-American citizens who serve bravely in our armed forces and as first responders in communities throughout our great land," he said. Both in 2017 and 2018 celebrations, he expressed his gratitude for his friendship with PM Narendra Modi. — PTI

NEW CHAPTER Japan pardons over half million involved in petty crimes to mark ascension

Japanese Emperor Naruhito ascends throne

Tokyo, Oct. 22: Japan's Emperor Naruhito completed his ascension to the Chrysanthemum throne on Tuesday in a ceremony steeped in the traditions and grandeur of a monarchy that claims 2,000 years of history.

The rituals cemented a transition that began with his father's abdication earlier this year, and drew royalty and political leaders from around the world. A public parade for the event was postponed after

a deadly typhoon, but the government went ahead with the granting of pardons for more than half a million people convicted of minor offences including traffic violations.

The main event took place in the Imperial Palace's Pine Room, where royal attendants drew back purple curtains hanging from two heavily adorned structures housing the imperial thrones, revealing the emperor and empress standing inside.

"I hereby declare my enthronement at home and abroad," Naruhito said, dressed in a voluminous draped robe topped with a copper overcoat.

Empress Masako, a Harvard-educated former diplomat, stood silently before her throne in a similar, smaller structure, wearing a multi-layered kimono.

Naruhito pledged to "pray for the happiness of Japanese people and world peace" and "fulfil my duty

as the symbol of Japan and of the unity of the people of Japan." In the evening, he hosted around 400 of the assembled royalty and dignitaries to a sumptuous banquet at the palace where traditional Japanese court music was played and the guests were allowed to have closer views of the throne. The government announced more than half a million people convicted of minor offences will be pardoned to mark the event. — AFP



Japan's emperor Naruhito (Left) and Empress Masako depart Akasaka Palace for the court banquet at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo. — AFP

TAIWAN SEEKS HONG KONG SUPPORT

Taipei, Oct. 22: Taiwan said on Tuesday it had asked Hong Kong for help in collecting a murder suspect who has agreed to return to the island to face trial for killing his girlfriend in a case which inadvertently triggered massive democracy protests.

The surprise announcement came just hours after Taipei had said it was Hong Kong's responsibility to put him on trial.

Chan Tong-kai, 20, is wanted in Taiwan for the murder of his pregnant girlfriend during a holiday the two Hong Kongers took there in February last year. He fled back to Hong Kong where Taiwanese police were unable to apprehend him because there is no extradition agreement between the two territories.

The case triggered an ill-fated proposal by Hong Kong's pro-Beijing government to ram through a sweeping extradition bill which would have allowed the city to extradite suspects to any territory, including the authoritarian mainland. — AFP

A big-spending traveller; Rule or domination
a person who travels to shop by children

DECCAN CHRONICLE WEDNESDAY | 23 OCTOBER 2019 | CHENNAI

Afghan peace path runs through Pak & Kashmir



N.V. Subramanian

The continuing violence of the Taliban and the Islamic State in Afghanistan and the complications these present to US-Taliban peace efforts and American troops' reductions are only one-half of the key to the troubles of the war-torn state. The other half of the key is closely held by Pakistan. While US policymakers broadly understand this, it has not translated to action on the ground.

Seeking a way forward on a weekend visit to Afghanistan, Mark Esper, the US secretary of defence, suggested no fundamental rethink on peace moves with the Taliban. But Esper and Washington would also need reminding and perhaps even fresh illumination of the

half-key held by Islamabad which is not always manifest and which needs equal address for a durable peace in Afghanistan.

The Afghan half-key in the possession of Pakistan visualises Afghanistan in a two-front paradigm in which India constitutes the second front. Anything that concerns Pakistan about India naturally concerns the Kashmir question as well. While the United States' occupation of Afghanistan has to end sooner or later, its leaving is not a simple matter of extracting counterterrorism guarantees from the likely future Taliban rulers of the country. Unless the Kashmir issue and tangled Afghanistan-Pakistan relations are settled to the satisfaction of all parties, peace will prove elusive in Afghanistan and in northwest South Asia as

a whole.

The troubles of today go back to the hurried, untidy and, at least on the side of Mohammed Ali Jinnah, the unwanted partition of the Indian subcontinent. The Kashmir dispute between India and Pakistan is well-known but its centrality in Pakistan's quest for an Islamic identity is only superficially understood. Jinnah's political vehicle in the competition with the Congress party for leadership of India, the Muslim League, was weak in the Muslim-majority provinces of the undivided country. This naturally discounted his boast of speaking for all Muslims in seeking a Muslim homeland called Pakistan, which in fact was a bargaining chip for a meatier portion of shared power with the Congress.

When shared power became impossible and Jinnah, so to speak, was hoist by his own petard in getting a Pakistan he did not really want, Kashmir was needed to bridge the perceived deficit in Islamic identity for the newly formed state. His Indian opposite number for all practical considerations, Jawaharlal Nehru, was a non-resident Kashmiri Pandit. Their possessiveness for

Paralleling the Kashmir dispute is the one between Pakistan and Afghanistan concerning Pashtunistan and the Durand Line which also dates back to the 1947 Partition... The Durand Line divides what is appropriate to call the Pashtun nation into its Afghanistan/ British India-Pakistan parcels...

Kashmir has magnified beyond their mortal lives to become national obsessions that pit two nuclear-armed neighbours against one another amidst mounting risks.

Paralleling the Kashmir dispute is the one between Pakistan and Afghanistan concerning Pashtunistan and the Durand Line which also dates back to the 1947 Partition. Drawn in 1893, the Durand Line marks the frontier of Afghanistan with former British India and its successor state in the northwest, Pakistan. The Durand Line divides what is appropriate to call the Pashtun nation into its Afghanistan/ British India-

Pakistan parcels and sunders Afghanistan's traditional though thin claims to Balochistan with its access to the sea.

Signed under duress, the Durand Line was nominally accepted by Afghanistan before the creation of Pakistan and by none of its various regimes, from monarchic to republican and communist to Islamist, after 1947, including the one of the Taliban considered the least hostile to its interests by Islamabad. From opposing Pakistan's UN recognition; to seeking an independent Pashtunistan of present-day Khyber Pakhtunkhwa that would eventually merge with Afghanistan and facilitate Balochistan's absorption; to cross-border raids and instigation of Pakistani Pashtuns; to siding with India against Pakistan; Afghanistan became a regular thorn in the side of Pakistan except for the ten years of an Iran-brokered peace starting 1963.

By then, the US's Cold War alliance with Pakistan and Soviet Russia's inroads into Afghanistan had made their own contributions to soured ties. Pakistan particularly feared coordinated pincer

moves by India and Afghanistan. Those fears incentivised its intervention in Afghanistan in 1979 to control its rulers, keep it weak so it never challenged Pakistan again, and make the Afghan soil infertile for India's two-front strategy. Proactively, it sought "strategic depth" in Afghanistan against India.

The eighteen-year US occupation of Afghanistan has not changed Pakistan's basic calculus for the country. Throughout these eighteen years and scarcely calmed by the prior history of New Delhi-Northern Alliance quasi-military ties, Pakistan has steadfastly opposed India's engagements in Afghanistan and guarded against Kabul-New Delhi collusion. India's \$3 billion non-military investments in Afghanistan since 2001 and the Chabahar trade corridor have not escaped Pakistan's suspicions either. The point is not about Pakistan being right or wrong, although that should also matter. Pakistan has squandered most of its founding promises of 1947 to neutralise perceived threats from India and Afghanistan on two fronts. Having ruled the country for over half its existence, the Pakistan army sees itself as the sole protector of the country's geopolitical interests. It will not give up its fundamental suspicions of Afghanistan and India nor cede its claims on Kashmir without advantages gained from a negotiated or mediated settlement.

Like it or not, these factors are immutable and constitute the objective reality. Although India no longer shares a land border with Afghanistan, it does not detract from the outcome that India-Afghanistan-Pakistan still comprise a contentious triangle. Their contests rigidly conducted on two of the three triangular sides do not establish a balance of power but instead create a perilous asymmetry. That could gain monstrous new life with a US troops' drawdown from Afghanistan whenever that happens.

More than ever, the north-west region of the subcontinent, united by irredentism, needs the most actively-mediated international peace efforts.

The writer is a political, economic, strategic and risks analyst for media, think tanks, industry and governments

Doubts and dilemmas of the soldier in post-colonial South Asian democracies



Jawed Naqvi

Celebrations last week of two political thinkers and activists from the previous century who are dear to the Hindu right opened up room for a discussion about the love of and trouble with the army that dominates post-colonial societies, including South Asian democracies.

Vinayak Damodar Savarkar was in the news because of claims by his right-wing Hindu supporters that he first described the uprising of 1857 as India's first war of independence, while colonial historians saw it as a sepoy mutiny. The fact, however, is that the tag of India's first war of independence was the title of the book with a collection of 31 articles by Karl Marx in 1857-58 published in *The New York Daily Tribune*.

The other person idolised in the news last week was Jayaprakash Narayan, or JP. It was JP's birthday on Oct 11 when he would have been 117 years old. The government issued a postage stamp in his memory. JP toyed with Marxism while studying at Berkeley. He later embraced agitational politics centred on Gandhi's non-violence. He died in 1979, five years

In 1975, JP called on the military and police to revolt against the elected government of the Indian republic. The RSS had become the spine of his movement, feigning as it did its transient passion for India's secular and socialist constitution.

after launching a massive anti-Congress movement from Bihar, which gave the Rashtriya Swayam-sevak Sangh (RSS) critical legitimacy in India's mainstream politics, paving the way for AB Vajpayee and LK Advani to join the federal government in 1997.

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Did the RSS not hold JP's hand in exhorting the army and the police to disobey Mrs Gandhi's orders? Mrs Gandhi declared emergency citing the threat and put down the call to rebellion. Savarkar applauded the failed anti-colonial mutiny, which was brutal and costly for both sides, while JP called for the military to intervene politically in Indian democracy.

It is a tribute to the Indian army that it remained loyal to the constitution. Others in India's neighbourhood have not been so lucky as they succumbed to the lure of 'stability' that a politicised military usually promises in post-colonial societies, as opposed to the rough and tumble and periodic chaos that is an inevitable part of free people jostling for the attention of fellow compatriots.

It is useless to debate today whether the RSS would brook a similar call to the army — to not heed the government's orders in Kashmir or Manipur, for example — were it to be given by an opposition party today. We have to search for an opposition party before posing the question, however.

The human dilemma of the soldier has been discussed intellectually at length. Makhdoom Mohiuddin penned a searing poem to the soldier fighting a foreign war. "Where is he headed, someone should ask the departing soldier," Makhdoom wrote. A chasm exists between retired military officers in India. Former navy chief Admiral L Ramdas, for example, opposes Prime Minister Modi's militarist policies and works for Indians and Pakistanis to work for peace as he believes the alternative would be unacceptable. Other former officers are fans of Modi's Pakistan policy.

In Bernard Shaw's play *Arms and the Man*, the adorable Swiss mercenary soldier, Captain Bluntschli, forces himself into the home of the heroine Raina, engaged to a Russian army officer. Bluntschli, a fugitive from the Russian troops, tells Raina to remember that "nine soldiers out of 10 are born fools". He admits to her, however, that he uses his ammunition pouches to carry chocolates rather than cartridges for his pistol. When he leaves, Raina quietly drops her photo in his pocket with the inscription: "To my chocolate-cream soldier."

Do such soldiers exist? I have to admit I have met a few. I was once travelling in an army truck from the Hazratbal shrine in Srinagar, which was under military siege. The soldier sitting next to me was a Dalit from the Mahar community of Maharashtra. Looking least interested in the troubled world around him, he was engrossed in a Marathi classic called *Mrityunjay*. It was the story of the valiant Karna from Mahabharata, he told me, who was caught in an existential crisis about which side he should be fighting for. Former US soldier Mike Prysner would endorse Captain Bluntschli but not Karna's critical decision to fight anyhow. The young former US soldier was posted in Iraq, an assignment he describes as toxic. Prysner was revolted by the brutality and racial abuse of Iraqi

he witnessed from his colleagues. He was last reported to be making a documentary on the daily nightmares of the Palestinians in Gaza and West Bank.

"They can spend millions on a single bomb, but that bomb only becomes a weapon when the ranks in the military are willing to follow orders to use it," Prysner wrote, echoing his compatriots who stopped the Vietnam War with brave and relentless street protests. "The billionaires who profit from human suffering care only about expanding their wealth, controlling the world economy. Understand that their power lies only in their ability to convince us that war, oppression, and exploitation is in our interests."

So let me leave you with a soldier visualised by Charlie Chaplin in The



Anand K. Sahay

TROUBLE IN PARADISE-3

Srinagar/Baramulla/Soprian: The gun trigger that took the first life in Kashmir was squeezed on August 6, just one day after constitutional violence had been done to J&K state — and it wasn't the militants.

In the Ilahi Bagh-Sourra area of Srinagar's old city, locally called the "downtown", Asrar Khan, a 14-year old pupil of the well-regarded Kashmir Harvard School, near his home, was shot in the head from a pellet gun.

The boy was brilliant at studies and was his school's cricket star. He was bending down to field a ball in a local game in the *mohalla* park, literally yards from his home, when his skull was pierced by a volley of pellets fired from a column of passing security forces vehicles, the way his parents remembered things — sobbing, but angry and defiant — when I called on them at their home to condole last week. They said tear-gassing had preceded the firing.

For 29 days Asrar fought to live, and then yielded. Images of his brain, seen from the hospital records, are a field of lodged pellets. Yet, a senior police officer, Muneer Khan, declared to the media that the boy had been hit by a flying stone and died. But there had been no stone-pelting. The administration later withdrew the shocking statement. It was too evidently false.

Asrar's parents said there was no reason for their son to die. The area was quiet. It seemed that just one soldier decided to target their son's bent head for no apparent reason. Pellet guns are supposed to be used when the forces seek to deter an advancing stone-pelting mob from a distance. They are not for use against little boys enjoying a game of cricket when their schools are shut.

A small group of neighbourhood women was with Asrar's grieving family. Some seemed to be near relations. They described an uncommon scene. Batches of helicopters had apparently flown low over their homes, as if on patrol, for a couple of days before the firing incident that claimed young Asrar's life, suggesting that the administration was adopting techniques to instil fear even before August 5.

"First the helicopters, then firing pellets at a child," they said. "What is this if not government-



tal terror?" Pellet guns have blinded and killed scores of people in the last three years in Kashmir, and their wanton use has been the subject of international censure.

The state does not have to kill. It establishes the reign of fear in other ways. An agitated school teacher told me in Baramulla that he was walking up to his school when a man in uniform patrolling there — they are everywhere, even on village streets — asked to see his ID (in Kashmir, unlike elsewhere in the country, people must carry their identity cards). When this was presented, the soldier pocketed it and said peremptorily, "Collect it from the police station!"

Now, this can be dangerous. Typically, this means unlawful and unrecorded detention, and possibly beatings, for those who dare to go to the police to ask for their Asrar's parents said there was no reason for their son to die. The area was quiet. It seemed that just one soldier decided to target their son's bent head for no apparent reason. Pellet guns are supposed to be used when the forces seek to deter an advancing stone-pelting mob from a distance. They are not for use against little boys enjoying a game of cricket when their schools are shut.

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Man, and man alone wants to sit as juror



Moin Qazi

"Man is the only creature who refuses to be what he is."
— Albert Camus

The new wave of spiritualism is born out of the confluence of science and mysticism and has opened our window to a world that promises us with the way to unite within the context of daily life, both knowledge and action, and the mundane and the sacred. It shows us the path of integration of daily life with the sacred. This idea is grounded in the belief that the purpose of sacred law is to forge a connection between the will of God and everyday life, and between the worldly and the temporal realms.

The pluralistic world created by the global diffusion of the world's religions should unite in the continuing task of building a good society, a world in which all may live freely and pursue visions of the highest values. Yet we are confronted with a world in which we have no time to breathe, to relax. Life is full of misery and we feel so lonely and alienated because no one is loyal to the other. Bertrand Russell observed that "Neither a man nor a crowd nor a nation can be trusted to act humanely or to think sanely under the influence of a great fear." Russell's point was that irrational fear can propel us to unjust wars and the inhumane treatment of others, depriving us of opportunities to improve our everyday lives.

Voltaire reiterates the same philosophy: "All sects differ because they come from men; morality is everywhere the same, because it comes from God." Einstein's views on the moral decay of man are as relevant today as they were when they were spoken in 1938: "One misses the elementary reaction

against injustice and for justice — that reaction which in the long run represents man's only protection against a relapse into barbarism." Man doesn't want other denizens of earth to get into the reevaluating measure. Man, and man alone wants to sit as juror over God to the exclusion of other species of the earth, and given his record on the measure of humanism, he is the most unfit creature to do so. Perhaps because man is the least qualified to be called just. Luckily, we also have men whose are capable of seeing this fallacy; they can see that making itself the centre is faulty.

Ptolemaic astronomers made the earth the centre around which all the heavenly bodies revolved. To them, the centrality of earth was the most obvious and basic fact. However, it is in the same way that man wants to place himself at the centre, and measure this world through his own lenses of perception. In spite of all the modern knowledge of the infinite vastness of the uni-



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(To be concluded)

Asif Kapadia

SUPARNA SHARMA

Director Asif Kapadia is very demanding of the geniuses he picks. Apart from being high achievers, they have to be interesting as well. To Kapadia that means a life's journey which, apart from staggering success, jubilation, money and fame, also has generous interruptions and lows — conflict, drama, tragedy, stuff that he can find and then scour. Moments that capture his child prodigies at their peak, but also moments when they fall victim to their vulnerabilities.

This is what, Kapadia says, engages and moves the audience. It's also what sustains his interest. Kapadia, 47, who has been called a trailblazer for finding, and then editing, reconstructing archival footage into award-winning documentaries about young geniuses and their addictive pursuits, began in 2010 with *Senna*. His documentary on the Brazilian race car driver Ayrton Senna, who died at the age of 34 in a crash, won two Baftas.

Then came *Amy*, a 2015 documentary on the British singer-songwriter Amy Winehouse who died of alcohol poisoning at the age of 27. It got him one more Bafta, and one Oscar.

Senna broke box-office records in the UK, but *Amy* beat *Senna* to become Britain's highest grossing documentary of all time.

At some point between *Senna* and *Amy*, there were reports of Kapadia considering making a documentary on Sachin Tendulkar.

Kapadia met Sachin, and dropped the idea.

"Some people are not very interesting. They may be great achievers but they are boring," he says, speaking generally, not specifically.

Kapadia, the youngest of five children of Gujarati-Muslim parents, grew up in Hackney, a borough of inner London. For most of his early years, he was confused about "what he was" and where he belonged. But a visit to Gujarat in his 20s was both, unsettling and comforting. Though he looked like people around him, he realised he was a Londoner. That was the city he loved, and finally felt he belonged to.

But the "outsider" in him always sought out other outsiders.

Most of Kapadia's subjects have led lives that have nourished tabloids, their genius measured and judged through headlines screaming of scandal, breakdown, public embarrassment and tragedy. And yet, his films suss out their humanity, their frailties, those stunning, scary moments before they rush headlong into disaster.

Kapadia says that he has no interest in being around people, including his genius subjects, when they are in a dark place, having a meltdown, or like Diego Maradona, his latest and last subject in the trilogy about child prodigies who struggled with fame, showing the finger to the camera and the world. And yet, it's these very things — the cracks in these formidable characters, their daunting personalities and devastating choices — that, to him, make for a compelling story.

Otherwise he can't live with them, spend years watching archival footage, home videos, talking to other people about them, looking for that one thing which forms the essence of his film. Or, as he says, puts his fingerprint on their life's story.

Kapadia's search for the kernel, the unguarded, honest moment when the fatal fall takes charge is almost Shakespearean in its devotion.

While editing 15,000 hours of footage down to 90 minutes for *Senna*, his focus was on the "reckless and angry Brazilian in Europe" who was consumed by his rivalry with Alain Prost, hatred for his sport and, some say, riding a death wish.

Amy, both prodigy and child, was eager to please, but also to shock and subvert. She craved acceptance, nurturing, tried desperately to cope with the demands of fame, struggled with drinking, bulimia, drugs, and her father. Tabloids covered it all, but they bypassed the young, insanelly talented but unhappy girl.

Apart from being outsiders, the other themes and traits that bind his three documentary characters are about how "we" — the public, the press — built "them up and rip them down". Shackling geniuses to their success, and then gawking at them as they rebel against its demands.

Fame and fortune, stalked by tragedy. In the case of *Senna* and *Amy*, yes, but not Diego Maradona. The footballer courted it all, and then trumped it all, repeatedly.

As Kapadia has been travelling the world since *Diego*

Maradona: Rebel. Hero. Hustler. God., premiered at the Cannes International Film Festival in May this year.

He has been to France, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, Holland, Argentina, USA, and was in India early this month. He was being hosted and chaperoned around by PVR Pictures which has brought his film to India.

Kapadia had just landed and was doing back-to-back press interviews. The PR ladies had promised me "at least 20 minutes", but just before being let in, I was told it'll have to be 10 minutes.

I, and our photographer, Bunny Smith, were ushered into a moodily lit lounge where Kapadia was sitting on a long sofa. I took the seat to his left, so that Bunny had a clean frame.

Though Kapadia looked jet-lagged, he was affable, articulate and attentive. But just as begins taking animatedly about *Diego Maradona*, he is distracted by the intrusion of the flash and the camera lens.

Looking at Bunny, Kapadia says, "Do you wanna, like, do a proper sit-down one afterwards or are you gonna...?"

"Are you not comfortable? If you are not, we can do it later," I say.

"Well, it depends. If it's like a, me and you talking photo, that's different to me talking."

"It's just you."

"Right. Okay. Fine. It makes me more self-conscious when I am talking to you."

Intrusions like cameras and crew, Kapadia believes, bring out the performer in people.

That's why, perhaps, for his documentaries he relies almost entirely on archival footage and home videos — there is a certain purity to them, and he tries to preserve the same purity of process and style in his filmmaking.

Kapadia believes in the integrity of the documentary, has an ethic he sticks to. And he doesn't appear in his films, and he doesn't like talking heads because, he says, that takes the audience out of the film.

"A lot of people do it very well. But... I am not a fan of that technique because I want to just forget the process..."

Kapadia couldn't interview Senna, who died in 1994. And he couldn't meet Amy either.

But Maradona he could meet, interview.

Kapadia and his crew flew to Dubai, where Maradona lives in a villa on Palm Jumeirah. "I met him, we had five minutes, shook hands, then we went away... But then they kept cancelling, saying not today, come back tomorrow, not today... I had a crew of about eight people waiting around, doing nothing for a week. It's a waste of money."

Kapadia, who says he is not interested in chasing famous people around, decided to do what he had done with *Amy* and *Senna*. "If he doesn't want to meet me, fine, I'll make the film without talking to him."

For eight months, he and his team carried on working, researching, going over the footage, interviewing people. "And then his people said, don't you want to interview him. I said ya I do, but only if he wants to talk... They said, this time he wants to talk."

But, Kapadia says, he realised that "you always have to hang around for people like him". So he decided to ditch the camera, the crew and go alone. "I'm gonna be the sound recordist. I'll bring the machine. I'm gonna keep it simple so that I don't get a performance... I didn't want a performance from Maradona. I wanted to see if I can find Diego."

Kapadia believes that if you have just one meeting with someone, and it goes badly, it is sure to impact your view of that person and reflect in your work about them. That's why, he says, he took a long time making his documentaries. "I wanted to have a more balanced feeling about the character... We are going to do all the work of finding the essence of the story so that you can watch it in two hours, and then, hopefully, you will understand everything about this person and see them in a new light," he says.

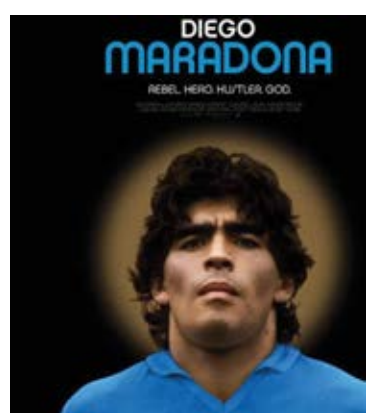
While Kapadia had some good meetings and some bad ones, "everyone is complicated", he says. Diego was great.

"We went to his house, he invited me in, we had coffee, we were on his sofa

watching TV... He was really charming and it went really well, and I said can I come back tomorrow, and he said sure. And I went the next day and he was even better. And because I met him 4-5 times, I was able to earn a little bit of trust to dig deeper and ask some of the tough questions."

Kapadia is proud of the access he got and the questions he asked.

MEETING MARADONA, FINDING DIEGO



Death and Resurrection.

In Kapadia's film, we see a young, short Argentinean man with taut, muscular thighs and a head encased by crazy curls. A footballer with nerves, endless energy, spirit, unbelievable talent and guile on the field. We don't see Diego Maradona being interviewed, but hear him in voiceover, talking of football being a "game of deceit", about that first hit of cocaine at a nightclub in Barcelona when he was 23 that made him feel "like Superman". There's Diego, the football god, legend with the best goal ever to his credit, and then there's the persona of Maradona (the footballer refers to himself as Maradona, in third person, while Kapadia refers to him as Diego) who was addicted to cocaine, had links with the Mafia, and loved flaunting accessories of the rich, from cars and fur coats to jewellery and women.

We hear commentators talk of him as a footballer who didn't have the physical advantage, and so, for him, it became a game of the mind and, at least in one epic moment, sleight of hand (the infamous "hand of God" goal at the 1986 World Cup in Mexico). Argentina's win against England at the time of the Falkland War was celebrated in Naples as if it was its own victory, but things changed with the 1990 FIFA World Cup.

July 3, 1990. Argentina versus Italy, in Naples' Stadio San Paolo. The same stadium where, on July 5, 1984, 75,000 tifosi (fans) had turned up to catch a glimpse of him.

Neapolitans, torn between supporting their idol and their country, hung up banners that read: "Diego in our hearts, Italy in our chants", "Maradona: Naples loves you, but Italy is our homeland."

But when Argentina, led by Maradona, beat Italy in the semifinals and put the host country out of the World Cup, the backlash was quick and nasty. The football god was now the "devil, Lucifer," whom Naples, and Italy, hated as much as they loved him once.

There were inquiries into his drug habits, wire-taps that revealed gory details of his sex life with prostitutes, and he tested positive for drugs that led to a ban. Eventually, the man who had arrived in Naples to thousands cheering and clamouring to catch a glimpse, left the city in disgrace in 1992, all alone.

"He goes somewhere. He's a great hero. He does something brilliant. They love him! It all goes a little bit wrong. Someone tries to control him. He says, 'Don't tell me what to do!' It ends in disaster. He leaves. He's rock bottom. His career's over. He goes somewhere else, starts again... The number of times he's been knocked down, the number of times he's literally died! And he comes back again. He's a great hero," says Kapadia.

Diego Maradona begins with the footballer who weighed 67 kg at his peak, and later, at one point, is a 130 kg sad, unrecognisable relic of himself.

Many years after he left Naples in disgrace, in Diego Maradona's honour, Napoli officially retired the No. 10 jersey.

Since Kapadia has only picked the very well-known, people who have lived their lives in full public view, he says he's always under pressure to say something new.

"Whenever I make a film, my point is to say something new about characters that people think they know. People had this image of him — he's quite a tough character to love... Now if people watch the film and say, aaaa, I knew all of that and I have seen it all before, then I suppose I have failed. But so far — *Is there any wood anywhere?* — so far even Argentinians are like, we didn't know this story. Italians are like, we thought we knew, we didn't know it. So everyone has said they have learnt something," he says.

Kapadia, however, is not sure if his pursuit of "finding Diego" has been successful. "Imagine a spectrum — I'm making a film about this guy here who is 22-23 years old. He arrives in Naples. But I am meeting this guy who is over here, he's 57 years old. He is Maradona. So in a way I almost felt like I was making a film about a different guy to the guy I was talking to."

But, Kapadia says, he caught glimpses of Diego in some unguarded moments. "I would say the most interesting thing is, he has his persona of this tough macho guy, and very Latin, and the thing I think is most interesting is that he is very vulnerable. Lost. This macho man is quite vulnerable at times."

So, has the macho, vulnerable man seen the film, I ask.

"Not that I know of. I tried... We never got to him... When I was flying here, it was shown in Argentina. So he might have. I'll find out when I check Instagram. He'll say something on Instagram."

I checked. Neither Diego, nor Maradona has yet commented on the film.

Oscar-winning director Asif Kapadia has been called a trailblazer for finding, and then reconstructing, archival footage into award-winning documentaries. Currently traveling the world with *Diego Maradona*, the latest and last in his trilogy about child prodigies who struggled with fame, he talks about the pain and glory of his subjects and filmmaking.

TENDERS / NOTICES

TAMILNAD MERCANTILE BANK LTD
(Regd. office at 57, V.E. Road, Thoothukudi)

AVADI BRANCH
Plot No. 7, G.D. Nagar Complex, 60 Feet Road, TNHB, Avadi - 600 054.

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets mortgaged / charged to the Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) and 9 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) Mrs. V. Ammalapreetha, (W/o. Mr. S. Arumugam), Flat in First Floor of G + 1 Apartment, Plot No. 57, S.No. 788/12, Alamelu Mangai Nagar, Pakkam Village, Thiruvallur District - 602 024, and Mr. S. Arumugam, (S/o. Mr. Shanmugavel), Flat in First Floor of G + 1 Apartment, Plot No. 57, S.No. 788/12, Alamelu Mangai Nagar, Pakkam Village, Thiruvallur District - 602 024, that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Limited, Avadi Branch will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 26.11.2019 for recovery of Rs. 12,98,448/- (Rupees Twelve Lakhs Ninety Eight Thousand Four Hundred Forty Eight Only) as on 30.09.2019 due to the Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Limited, Avadi Branch. The Reserve Price will be Rs. 22,50,000/- (Rupees Twenty Two Lakhs Fifty Thousand Only) and the Earnest Money Deposit will be Rs. 2,25,000/- (Rupees Two Lakhs Twenty Five Thousand Only).

Place of Submission of EMD and Auction	TAMILNAD MERCANTILE BANK LTD., Avadi Branch, Plot No. 7, G.D. Nagar Complex, 60 Feet Road, TNHB, Avadi - 600 054.
Date and Time of Auction Sale	26.11.2019 at 03:00 pm
Reserve Price	Rs. 22,50,000/- (Rupees Twenty Two Lakhs Fifty Thousand Only)

Description of the Property: UDS to the extent of 400 Sq.ft. out of 800 Sq.ft. a residential flat in First Floor and build up area to the extent of 750 Sq.ft. Plot No. 57, (Comprised in Survey No. 788/12) Patta No. 3292, Layout Named as "ALAMELU MANGAI NAGAR EXTENSION" situated in No. 86, Pakkam B Village, Thiruvallur Taluk, Thiruvallur District - 602 024, standing in the name of Mrs. Ammalapreetha. Boundaries : North by : Plot No. 56, South by : Plot No. 58, East by : 20ft Road, West by : Land in S.No. 788/10.

Terms & Conditions:

- The intending bidders should pay 10% of the reserve price of the property as Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) by means of a "Demand Draft" drawn in favour of "Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd" on or before 26.11.2019 within 03.00 P.M.
- The intending bidders may inspect and satisfy themselves about the property/properties and may approach the Branch Manager to inspect the property/documents related to the property between 10.00 A.M. and 4.00 P.M., before the auction date (Phone No. 9659410888, 044-26551035).
- The successful bidder shall have to deposit 25% of the Bid Amount (less EMD) on the same day or the next working day without fail and EMD shall be adjusted towards 25% of the bid amount immediately on the sale being knocked down in his favour. In case of default in deposit of 25% of the bid amount as stated above, the EMD will be forfeited and the property shall forthwith be sold again by public auction.
- The successful bidder shall deposit the balance 75% of the bid amount within 15 days of the sale or such extended period as agreed upon in writing by the Authorized Officer/Secured Creditor at his discretion. In case of any default in depositing the amount within the stipulated period, the deposit will be forfeited as per sub Rule (5) of Rule (9) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and the property shall be resold and the defaulting purchaser will forfeit all his/her claims to the property or to any part of the sum for which it may be subsequently sold.
- No interest shall be payable on any amount deposited for participation in the bid under the SARFESI Act.
- To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorized Officer, the properties are not subject to any encumbrance. The Authorized Officer will not be held responsible for any charge, lien, encumbrances, property tax or any other dues to the Government or anybody in respect of the property/ies under sale.
- The successful bidder should bear the charges/fee payable for conveyance such as registration fee, stamp duty etc., as applicable as per Law.
- The Authorized Officer has absolute right to accept/reject/ postpone or cancel the sale without assigning any reason, whatsoever.
- The property/properties will not be sold below the reserve price fixed above.
- The intending bidders should bring any one of the proof of identity, i.e., Aadhar card Passport, Driving license, Ration Card, Voter ID, PAN Card etc., at the time of participating the bid.
- The sale certificate shall be issued in the name of the purchaser/bidder and will not be issued in the any other name. The purchaser shall bear the stamp duty, registration charges and all other connected fees, duties, taxes etc. in relation to the execution of the sale certificate.
- The sale notice is also uploaded/published on website (www.tmb.in)

Place : Chennai
Date : 16.10.2019

Authorised Officer
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd (For Avadi Branch)
(Call: 9659410888 / 9976624444)

TAMILNAD MERCANTILE BANK LTD
(Regd. office at 57, V.E. Road, Thoothukudi)

SHOLINGANALLUR BRANCH
No. 125/1, IT Highway, Old Mahaballipuram Road, Sholinganallur, Chennai - 600 119.

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES THROUGH E-AUCTION
Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) : M/s. Win R Global, (Partners : Mr. R. Suresh Pandian and Mrs. Anithadevi Suresh), Plot No - 107, Aishwarya Flats, 3rd Cross Street, Sholinganallur, Chennai - 600 119; 2. Mr. R. Suresh Pandian, (S/o. Mr. Rajasekaran), 1st Floor, Near Padi Raja Theatre, Korattur, Chennai - 600 090; 3. Mrs. Anithadevi Suresh, (W/o. Mr. R. Suresh Pandian) Plot No - 17, Palm Springs, Uthandi, Chennai - 600 119; Plot No. 107, Aishwarya Flats, Plot No. 45, 3rd Main Road, Devaraja Nagar, Sholinganallur, Chennai - 600 119 that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Limited, Sholinganallur Branch, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 26.11.2019 for total recovery of Rs. 47,38,445.17 (Rupees Forty Seven lakhs Thirty Eight thousand Four hundred Forty Five and paise seven only) as on 30.09.2019 due to the Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Limited, Sholinganallur Branch (from the loan account of M/s. Win R Global - Rs. 37,36,485.17 and from the loan account of Mrs. Anithadevi and Mr. R. Suresh Pandian - Rs. 10,01,960/-). The reserve price will be Rs. 1,81,10,000/- (Rupees One Crore Eighty One lakhs Ten thousand only) and the earnest money deposit will be Rs. 18,11,000/- (Rupees Eighteen lakhs Eleven thousand only).

Place of Submission of EMD and Auction	TAMILNAD MERCANTILE BANK LTD., Sholinganallur Branch, Sholinganallur, Chennai - 600 119.
Date and Time of Auction Sale	26.11.2019 between 12:30 P.M. and 01:00 P.M. with auto time extension of 5 minutes each, till sale is concluded.
Reserve Price	Rs. 18,11,000/- (Rupees Eighteen lakhs Eleven Thousand Only) (10% of the upset price)
Earliest Money Deposit	Rs. 18,11,000/- (Rupees Eighteen lakhs Eleven Thousand Only) (10% of the upset price)
Last date for submission of bid form with EMD	Bid form along with Demand Draft in favour of Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd, should be submitted on or before 27.11.2019 within 06:00 pm

Other Terms & Conditions:

- The successful bidder shall have to deposit 25% of the Bid Amount (less EMD) on the same day or the next working day without fail and EMD shall be adjusted towards 25% of the bid amount immediately on the sale being knocked down in his favour. In case of default in deposit of 25% of the bid amount as stated above, the EMD will be forfeited and the property shall forthwith be sold again.
- The successful bidder shall deposit the balance 75% of the bid amount within 15 days of the sale or such extended period as agreed upon in writing by the Authorized Officer/Secured Creditor at his discretion. In case of any default in depositing the amount within the stipulated period, the deposit will be forfeited as per sub Rule (5) of Rule (9) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and the property shall be resold and the defaulting purchaser will forfeit all his/her claims to the property or to any part of the sum for which it may be subsequently sold.
- No interest shall be payable on any amount deposited for participation in the bid under the SARFESI Act.
- To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorized Officer, the properties are not subject to any encumbrance.
- The Authorized Officer will not be held responsible for any charge, lien, encumbrances, property tax or any other dues to the Government or anybody in respect of the property/ies under sale.
- The successful bidder should bear the charges/fee payable for conveyance such as registration fee, stamp duty etc., as applicable as per Law.
- The Authorized Officer has absolute right to accept/reject/ postpone or cancel the sale without assigning any reason, whatsoever.
- The property/properties will not be sold below the reserve price fixed above.
- The intending bidders should submit photo copy of any one of the proof of identity, i.e., adhar card, passport, driving license, ration card, Voter ID, PAN Card etc., along with the bid form.
- The sale certificate shall be issued in the name of the purchaser/bidder and will not be issued in the any other name. The purchaser shall bear stamp duty, registration charges and all other connected fees, duties, taxes etc. in relation to the execution of the sale certificate.
- Successful bidder/purchaser will deduct TDS @ 1% on sale proceeds as per sec 194 (A) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 & deposit the same by furnishing the Challan in Form 26QB and submit the original receipt of TDS Certificate to Bank.
- The sale notice is also uploaded / published on website (www.tmb.in)
- Note: Bid form for participating in the e-auction is available in the website <https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net>. Bidders shall hold a valid Digital Signature Certificate issued by competent authority and valid email ID (e-mail ID is absolutely necessary for the intending bidder) with regard to other relevant information and allotment of ID & password. For participating in the e-auction Contact: M/s E-Procurement Technologies Ltd, Ahmedabad, Help Line: No. 079-40230625, 826, 827, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 800; Email ID: spraveen.thevar@auctiontiger.net & tamilnadu@auctiontiger.net.

Place: Chennai
Date: 18.10.2019

Authorised Officer
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd
(For Sholinganallur Branch)



HC seeks PC's response on 63 Moons suit

Govt weighs trade curbs on Turkey and Malaysia



Overleaf

quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	38,963.84	-0.85
Nifty 50	11,588.35	-0.63
S&P 500	3,011.96	+0.17
Dollar (₹)	70.93	-0.30
Pound Sterling (₹)	91.45	-0.48
Euro (₹)	78.88	-0.23
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	38,810.50	+0.12
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	59.42	+0.78
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.700	+0.008
US 10-Yr T-bill yield	1.780	-0.012

* As of 9:30 pm IST

Strike partially impacts banking services

Some banking services such as cash deposit and withdrawal and cheque clearances were impacted in many parts of the country as employee unions of public sector banks went on a day-long strike on Tuesday to protest against bank mergers and reduction in the savings rate. Branches of public sector banks in many parts of the country were closed.

Sebi challenges SAT ruling in PwC-Satyam case



The Sebi has challenged Securities Appellate Tribunal's decision to quash a two-year ban imposed on Price Waterhouse in connection with the Rs 7,800-cr Satyam fraud, sources said. The Sebi has moved the Supreme Court against the tribunal's ruling, passed on Sept. 10. The tribunal had allowed disgorgement of Rs 13 crore auditor fee.

Lincoln Pharma gets patent for diclofenac spray

Ahmedabad-based Lincoln Pharmaceuticals said it has received Indian patent for its diclofenac rectal spray, which is used for alleviating pain from various causes. The patent has been awarded by the Government of India for "a novel liquid rectal spray dosage form containing diclofenac and its pharmaceutically active salts" valid for 20 years.

Dhanteras: Bourses extend trading hours

NSE and BSE will extend the trading session for gold exchange-traded funds and sovereign gold bonds on Friday, till 7 pm on the occasion of Dhanteras, a festival celebrated two days before Diwali. The exchanges will also conduct 'muhurat' trading session on account of Diwali Laxmi Pujan on October 27 between 6.15 pm and 7.15 pm.

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CEO and CFO have been recused as board takes up issue Infosys shares tank as Nilekani pledges probe

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD
MUMBAI, OCT. 22

Infosys shares tanked to a 10-month low and dragged the Sensex down with it on Tuesday after whistleblowers accused Chief Executive Officer Salil Parekh of attempting to shore up profits through irregular accounting.

The IT services major, which is yet to fully recover from the internal turmoil that rocked it two years ago, promptly began firefighting, with Chairman Nandan Nilekani pledging a full probe, with Parekh and Chief Financial Officer Nilanjan Roy being kept out of the investigation process. Nilekani said the complaint had been placed before the audit committee on October 10 and before the non-executive members of the board the next day.

Infosys shareholders were stunned as a whistleblower group's complaint to the company and the US Securities Exchange Commission about its unethical accounting practices knocked off 16.21 per cent of its share price value on Tuesday.

The company's 9.19 lakh shareholders lost Rs 52,922.18 crore of their accumulated share price value in a day, as the stock



opened 10 per cent lower, tracking the 12 per cent decline overnight in Infosys ADRs listed on US bourses, and later plunged 16.86 per cent to Rs 638.30 intra-day before closing at Rs 643.30 on the BSE.

A group of employees describing themselves as 'ethical' employees wrote to the Infosys Board of Directors and the US SEC alleging unethical practices by its CEO Parekh and CFO Roy in recent quarters.

The letter accused Parekh of bypassing reviews and approvals for large deals for fear of reduced profits having a negative impact on its shares and instructing sales team not to send

Law firm to file class action suit

New Delhi, Oct. 22: In mounting troubles for Infosys, US-based Rosen Law Firm has said it is preparing a class action lawsuit to recover losses suffered by investors in the wake of allegations of "unethical practices" at the IT major.

In a statement, Rosen Law Firm said it is "investigating potential

securities claims on behalf of shareholders of Infosys resulting from allegations that Infosys may have issued materially misleading business information to the investing public."

"Rosen Law Firm is preparing a class action lawsuit to recover losses suffered by Infosys investors," it said. —PTI

travel to the US and Mumbai." "We will ensure that the generalised allegations are investigated to the fullest extent. Additionally, to ensure independence in these investigations the CEO and CFO have been recused from this matter," Nilekani said.

"Because the investigation is ongoing, there will be no further comment so that investigation may be conducted in a thorough and objective manner. At the appropriate time we will provide a summary of the investigations results. The Board is committed to uphold highest standard of corporate governance and protect the interests of all stakeholders," Nilekani

added. Analyst at Emkay Global Financial Services said, "While we are not in a position to ascertain the truth of the allegations, the news flow around this may dominate investor attention in the near term and could continue to support the shift toward TCS, especially after September 2019 quarter results, despite Infosys's results being a tad better than TCS versus street expectations."

On who could be behind the so-called 'ethical' employees, Emkay Global said, "From its language and types of claims made, the letter seems to have come from employees of the finance department who are privy to the financials, accounting standards and the information prepared for board meetings/presentation. Certain sections of the street are inclined to link it to the recent resignation of deputy CFO Jayesh Sanghrajka."

In 2017, Infosys had witnessed a protracted standoff between its high profile founders and the previous management over allegations of governance lapses and issues relating to severance package doled out to former executives, including ex-CFO Rajiv Bansal.

Referring to the whistleblower issue, Nilekani said, "These complaints are being dealt with in an objective manner. The undated whistleblower complaint largely deals with allegations relating to the CEO's international

mails for approval and directing them to make wrong assumptions to show margins. Also, Roy prevents employees from highlighting issues around large deals in presentations to the company's board, the whistleblowers alleged.

Infosys in a statement to the stock exchanges said that its audit committee was examining the allegations, in line with its policy on whistleblowers.

Hiring intentions for IT skills at 3-yr low

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, OCT. 22

The hiring sentiments for IT professionals across IT companies and non-IT companies, has fallen to a three-year low as more than half of the companies surveyed were not hiring till the end of Q1 2020.

The Experis IT Employment Outlook Survey by Experis IT-ManpowerGroup India found that 52 per cent companies had no plans to hire IT professionals for the next six months.

The net employment outlook thus had fallen below 50 per cent to 47.54 per cent for the first time since the inception of the survey in Q1 2017.

In Q1 2017, the net employment outlook stood at 73 per cent—indicating willingness of 73 per cent of the responding companies to hire IT professionals. It stood at 53.41 per cent in Q2 and Q3 2019.

Of the 47.54 per cent companies that wished to hire, 22 per cent were IT services companies and another 12 per cent were

IT hardware and network companies. Other sectors like BFSI, healthcare, e-commerce, manufacturing, retail, chemical, oil and gas mining accounted for low single digit share.

Among them, small companies were cautious about the general outlook and hence accounted for just two per cent of the hiring intentions. They had 19 per cent share in the previous survey. Medium sized companies share has fallen from 24 per cent to 16 per cent.

Large companies, which are mainly large IT companies, have increased their share to 30 per cent.

According to Aditya Narayan Mishra, Director and CEO of CIEL

HR Services, edutech, food-tech, health-tech, fintech, agri-tech and e-commerce continue to strengthen their tech teams, particularly from premier institutions. Software Product Development and Application Maintenance Services are leading the demand, followed by cloud computing, finds the survey.

Survey finds that 52% companies has no plans to hire IT professionals for next six months

Walmart CEO seeks open, stable biz climate

New Delhi, Oct. 22: The world's largest retailer Walmart CEO has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking stable and open business environment that protects investments, and demanded a cut in licenses and time required to open a store in India.

Doug McMillon, in the two-page letter dated October 11, also raised data privacy and localisation

requirement, and wanted corporations to be allowed to transfer customer data across borders.

"A stable, welcoming regulatory environment will allow us to continue to invest in creating more jobs and building infrastructure that benefits the Indian suppliers and customers," he wrote.

Recalling his meeting with Modi during the Prime Minister's US trip



Doug McMillon

last month, McMillon said Walmart was committed to investing in India and rising sourcing from the coun-

try for its global operations.

After investing \$16 billion to acquire India's largest e-commerce, Walmart-owned Flipkart and other online retailers were forced to overhaul their business model in line with changed rules governing foreign direct investment.

Reacting to the letter, domestic retailers body Confederation of All India Traders (Cait) termed the

Walmart letter as "a pressure tactics".

McMillon said high numbers of overlapping permits are a challenge in the retail sector.

"On average, we currently need more than 45 permits and three years to open a new Best Price store. This is significantly longer than it takes in the US and many markets in which we operate." —PTI

Teen does a Thunberg on Amazon

New Delhi, Oct. 22: A 16-year-old boy has approached the National Green Tribunal to stop e-commerce giants Amazon and Flipkart from excessive plastic use in packaging, prompting the panel to direct the Central Pollution Control Board on Tuesday to submit a report on the matter within a month.

Aditya Dubey, through his legal guardian, has pleaded the NGT to direct Amazon and Flipkart to stop excessive use of plastics in packaging goods delivered by the firms.

"The e-commerce companies are covered under the Plastic Waste

Management Rules, 2016. But due to a lack of monitoring and implementation, the respondents continue to use excessive amounts of plastic in wrapping and packaging their sold items," said the plea filed through advocates Meenesh Dubey and Divya Prakash Pande.

Dubey's plea contended that the companies deliver items in cardboard boxes, which are too large when compared to the size of the items being delivered. "To ensure that the sold items do not move around in the out-sized boxes, they wrap the items in multiple layers of plastic sheets and plastic bubble

wraps and thereafter fill the large empty spaces in the boxes with additional sheets of single-use plastic," it said.

A bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel posted the matter for hearing on January 3, 2020.

The plea also said that though the home-delivery service of e-commerce companies have been useful for consumers, they have given rise to serious environmental challenges due to excessive use of plastics in packaging.

Once goods are delivered, the plastic waste is thrown away in garbage and it ends up at landfill

sites, leading to a burden on the earth and damaging the environment, it said.

"Single-use plastic has emerged as one of the biggest environmental challenges for our planet. It is cheap, useful, ubiquitous and very deadly. The fact that it's non-biodegradable and is recycled in very small percentages means that our planet is with passage of time is becoming a big dumping ground for single use plastic. Single-use plastic breaks down into smaller fragments known as microplastics and then contaminates soil and water," the petition said. —PTI

Diaper: A \$9 bn market no one wants to talk about

RICHA NAIDU & RITSUKO ANDO
CHICAGO/TOKYO, OCT. 22

The time may not be far off when more adults need diapers than babies as the population grows older, potentially a huge opportunity for manufacturers of incontinence products—if they can lift the stigma that has long constrained sales.

The market for adult diapers, disposable underwear and absorbent pads is growing fast, up 9 per cent last year to \$9 billion, having doubled in the last decade, according to Euromonitor.

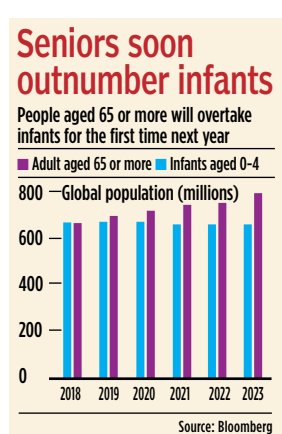
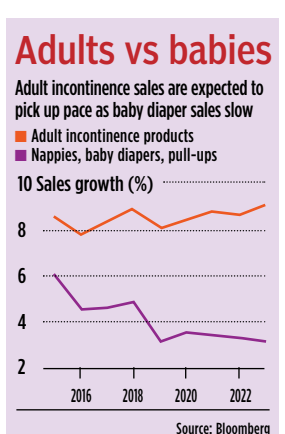
But manufacturers like market leaders Essity and Kimberly-Clark Corp reckon only half of the more

than 400 million adults likely to be affected by weak bladders, are buying the right products, because they are too embarrassed.

Companies are trying various methods to change attitudes, including making products more discreet, avoiding terms like diapers or nappies, and placing items in the personal care aisle, next to deodorants and menstrual pads, rather than in the baby products section.

They are also trying to normalise discussions around the subject through advertising.

In Japan, where adult incontinence products have outsold baby diaper sales since around 2013 due to a rapidly ageing popula-



tion, market leader Unicharm has adopted the phrase "choi more" in its advertising, which translates as "lil' dribble", to

make light of the problem. In the US, market leader Kimberly-Clark has this year given its 35-year-old Depend brand a makeover,

introducing thinner, softer and more fitted products that can be worn discreetly, in an effort to make them more acceptable.

Still it is difficult for companies to persuade people to buy specially made incontinence products.

"People keep the fact that they have incontinence secret from their loved ones, from their husbands, brothers and sisters—this is a deep secret for many consumers," said Fiona Tomlin, who leads Kimberly-Clark's adult and feminine care division.

Manufacturers have been particularly keen to win over women, who are more than twice as likely as men to experience bladder weakness, due to child-

birth. Kimberly-Clark's Poise brand is aimed at younger women like Ellie Foster, a 31-year-old from Maine, who has struggled with leaks since having her first child a year-and-a-half ago but is too embarrassed to buy products that might help her. "It was definitely weird picking out adult diapers to wear," said Foster. "You feel like you're in the old lady section."

Sweden's Essity, the global leader, is also trying to reach a younger audience with its TENA brand and a new line of black, low-rise disposable underwear called Silho-ette Noir. The ad's tagline reads: "secret's out: 1 in 3 women have incontinence". —Reuters

Thomas Cook India in talks for buying out brand

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, OCT. 22

Thomas Cook India is negotiating with the liquidator of its global namesake to buy out the brand.

Post the collapse of London-based Thomas Cook Group Plc, Thomas Cook India is exploring ways to retain its brand identity. "We have two options. We can either get the brand forever from the liquidator or go for a new brand after the tenure to use the current one ceases," said Rajeev Kale, President and Country Head - Holidays, MICE & Visa, Thomas Cook India.

The Indian entity was acquired by Fairfax Financial Holdings in 2012 and since then it has remained independent. Thomas Cook India has the right to use the brand in the Indian market till 2024.

"We have established our brand identity in the market and have been doing well for the past two decades. We also have a first-making business model. Hence, we are currently exploring the other option of buying the brand from the liquidator," said Kale.

Thomas Cook India



hopes to arrive at the right pricing for the brand during the negotiations with the liquidator. "After the collapse of the Plc, the price can be anything," added Kale. If all goes well, the process could get over in 6 to 12 months.

According to him, the collapse only has a minuscule impact on the inbound business of TCI, which is part of Thomas Cook India. As Thomas Cook India has been largely focusing on domestic travel and outbound travel, there has not been any impact of the collapse on these businesses, he claimed.

Overall, the company expects growth in this season. "It is not the slow-down, but the sentiments that have affected the market. We grew by 25 per cent last season and we hope to grow this time too. There were a few challenges," he said.

Mahindra opens all-women workshop

MICHAEL GONSALVES
PUNE, OCT. 22

Mahindra & Mahindra, India's biggest utility vehicles maker, has opened country's first all-women-run automobile service workshop in Jaipur to promote recruitment of women in core productive roles across the company's automobile workshops.

Run by a team of nine women, the facility, called Compact Qwik (CQ) outlet, is a Mahindra authorised two-bay workshop.

Owned and operated by Kalyan Motors, Mahindra's channel partner in Jaipur, the CQ outlet is now run by a team of women in roles such as technicians, service advisers, drivers, part managers and security guards.

"At Mahindra, we are delighted to inaugurate India's first ever automobile workshop powered entirely by women," Veejay Ram Nakra, Chief of Sales and Marketing, Automotive Division at Mahindra & Mahindra, said.

Terming the initiative "Pink Collars", he said the company aims to skill and empower more women, which will result in a gender-diverse and inclusive workforce.

OPENING BELL
PROJECTION FOR TODAY

Bourses halt 6-day rising streak

Domestic equities took a pause after a six-session winning run on Tuesday, with IT major Infosys' shares crashing following allegations of "unethical practices" against the company's chief executive.

The BSE gauge Sensex closed 334.54 points, or 0.85 per cent, lower at 38,963.84. It hit an intraday low of 38,924.85 and a high of 39,426.47.

The broader NSE Nifty too tumbled 73.50 points, or 0.63 per cent, to settle at 11,588.35.

In the broader market, BSE Mid-Cap Index slipped 0.09 per cent, while the Small-Cap Index rose 0.48 per cent.

ICICI Bank provided the biggest boost to the Sensex and had the largest gain, advancing 3.1 per cent.

S&P BSE Information Technology Index declined over 7 per cent, its sharpest decline since April 2013.

Tuesday's top losers were Tata Motors, Bharti Airtel, HCL Tech and Bajaj Finance, shedding up to 3.51 per cent.

Among the major gainers were ICICI Bank, Sun Pharma, Bajaj Auto, HUL and HDFC, rising up to 3.06 per cent.

Sectorally, BSE IT and tech suffered a major blow due to Infosys crisis — losing as much as 7 per cent. Telecom, metal and auto were among the other sectoral losers.

On the other hand, BSE healthcare, FMCG, bank-ex, finance, oil and gas, FMCG and realty indices rose up to 1.56 per cent.

Technical View

Deepak Jasani, Head — Retail Research, HDFC Securities said, "Market correct ed sharply on Tuesday after six consecutive session s of gains. Weakness in IT major Infosys due to an anonymous whistleblower complaint was a major cause for the fall in market. Selling pressure in Bajaj Finance and Bharti Airtel also weighed on key indices."

"Technically, while the Nifty has corrected, the short term uptrend still remains intact, the Index can now hold above immediate support s of 11,568; else a further correction is likely," Jasani said.

Market View

Naveen Kulkarni, Analyst — Reliance Securities said, "We expect the Infosys whistleblower complaint to be negative for market sentiment. We await developments on the investigation as corporate governance issues are serious."

Arya Sen & Ankur Pant, Analysts — Jefferies India said, "The issue (Infosys complaint) is likely to remain an overhang on the stock in the near-term given it raises questions over the credibility of the current management."

At \$12 billion in the fiscal year that ended in March, Infosys revenue is nowhere close to Sikk's 2020 target of \$20 billion. An operating margin of less than 23 per cent was lower than the near 26 per cent at TCS, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

After a period of rehabilitation, Infosys should be able to deliver all three targets: sales growth, margins and good governance. Some private time could be just what it needs to get fixed.

Axis Bank posts ₹112-cr net loss

FALAKNAAZ SYED
MUMBAI, OCT. 22

Private lender Axis Bank on Tuesday reported a net loss of Rs 112.08 crore in the second quarter ended September 30, 2019 due to one-time adjustment of deferred tax assets as it chose to take the benefit of the reduction in corporate tax rates. The net profit during the same quarter of last year was Rs 790 crore.

The bank's operating profit grew 45 per cent YoY to Rs 5,952 crore from Rs 4,094 crore in Q2FY19. Profit before tax grew 109 per cent YoY to Rs 2,433 crore as compared to Rs 1,167 crore in the same quarter of last year.

"The one-off impact for the bank, from a DTA (deferred tax assets) perspective, due to a change in corporate tax rate, has been Rs 2,138 crore. It has been fully adjusted through Q2FY20 financials, which has impacted the earnings significantly. Ex of this extraordinary item, profit after tax would have been Rs 2,026 crore, up 157 per cent YoY," Axis Bank said.

The bank's total income rose to Rs 19,334 crore in Q2 of FY20 from Rs 15,959 crore in Q2 FY19. The net interest income grew by 17 per cent to Rs 6,102 crore from Rs 5,232 crore in Q2 FY19 while net interest margin for Q2 FY20 improved by 11 basis points to 3.5 per cent due to an improvement in spread.

Slippages remained elevated at Rs 4983 crore, of which Rs 2,862 crore of slippages were from the corporate segment while the retail slippages were around Rs 490 crore, while almost equal amount of slippages were from the SME segment. Further 97 per cent of the corporate slippages were from the BB and below rated book.

The overall BB & below book has come down to Rs 6,291 crore versus Rs 7,504 crore QoQ, which is a healthy sign. Reduction in

BoM Q2 net profit jumps over four-fold

New Delhi, Oct. 22: Bank of Maharashtra said its net profit jumped over four-fold to Rs 114.66 crore in second quarter ended September 30, due to fall in bad loan proportion leading to decreased provisioning requirement.

The bank had registered a net profit of Rs 27 crore in July-September quarter of the previous fiscal.

Total income of the bank rose to Rs 3,295.91 crore, as against Rs 3,192.80 crore in same period of last year, the bank said.

Asset quality of the bank witnessed improvement with the gross non-performing assets (NPAs) coming down to 16.86 per cent of the gross advances from 18.64 per cent as on September end, 2018.

In absolute value, the gross NPAs were of Rs 15,408.51 crore, down from Rs 16,872.84 crore. The net NPAs or bad loans were also trimmed to 5.48 per cent (Rs 4,406.56 crore) from 10.61 per cent (Rs 8,742.86 crore).

BB & below book brought a sense of relief to investors. However, the Bank's Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer

Amritabh Chaudhry during a concall with the media said that the bank remains cautious on the slippages front as the macro environment remains challenging.

Advances growth picked up to 14.4 per cent. Domestic loans grew by 19 per cent and retail loans grew by 23 per cent. Deposits grew by healthy 21.7 per cent and CASA stood at 41 per cent.

Bloomberg had estimated its net profit at Rs 1,434 crore. Net interest income increased 48 per cent YoY to Rs 3,999 crore in the second quarter, with assets under management growth of 38 per cent at Rs 1.35 lakh crore YoY.

The non-banking finance company said new loans increased 23 per cent YoY to 64.7 lakh in September quarter.

Its asset quality was also largely stable with gross non-performing assets as a percentage of gross advances at 1.61 per cent for the quarter.

Analysts tracked by

Tariff, non-tariff measures mooted over Kashmir stance Govt weighs trade curbs on Turkey and Malaysia

VRISHTI BENIWAL
OCT. 22

India is considering placing curbs on some imports from Turkey and Malaysia, in response to their leaders' comments on the autonomy of Kashmir, people familiar with the matter said.

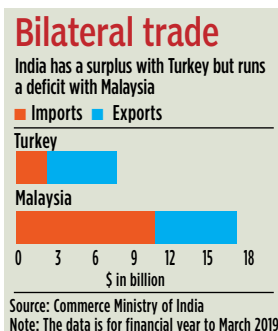
Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government is exploring the possibility of both tariff and non-tariff measures to limit import of goods from the two countries, the people said, asking not to be identified as a final decision is yet to be taken. The options include stringent quality tests and a safeguard tax in addition to existing levies, they said.

While India's bilateral trade with the two was only 2.9 per cent of its total in the fiscal year ended March 31, New Delhi enjoys a trade surplus with Turkey and runs a deficit with Malaysia on account of its reliance on imported palm oil. Futures in Kuala Lumpur fell on Tuesday after an influential Indian processors' group asked its members to refrain from buying the tropical oil from the second-largest producer.

Spokespersons for India's Finance and Commerce Ministries couldn't immediately be reached for a comment.

India last month increased customs duty on refined palm oil import from Malaysia by 5 per cent for six months as a measure to safeguard the domestic industry. The duty could be further increased, the people said.

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad on Tuesday said the country won't bring the palm oil issue with India to the World Trade Organization "at the moment" and he won't retract his comments claiming India had "invaded and occupied" Kashmir.



SEA says oil being re-routed

RAJENDRA JADHAV
MUMBAI, OCT. 22

The Solvent Extractors' Association of India called on Tuesday for the government to close a South Asian regional free-trade pact loophole it said had been used to circumvent tax by re-routing palm oil and soy-oil imports through Nepal and Bangladesh.

SEA said traders were sourcing palm oil and soyoil from Nepal and Bangladesh under South Asian Free Trade Agreement (Safta), even though both rely on imports from other countries.

"The palmolein being imported from Nepal is of Indonesian and Malaysian origin and soybean oil is of South American, routed through Nepal or Bangladesh ... for getting the duty exemption for such imports," it said.

— Reuters

Modi separately cancelled a planned visit to Ankara this year to show displeasure over Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's comments over Kashmir at

Mahathir stands by J&K comments

JOSEPH SIPALAN
KUALA LUMPUR, OCT. 22

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said on Tuesday he would not retract his criticism of New Delhi's actions in the disputed region of Kashmir even though Indian traders have urged a boycott of Malaysian palm oil.

The impasse could exacerbate what Mahathir described as a trade war between the world's second biggest producer and exporter of the commodity and its biggest buyer so far this year.

India's top vegetable oil trade body on Monday asked its members to stop buying Malaysian palm oil after Mahathir said at the UN General Assembly last month that India had "invaded and occupied" Kashmir.

"We speak our minds, and we don't retract or change," Mahathir told reporters outside parliament. "What we are saying is we should all abide by resolutions of the (UN). Otherwise, what is the use of the UN?"

The UN Security Council adopted several resolutions here in 1948 and in the 1950s on the dispute between India and Pakistan over Kashmir,

including one which says a plebiscite should be held to determine the future of the region.

Mahathir said Malaysia would study the impact of the boycott called by the Mumbai-based Solvent Extractors' Association of India and look at ways to address the issue.

New Delhi has so far refused to comment on the trade spat. "This is not the Indian government, so we have to find out how we can communicate with these people, because trade is a two-way thing and it is bad to have what amounts to a trade war," Mahathir said.

In a separate statement, Malaysia's Primary Industries Minister Teresa Kok said the country viewed the call for a boycott with "great concern."

The underlying sentiment tied to the association's decision was understood, but it was seen as a major setback in cooperation and working relations between the two countries, she said.

"I urge (the Solvent Extractors' Association of India) to not take such decisions unilaterally and allow both governments to resolve the current situation," Kok said.

— Reuters

the United Nations General Assembly. Erdogan had urged India to hold talks with Pakistan over the disputed region following Modi's August decision to

revoke autonomy in the Muslim-majority state. Key imports from Turkey are mineral fuels and oils, nuclear reactors and salt.

— Bloomberg

Telcos pay DoT over ₹4500 cr in spectrum dues

New Delhi, Oct. 22: Private telecom operators Reliance Jio, Vodafone Idea and Bharti Airtel have paid the Telecom Department over Rs 4,500 crore in spectrum dues in the last three to four days, according to sources.

Sources said that the payments came in before the due date. The sparring telcos — some of which are reeling under acute financial stress and are seeking immediate relief measures — have made the payment towards deferred spectrum liability (or instalment payment for radiowaves bought in past auctions) which fell due on October 21.

While Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Jio has paid Rs 1,133 crore to the Department of Telecom, Vodafone Idea has made Rs 2,421 crore payment towards spectrum dues. Sunil Mittal's Bharti Airtel has paid Rs 977 crore. Taken together, these three players have paid over Rs 4,531 crore towards spectrum dues late last week.

— PTI

HC extends HDIL promoters' ED custody till Oct 24

Mumbai, Oct. 22: A Mumbai court on Tuesday extended the ED custody of HDIL promoters Rakesh Wadhawan and his son Sarang Wadhawan, arrested in connection with Rs 4,355 crore Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank scam, till October 24.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) produced Housing Development Infrastructure's (HDIL) Chairman and Managing Director Rakesh Wadhawan and his son before special Prevention of Money Laundering Act court judge P Rajvaidya, after their remand ended on Tuesday.

It sought further custody of the father-son duo to probe them further in connection with the scam. The probing agency's counsel Kavita Patil said the accused played a crucial role in laundering huge amount of money and were concealing material from investigation.

The money trail of proceeds received from the bank and properties derived from the same were yet to be ascertained, the ED said.

— PTI

Single window for foreign investors soon

New Delhi, Oct. 22: The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) is planning to set up a single window system to handhold foreign investors keen to invest in India, an official said.

The single-window system is likely to have representatives from both the Centre and state governments, the official said. The system will help in getting all relevant approvals and clearances required by foreign investors. A proposal regarding this was prepared by the department.

DPIIT Secretary Gurusprasad Mohapatra said that the proposal was being sent to Commerce & Industry Minister Piyush Goyal for approval. Mohapatra said the new mechanism will help in all approvals and clearances that a company requires to set up a plant in state, district or town.

The government is taking a series of steps to attract FDI. It has liberalised norms in several sectors such as single brand retail trading, coal mining, insurance and contract manufacturing.

— PTI

Muthoot raises \$450 mn in dollar-debt

Mumbai, Oct. 22: Largest gold loan financier Muthoot Finance has raised \$450 million through its maiden three-year dollar bond sale, offering an annual coupon of 6.125 per cent.

This is also the first instance of a gold loan company from the country tapping the dollar debt market.

The Reg S issue (which are meant for only non-resident US investors) has received an orderbook of over \$1.2 billion from 117 accounts, with the maximum investor interest coming in from the US (35 per cent), followed by Europe and Middle East (28 per cent each) and 27 per cent from Asians, the company said.

"The response to our debut international bond issue reiterates the robustness and long-track record of our gold loan business and is also a recognition of the country's retail credit story," Muthoot Finance Promoter and Chairman M. G. George Muthoot said.

The proceeds will be used for onward-lending in accordance with RBI's ECB guidelines and other applicable laws, he added. Muthoot said the fund will enable the Kerala-based company to further diversify and strengthen funding source.

— PTI

HC seeks PC's response on 63 Moons suit

Mumbai, Oct. 22: The Bombay High Court on Tuesday directed former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram and two senior bureaucrats to file their affidavits in response to a suit by 63 Moons technology company seeking Rs 10,000 crore in damages.

Justice A. K. Menon directed Chidambaram and bureaucrats — K. P. Krishnan and Ramesh Abhishek — to file their affidavits within eight weeks.

63 Moons technologies, previously known as Financial Technologies, filed the suit on June 12 accusing them of taking "malicious and malafide" action against it



P. Chidambaram

in connection with the Rs 5,600 crore NSEL scam during Chidambaram's tenure as Finance Minister.

While Krishnan was then Secretary in the Ministry of Skill Development, Ramesh Abhishek was then Chairman of the Forward Markets Commission.

— PTI

M&A deal value drops more than half in Sept qtr

FC BUREAU
CHENNAI, OCT. 22

The gloomy macro-economic sentiments continued to reflect in the merger and acquisition space in Q3 2019. M&A deals witnessed a sharp fall of deal value in September quarter by more than half over the same quarter last year as cross-border deals suffered a major hit.

September quarter recorded 97 deals with an aggregate value of \$6,025 million against 134 deals worth \$13,185 million in the same quarter last year — down by 54 per cent in value terms and 28 per cent down volume-wise, finds Grant

Thornton's quarterly M&A Dealtracker.

Cross-border deals declined by 70 per cent as the deal value fell from \$10826 million in Q3 of last year to \$3154 million during last quarter. Deal volumes remained more or less similar. Absence of big ticket deals led to sharp decline in deal value. Among cross border deals, outbound deal value was down by 98 per cent from \$8388 million to \$147 million.

"Despite the government's effort to revive sentiments, market performance remained muted due to global and domestic growth concerns. There was a steep decline in



the M&A deal activity in Q3 2019 with total values dropping by more than half as compared to Q3 2018, largely driven by a 71 per cent fall in cross-border deal values," said Pankaj Chopda, Director, Grant

Thornton India.

The sluggishness was experienced in the previous quarters as well. Overall year-to-date deal activity continued to witness weak performance both in terms of deal volumes and values as compared to 2017 and 2018. M&A deal activity in YTD 2019 recorded a 70 per cent fall in the deal values on account of absence of high-value deals compared to YTD 2018 and 12 per cent fall in deal volumes.

Manufacturing, energy, start up, pharma, banking, IT, infra and e-commerce sectors led the deal value in YTD 2019, capturing 90 per cent of the total overall deal values.

Infosys may need some private time to fix itself

ANDY MUKHERJEE

India's best-known software exporter is facing an impossible trinity of sorts: Out of sales, margins and governance, Infosys can hit only two goals at a time.

Or so it would appear from yet-to-be-proven whistleblower allegations against Chief Executive Officer Salil Parekh and Chief Financial Officer Nilanjan Roy that they used hyper-aggressive accounting practices to hide from investors the lack of profitability on large deals. The stock tanked as much as 16

per cent in Mumbai after the letter was published by the Deccan Herald.

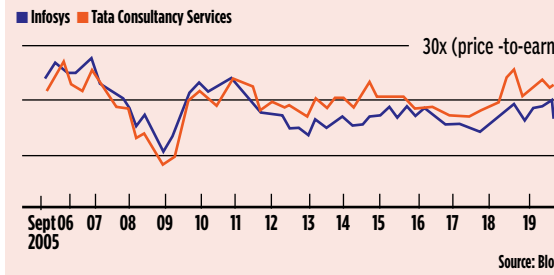
It's a deja vu moment for Co-Founder and Non-Executive Chairman Nandan Nilekani, who returned to the Bangalore-based company two years ago during a previous crisis — sparked by a set

of different anonymous charges against Parekh's predecessor, the former SAP Executive Vishal Sikka, who was accused of impropriety in a \$200 million acquisition in Israel.

That scandal culminated in an unseemly spat

Mind the valuation gap

Governance has become an Achilles' heel for Infosys. Fresh whistleblower allegations caused the stock to crater, widening the discount against its rival



between Sikka and the board on one side and N. R. Narayana Murthy, another of the company's Co-Founders, on the other.

Sikka resigned in August 2017. The new board exonerated him, but by then the damage was done. It's been a slow road to

recovery. At a one-year-forward price-to-earnings multiple of 20 times at the end of September, Infosys's valuation is now almost 50 per cent higher than at the depth of the last crisis. The risk is of a repeat of that slump.

If investors start to believe that the culture at the software services provider, once seen as India's most transparent company, is beyond redemption, expect a durable deepening of the 10 per cent discount at which Infosys traded against larger rival Tata Consultancy Services, or TCS, at the end of last month. Since the company's American depository

receipts trade in New York, there's also the threat of expensive class-action suits.

The allegations are being evaluated by the audit committee and the board. The CEO and the CFO won't be a part of those deliberations. Whatever the truth of the whistleblower's complaints, another protracted governance saga could be just as damaging.

It might not be a bad idea for a buyout fund to step in and take Infosys out of the glare of the public markets. As a private company, it could rediscover its moorings and find a new purpose in a digital world where clients increasingly want

nimble, cloud-based, on-demand software, rather than clunky, on-premise enterprise solutions.

At \$12 billion in the fiscal year that ended in March, Infosys revenue is nowhere close to Sikk's 2020 target of \$20 billion. An operating margin of less than 23 per cent was lower than the near 26 per cent at TCS, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

After a period of rehabilitation, Infosys should be able to deliver all three targets: sales growth, margins and good governance. Some private time could be just what it needs to get fixed.

— Bloomberg

SHORT TAKES

SAMSUNG, UAE FUND QUANTUM COMPUTING FIRM

San Francisco, Oct. 22: US quantum computing startup IonQ said on Tuesday it raised \$55 million in a funding round that was led by venture funds backed by Samsung Electronics and the government of the United Arab Emirates.

With the investments from Samsung Catalyst Fund and Mubadala Capital, Maryland-based IonQ said its total funds raised to date reached \$77 million. The company didn't disclose its valuation.

Researchers believe quantum computers could operate millions of times faster than today's advanced supercomputers, making potential tasks ranging from mapping complex molecular structures and chemical reactions to boosting the power of artificial intelligence possible.

Google, IBM and Microsoft have all either made investments or launched research projects around quantum computing.

IonQ already has 4 quantum computers, each the size of four regular refrigerators operating in Maryland, and rents out time on them to academics and businesses. Unlike some of its competitors that need to keep the environment around the quantum computer at absolute zero, IonQ's computers operate in room temperature, said CEO Peter Chapman.

Chapman said most of IonQ's quantum computer parts are commonly available off-the-shelf, which helps to keep the cost down. The high costs associated with building quantum computers, along with the cold environment they generally need, have been a challenge in making them a profitable business. "I like to joke that Amazon delivers most of the parts for us," Chapman said.

S11 MAY NOT GET IN-DISPLAY CAMERA

DC CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, OCT. 22

Korea based Smartphone manufacturer Samsung is reportedly set to launch the its first phone to feature an in-display fingerprint sensor next year. The new design will further help the brand to clear up their already minimal front-face and could perfect their all-display design.

The information comes from trusted leaker Ice Universe on twitter. The tweet stating the fact also mentioned that the new phone won't be either the flagship galaxy S11 or the Galaxy Fold 2. This points to the new phone being either a completely new series, an A series device, or the most probable - The next Note series phone.

The technology of under-display cameras has already been showcased by brands Xiaomi and OPPO, both of which already have working prototypes of the tech.

FB, AWS TEAM UP TO FIGHT DEEPFAKES

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, OCT. 22

In a rare move for tech giants, Amazon Web Services will team up with Facebook to fight deepfakes that is about to become a nuisance in cyberspace.

Amazon Web Services is joining the Deepfake Detection Challenge as both a technical partner and as a member of the committee overseeing the challenge. It'll offer machine learning experts for "technical support and guidance," and will offer \$1 million in AWS credits to teams that need cloud services to complete their detection work.

Meanwhile, Twitter promises to introduce new policy to fight deepfakes, especially when they could "threaten someone's physical safety or lead to offline harm."

The social network has announced that it's working on created rules to address what it calls "synthetic and manipulated media" posted on its website. Photos, videos, and audio that had been significantly altered to fabricate events that never happened fall under that classification.

NordVPN reveals breach

Customers' browsing habits was exposed due to breach

DC CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs HYDERABAD, OCT. 22



Popular VPN service provider, NordVPN, disclosed that one of its servers was breached back in March 2018 in a blogpost after security researchers started to circulate the details of the breach over the weekend. *The Verge* reported on Tuesday.

According to the report, the company said that the browsing habits of cus-

tomers using its service to keep their data private was exposed following the breach.

The company, however, assured that the breached server, which was located in Finland, did not con-

tain any activity logs, usernames, or passwords, but the attacker would have been able to see what websites users were visiting during that time.

NordVPN, which has been spending huge amounts on money on advertising over the last few years, said it had known about the breach for "a few months," but did not immediately disclose the problem because the company wanted to audit the rest of its systems.

The flaw was limited to a single server, NordVPN said in a blogpost.

The data center installed a remote access system on the server, without telling the VPN provider, and that system was insecure, allowing an outsider to gain access, according to the blog post. The server was vulnerable between January 31st, 2018 and March 20th, 2018, but NordVPN believes it was only breached once, during March.

Facebook set to label fake news better ahead of polls

San Francisco, Oct. 22:

Facebook has announced steps to combat misinformation and voter suppression ahead of the November 2020 US presidential election, on the same day it disclosed the removal of a network of Russian accounts targeting US voters on Instagram.

Facebook said on Monday it would increase transparency through measures such as showing more information about the confirmed owner of a Facebook page and more prominently labeling content that independent fact-checkers have marked as false.

The social media giant has come under fire in recent weeks over its policy of exempting ads run by politicians from fact-checking, drawing ire from Democratic presidential candidates Joe Biden and Elizabeth Warren.

Last week, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg defended the policy, saying social media had introduced transformative avenues for speech that should not be shut down.

That same day, the Biden campaign called for the removal of an ad run by a super PAC campaign group, not a politician, that it said contained false claims about the former vice president.



On Monday, Facebook said it would be putting into effect its planned ban on paid ads that tell people in the US not to vote.

Katie Harbath, Facebook's head of global elections policy, said in response that if the now inactive ad ran again, it would be sent to Facebook's third-party fact-checkers.

On Monday, Facebook said it would be putting into effect its planned ban on paid ads that tell people in the United States not to vote. Zuckerberg told reporters on a conference call that the ban on voter misinformation would also apply to ads run by politicians.

The company will start labeling state-controlled media on its page and in the site's ad library. In a

blog post, Facebook said it planned to expand this labeling to specific posts on both Facebook and Instagram early next year.

Facebook, Twitter and YouTube, all recently came under scrutiny after showing ads from Chinese state-controlled media that criticised Hong Kong protesters.

This month, the Senate committee investigating Russian interference in the 2016 US election said that the Kremlin's best-known propaganda arm increased its social media activity after that vote. "The bottom line here is that elections have changed significantly since 2016 and Facebook has changed too," Zuckerberg said on Monday. "We face increasingly sophisticated attacks from nation states like Russia, Iran and China, but I'm confident we're more prepared."

Theories that China has interfered in US elections are absurd and laughable, said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying at a regular press briefing in Beijing on Tuesday.

If someone says China interfered in the US election, they should provide proof, said Hua. China has never had any interest in interfering with other countries' internal affairs, she said.

MS REVEALS SECURED-CORE PC FEATURE

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, OCT. 22

With data breaches and cyber attacks becoming a regular thing, Microsoft, in an attempt to protect the firmware from potential hackers, unveiled the 'Secured-core PC' feature that will boost the security of Windows PCs.

The feature is aimed to put an end to the trend among hackers to target the PC as hackers, usually, are getting to access to the hardware even before Windows loads. Thus, such attacks are hard to detect for anti-virus software.

Moreover, even if the users wipes the hard drive and reinstalls Windows, it wouldn't be enough to get rid of the malware.

In a blogpost, the tech giant, which has teamed up with the likes of AMD, Intel, Qualcomm and device makers to create the Secured-core PC initiative, said, "Recent developments in security research and real-world attacks demonstrate that as more protections are proactively built into the OS and in connected services, attackers are looking for other avenues of exploitation with firmware emerging as a top target."

CYBERCRIMINALS LOVE CELEBRITY TOO

CYBERSECURITY FIRM MCAFEE ON TUESDAY SAID SEARCHING FOR M.S. DHONI HAS THE HIGHEST POSSIBILITY OF TAKING USERS TO MALICIOUS WEBSITES

Netizens often look for free and pirated content such as major sports events, movies, TV shows, and images of their favourite superstars. Unfortunately, they may not be fully aware of the risks that malicious websites providing such content can pose in exchange for this access, Venkat Krishnapur its managing director for India, said.



Mr Krishnapur added the ease of access through multiple devices has also made it easy for the users to go on various websites to look for content they want.

In what should cause concern, it said as the young, digital native population continues to spend more time online due to cheaper data and smart devices, they will continue to remain soft targets for cybercriminals who thrive on such user behavior.

It has advised users to be careful on what they click, wait for the official release of content on safe websites rather than opting for third party ones, refrain from using illegal streaming sites, and use widely available security products to save themselves.

Bytedance takes down accounts sharing ISIS videos on TikTok

Beijing, Oct. 22: Social media app TikTok has taken down accounts that were posting propaganda videos for the Islamic State group, a company employee said Tuesday, in the latest scandal to hit the popular platform.



TikTok, which is owned by Chinese firm ByteDance, claimed some 500 million users globally last year, making it one of the most popular social apps.

An employee at TikTok told AFP that about 10 accounts were removed for posting the videos. "Only one of those videos even had views that reached into double digits before being taken down," said the staffer, who declined to be named.

The videos featured corpses being paraded through streets and Islamic State fighters with guns, according to the *Wall Street Journal*, which first reported the story on Monday.

WSJ said the posts were from about two dozen accounts, which were identified by social media intelligence company Storyful.

An employee at TikTok told about 10 accounts were removed for posting the videos.

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The Islamic State's self-declared "caliphate" in Iraq and Syria fell in March, but the group remains active in several

countries in the Middle East, Africa and Asia, as well as still inspiring jihadists through an online presence.

The TikTok platform, which allows users to create and share videos of 15 seconds, is particularly popular with teenagers.

"Unlike other platforms, which are centred around users' friends or communities, TikTok is based on engaging with a never-ending stream of new content," said Darren Davidson, the editor-in-chief of Storyful.

"The Isis postings violate TikTok's policies, but the sheer volume of content makes it difficult for TikTok to police their platform and root out these videos," he said.

The app has been marred by controversy in recent months.

In April, TikTok was briefly banned by an Indian court over claims it was promoting pornography among children.

The app is banned in neighbouring Bangladesh and was hit with an enormous fine in the United States for illegally collecting information from children. The company has refuted the allegations, saying they abide by local privacy laws.

ByteDance has a version of TikTok in China called Douyin.

AIR TAXI STARTUP SET TO EXPAND PRODUCTION



A prototype flying taxi has achieved speeds in excess of 100 km/h (62 mph), its German developer Lilium said on Tuesday, giving it confidence to expand production capacity ahead of a planned commercial launch in 2025.

Munich-based Lilium is one of a clutch of startups working on battery-powered aircraft that can take off vertically, potentially sparing future travellers the hassle of an airport check-in or delays due to road traffic.

The company has completed a first manufacturing facility in Munich, with a second under construction that will enable it to make hundreds of craft a year by the middle of the next decade.

Lilium is meanwhile working with European flight safety regulators to get the aircraft certified - a prerequisite for commercial operation. Tests so far have included engine and flap failures, and fuse-blow tests, both in flight and on the ground.

The test flights come six months after the five-seater Lilium first staged a "hover" at a Munich airport. For now, Lilium is testing its air taxi by remote control, but it will bring in on-board pilots later to be certified airworthy.



Nobel laureate leads campaign against killer robots

Jody Williams had played a key role in the successful campaign for a treaty banning land mines

United Nations, Oct. 22: Nobel Peace laureate Jody Williams is helping lead a campaign for a new international treaty to ban killer robots that can select targets and fire without decision-making by a human being.

Williams said at a news conference Monday that these lethal autonomous weapons "are crossing a moral and ethical Rubicon and should not be allowed to exist and be used in combat or in any other way."

The American peace activist said the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots, which started in 2013 and now has 130 groups in 60 countries supporting it, is trying to gain support from governments and people everywhere to step up pressure for a treaty, "so we don't see these weapons unleashed on the world."

her key role in the successful campaign for a treaty banning land mines, came to New York with members of the killer robot campaign to meet with diplomats from the UN General Assembly's disarmament committee.

They brought a robot with them to the news conference and to a side event for UN member nations afterward that spoke out against killer robots. "A machine is not a moral anything," Williams said. "So, allowing machines, in the theory through algorithms, decide what they will target and what they will attack is one of the huge reasons why we consider to be crossing the Rubicon, and grossly unethical and immoral."

"Machines should be in the service of human beings," she said. "Human beings should not be in the service of machines."

WEAPONS WITH ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

The American peace activist said the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots, which started in 2013 and now has 130 groups in 60 countries supporting it, is trying to gain support from governments and people everywhere to step up pressure for a treaty, "so we don't see these weapons unleashed on the world."



Mary Wareham, advocacy director of Human Rights Watch's arms division and coordinator of the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots, said, "It is abundantly clear that we are moving very swiftly in the direction of fully autonomous weapons, which is why we're calling for diplomacy to speed up."

Liz O'Sullivan, who resigned from the AI company Clarifai over a project that could be used to build autonomous weapons and is now technical director of the Surveillance Technology Oversight Project, said she is devoting her life to prevent killer robots.

"There is absolutely nothing stopping a nation

or any group of people from creating their own version of fully autonomous weapon systems today," she said. "They wouldn't work very well. They might not be safe, but they certainly do exist." O'Sullivan said it seems every branch of the military is working on their own version of these

weapons. "There are autonomous boats that will potentially have the ability to fire, there are autonomous drones... and also vehicles," she said. "The easiest technological problem to solve is through the drones, so that's most likely what we'll see first, and the rest as technology advances."

O'Sullivan said that is what is known just from public information and that there are almost certainly classified programs. "These killer robots... aren't a future problem," she said. "They're possible today, and they're something that we need to work to control right now."

Mary Wareham, advocacy director of Human Rights Watch's arms division and coordinator of the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots, said, "It is abundantly clear that we are moving very swiftly in the direction of fully autonomous weapons, which is why we're calling for diplomacy to speed up."

In mid-November the parties to the Convention on Conventional Weapons will be meeting in Geneva and they could agree to start such negotiations.

But Wareham said that committee operates by

consensus and while "the vast majority of countries want to move forward," they are being held back by nations countries most advanced in developing autonomous weapons.

She said the US has led in developing these weapons, followed by Russia and China, but other countries are also "heavily invested," including South Korea, Israel, the UK "to some extent" and perhaps Turkey and Iran.

She added that there are two other ways to launch negotiations - either by adopting a UN General Assembly resolution or having a country begin the process, as Canada did for the land mine treaty and Norway did for the treaty banning cluster munitions. "Countries need to come together in a core group willing to take on the big guys, so to speak," Williams said.



Concern

Expressing concern over South Africa's 0-3 Test series thrashing at the hands of India, former England captain Michael Vaughan (in pic) called out ex-Protea keeper Mark Boucher to take charge of the team



Team India pose after winning the series 3-0 against South Africa in Ranchi on Tuesday.



We have had our differences, and we have aired it openly.

— Diana Edulji says the differences within the court-appointed CoA were nothing personal

SHORT TAKES

BCB president smells conspiracy

Dhaka: Bangladesh Cricket Board President Nazmul Hassan on Tuesday said the national players' unprecedented strike, which has jeopardised the upcoming tour of India, seems to be a "conspiracy" to destabilise the game in the country. Hassan's comments come after country's top players including Test and T20 captain Shakib Al Hasan, Mahmudullah and Mushfiqur Rahim on Monday announced a boycott of cricketing activities until their demands, including a salary hike, are met. The development has thrown their tour of India beginning November 3, into uncertainty. "We will find who is behind this conspiracy," said Hassan during a press conference here as the BCB called an emergency meeting of directors to discuss the issue. Quoting Hassan, 'Daily Star' reported that purpose of this public protest was to create chaos and tarnish the image of the game in the country. BCB director Jalal Yunus said the players should have come to the board with their demands rather than communicating with them through media. —PTI

Kolpak deals hurting SA: Faf

Ranchi: South African skipper Faf du Plessis on Tuesday rued loss of their players to county cricket under the Kolpak deal and hoped the situation would favour the Proteas post Brexit. In the aftermath of the 0-3 series loss to India, Du Plessis pointed out that they were missing out on their best players due to the Kolpak deal. "It's sad for South African cricket not to have the option of their best players. Simon Harmer has had an unbelievable season. And it would be great for South Africa to be in a position where they could go, 'He's done well overseas. Let's bring him on tour with us,'" Du Plessis said of the off-spinner who has done well for the Essex in the past two years. "You are missing out on all your best players and your talent pool is all of a sudden a lot smaller. So that's something that we've tried to identify to stop. But it's been very difficult to stop." —PTI

Rohit hails support from Kohli and coach Shastri

Ranchi, Oct. 22: Star Indian batsman Rohit Sharma feels skipper Virat Kohli and coach Ravi Shastri's belief in his abilities has helped him own the opening position in Tests, also crediting his own perseverance for the magnificent run so far.

Rohit scored 529 runs in his "debut series" as an opener with a maiden double hundred in the final Test against South Africa apart from twin hundreds in Visakhapatnam. The performance earned him

the man of the series award. "The support of the coach and captain helps. I am thankful for the opportunity to be the man of the series award. Rohit said at the post-match presentation ceremony.

There was speculation that all was not well between Rohit and Kohli a couple of months back. Kohli and coach Ravi Shastri have already rubbished the conjecture. —PTI



Home sweet home

India drub South Africa 3-0 to clinch record 11th straight series win at home

Ranchi, Oct. 22: Shahbaz Nadeem took the final two wickets in straight balls as India thrashed South Africa by an innings and 202 runs in the third Test on Tuesday to complete a 3-0 series rout.

The day's play lasted just 12 balls in a triumph emphatically ramming home India's feat in beating Australia's record of 10 straight home series wins.

For South Africa, who lost two of the three matches by more than an innings, it was one of their worst series in decades.

"It's been a brilliant series for us," said India captain Virat Kohli as he hailed the performance of his batsmen and bowlers

SCORECARD

India (1st innings): 497-9 decl.
South Africa (1st innings): 162
South Africa (2nd innings, follow-on): Q. de Kock b Yadav 5, D. Elgar (retired hurt) 16, Z. Hamza b Shami 0, F. du Plessis lbw b Shami 4, T. Bavuma c Saha b Shami 0, H. Klaassen lbw b Yadav 5, G. Linde run out (Nadeem) 27, D. Piedt b Jadeja 23, T. de Bruyn c Saha b Nadeem 30, K. Rabada c Jadeja b Ashwin 12, A. Nortje not out 5, L. Ngidi c and b Nadeem 0. **Extras (b5, lb1) 6. Total (in 48 overs) 133.**
FoW: 1-5, 2-10, 3-18, 4-22, 4-26 (Elgar, retired), 5-36, 6-67, 7-98, 8-121, 9-133.
Bowling: Shami 10-6-10-3, Yadav 9-1-35-2, Jadeja 13-5-36-1, Nadeem 6-1-18-2, Ashwin 10-3-28-1.

who made 497 for nine declared in their first innings.

Kohli made South Africa follow on after they were bowled out for 162 in their first attempt in Ranchi.

Resuming on 132-8 in the second innings, Nadeem

got substitute Theunis de Bruyn caught behind for 30 and then Lungi Ngidi for nought to dismiss the tourists for 133 on the fourth day.

"To be the best side in the world, you need to be multi-dimensional. All facets of your team have

to fire," said Kohli. The series saw Indian batsmen Mayank Agarwal (215), Kohli (254 not out) and Rohit Sharma (212) all hit double tons against South Africa.

After big wins in the first two tests in Visakhapatnam and Pune, fast bowlers Mohd. Shami and Umesh Yadav again battered South Africa in Ranchi, this time taking 10 wickets between them.

"The catching has been brilliant as well. It's great to see when you operate in such a way," said Kohli.

"We believe we can win anywhere in the world. England, Australia, South Africa — good things are going to follow," he vowed. —AFP

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MS Dhoni with India coach Ravi Shastri in the dressing room at Ranchi.

India maintain top spot in WTC table

Dubai, Oct 22: India on Tuesday consolidated their position at the top of the International Cricket Council's World Test Championship table, clinching the maximum points with the 3-0 white-wash of South Africa at

home. India gained 120 points with each Test worth 40.

"The points range from 60 points for each match of a two-Test series to 24 for each match of a five-Test series," the ICC said in a statement. —PTI

Shastri says pitches don't worry India

Ranchi, Oct. 22: An exultant India coach Ravi Shastri on Tuesday said Rohit Sharma has shown himself to be of different class in the newly-acquired role of a Test opener, acclimatising exceptionally well to the challenges posed by the position.

"Rohit is different class. As an opener he needed to have a different mindset, he acclimatised. It was a difficult pitch to start with but *usme jhela*," Shastri said.

"He has it in him to be unfazed by difficult conditions. What he has done in this series is tremendous," he added. Shastri lauded the mindset of the team, which he said, is never perturbed by the conditions it encounters whether at home or abroad.

"Our philosophy has been 'to hell with the pitch'. We need to take 20 wickets," he added. —PTI

India should pick five Test centres: Skipper

Ranchi, Oct. 22: India captain Virat Kohli feels that time has come for the BCCI to zero in on five permanent Test centres for future home series, similar to the English and Australian model when top teams tour those countries.

In Australia, Melbourne, Sydney, Perth, Brisbane and Adelaide are the five designated Test centres whenever the big teams come calling. Similarly in England, the Lord's, Oval, Trent Bridge, Old Trafford, Edgbaston, Southampton and Headingley are the seven main Test centres for all their marquee series (Ashes/India).

Asked about the lukewarm response in Ranchi, the Indian skipper lapped up the question. "We have been discussing this for a long time now. And in my opinion, we should have five Test centres. Period," the skipper made his point.

"Look if you want to keep Test cricket alive and exciting, I totally agree with the fact that we need five Test centres at max. It can't be sporadic and spread over so many places where people turn up or they don't," the skipper didn't mince words.

"So in my opinion, absolutely, we should have five strong Test centres where the team coming to India knows that this is where we're going to play," he said. —PTI

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"So in my opinion, absolutely, we should have five strong Test centres where the team coming to India knows that this is where we're going to play," he said. —PTI

Rohit's emulation of Don must be celebrated



R. Mohan
Line & Length

It's not often that Sir Donald Bradman's average is tested meaningfully, even if only in a tight context like batting at home. His career average of 99.94 cannot, of course be surpassed. Rohit Sharma has done exceedingly well in passing the Bradmanesque average of 98.22 in his home Tests. This means his performance is bigger than just a streak of productivity that in-form batsman do achieve.

His promotion to opening the innings has been the trigger to this extraordinary assault on the Himalayan task of averaging close to hundred over any extended period of time.

The awesome figure of 99.84 is Rohit's average in home Tests after his 212-run knock with 1,298 runs in 18 innings with six 100s and five 50s. His last nine scores in Tests in India are: 82*, 51*, 102*, 65, 50*, 176, 127, 14 and 212. He has the best home average among all batsmen with 10-plus innings, just ahead of Don Bradman's 98.22. "I want to bat like Bradman" is the motif of the Bradman Museum in Bowral. Many have surpassed his batting average briefly, but none could possibly sustain those

efforts in such a chancy game.

Rohit deserves the accolades for his sustained success as a Test opener in the short series, starting each innings against the new ball splendidly handled by Rabada and Philander (in two Tests). He batted in the only phases of the series in which the batsmen felt threatened by movement as well as a precise line of attack, even if it lasted only as long as the shine on the ball, or the strength of the bowler in trying conditions of humid Vizag and Pune.

In fact, India's openers failed to put up a stand past the shine only in one innings and the credit for this also goes to Mayank Agarwal, as acquisitive of runs as Rohit, but with lesser potential as an aggressive batsman in the most modern mould. It did appear in periods of play when Rohit seemed set to emulate another of his ilk in Virender Sehwag, who set the gold standard for an Indian batsman with two triple centuries and a near third.

The obvious advantage batsmen like Sehwag, Rohit and Kohli wield is their ability to scorch the turf in run collection once they are 'set', as is the most apt cricket term that best describes a batsman who

knows he 'is in.' These awesome run makers don't worry too much about getting beaten early in their innings by the shiny red cherry, whose movement can always be big enough to miss the edge.

Batting is not a beauty contest. And it is certainly not so as Rohit goes hard in slashing at a wide ball and misses. The Test opener, Rohit Mk II, rebukes only himself for the rash attempt, not for letting the aesthetics drop for a while. This is essentially modern batting, aligned more to making the most when scoring opportunities appear to present themselves. The instinct to attack has become a part of their game plan.

Of course, the conversion of Rohit into a Test run machine on home soil has not come without considerable sacrifice on his part in terms of toughening up to face the bowling in the first hour when the bowlers are fresh, there is a bit of moisture under the pitch from the heavy watering in pre-Test preparation and the feet are not yet moving decisively. Only in Pune did he abandon that resolve when he reached out to a swinging delivery.

Rohit was never meant to be in the Vijay Merchant - Sunil Gavaskar school of opening the innings in the polished style of the best of Mumbai run gatherers. What Rohit offers is marvelous entertainment in the modern era, deciding in an instant to step out and loft down the ground for six in strokes of refreshing free-

TOP INDIAN BATSMEN AT HOME TESTS

	HOME		AWAY	
	M	Avg	M	Avg
Rohit Sharma	12	99.84	18	26.32
Vijay Hazare	13	69.56	17	35.96
Virat Kohli	37	68.44	45	46.12
Cheteshwar Pujara	39	60.03	34	39.12
Md Azharuddin	46	55.93	53	36.40

Note: Minimum 10 Test matches.

TOP INDIAN BATSMEN IN AWAY TESTS

	AWAY		HOME	
	M	Avg	M	Avg
Sachin Tendulkar	106	54.74	94	52.67
Rahul Dravid	93	53.61	70	51.35
Sunil Gavaskar	60	52.11	65	50.16
Mohinder Amarnath	37	51.86	32	30.44
Sandip Patil	14	47.38	15	26.95

dom that the solid openers of the past would never have permitted themselves, even when well set.

A Protea-wash would not have been possible without the openers and Virat Kohli's appetite for prolific deeds from the crease. It would have been impossible without a bowling attack that has such balance now as to be lethal as much on standard Indian pitches as they used to be selectively by on designer pitches. Why, even on a seaming green top Indian pitch, team India would have beaten this South African team, so lacking in players of such class like the ones that came ages ago it seems, with the ability and the temperament to have beaten India in a Test series in India.

The manner in which the

quicks dismantled the start of the South African innings in the second and third Tests, reducing even the dauntless Elgar to grave uncertainty against the movement, has been the key to a dominating performance by Team India. The spinners were at their best on the slower pitches in the first half of the series though Shami had come into his own in the second innings of the second Test. The quicks were a dominant force in the third Test, and all this without the presence of the battering ram Jasprit Bumrah. They made short work of completing a whitewash, a rare enough feat, and one to be celebrated heartily, more so as a whole set of bowlers made it possible, including this impressive array of Indian fast bowlers.

CoA reign ends as Ganguly set to take over as 39th BCCI president

Mumbai, Oct. 22: One of India's most decorated captains Sourav Ganguly will be taking over as the 39th president of the BCCI on Wednesday at its General Body meeting, ending a tumultuous 33-month reign of the Supreme Court-appointed Committee of Administrators.

Ganguly is the unanimous nomination for the post of BCCI president along with Union Home Minister Amit Shah's son Jay as the secretary. Mahim Verma of Uttarakhand is the new vice-president. Former BCCI president and current MOS finance Anurag Thakur's younger brother Arun Dhimal is the treas-

urer while Kerala's Jayesh George is the joint secretary.

However Ganguly will have a curtailed tenure of around nine months as he would need to demit office by the end of July, next year as per the provisions of new constitutions, which makes 'Cooling Off' period mandatory after six years in office. Easily one of the most high profile names to assume office, Ganguly will make use of his experience gained as the secretary and later president of Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB), which will come in handy. He has set a few goals — primary being restructuring of first-class

cricket as well as getting the administration back in shape along with getting India's position of reverence back in the corridors of International Cricket Council.

With Conflict of Interest rules being an impediment, Ganguly will also face the challenge of having quality cricketers on board as far as the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) and national selection committee are concerned. "It's a great opportunity for me to do something good," the former India captain, who will have to demit office in July, due to compulsory cooling off period, had said last week.



Sourav Ganguly (left) will take over BCCI president today.

The 10-month is a short period and it also needs to be seen how the former India captain handles the disqualified old guards like N Srinivasan and Niranjan Shah, whose children are now officially part of the

BCCI. Ganguly's relation with IPL chairman Brijesh Patel, a Srinivasan loyalist will also be of interest.

Last but certainly not the least, his take on cricketing policies — MS Dhoni's international future, Day/Night Test cricket, permanent Test centres will also be dissected. For CoA, it was an eventful 33-month tenure that comes to an end.

CoA chief Vinod Rai informed the process that will be followed during the AGM. "First the accounts will be passed for the past three years. Then the electoral officer will announce the election results as everyone is unopposed." —PTI

BCCI have to pay CoA members Rai and Edulji ₹3.5 crore each

New Delhi, Oct 22: CoA chief Vinod Rai and fellow panel member Diana Edulji will be getting around Rs 3.5 crore each for their 33-month tenure with the BCCI.

The Supreme Court-appointed Committee of Administrators (CoA) will demit office after the BCCI AGM here on Wednesday, ending a tumultuous 33-month tenure. Former CAG Rai and former India captain Edulji were always

appointed in January 2017 while colleagues such as Ramachandra Guha and Vikram Limaye resigned for different reasons later in the year. All CoA members will be paid Rs 10 lakh per month for the period of 2017, Rs 11 lakh and 12 lakh for 2018 and 2019 respectively. "The amount was finalised after discussions with Amicus Curiae PS Narsimha," a senior BCCI official said. —PTI



Sir is back

Former World No.1 Andy Murray has been named in Britain's team for next month's revamped Davis Cup tournament



He is a bad man. I called him the Hitler of our century for a reason.

— Enes Kanter, Turkish NBA player, slams President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on his operation against Kurdish forces in northern Syria

SHORT TAKES

Diamond League gets a new stop

London: Diamond League officials agreed on Monday to add a 15th meet to its 2020 season while a decision on what events will be contested at each circuit will be made in November. The newest addition to the schedule will be held May 10 in China as part of a partnership with Chinese conglomerate Wanda Group. Further work is being undertaken on whether each meet is able to host 11 or 12 disciplines in the set time frame and which events each meeting will host outside the 90-minute international broadcast window. A decision on disciplines will be made in early November. Previous reports had said the number of disciplines will be cut from 32 to 24 with 12 each for men and women and the longest event will be the 3,000 meters. The 2020 schedule consists of 14 meetings and one final. Stockholm, who had previously said it would not be part of the 2020 Diamond League program, remained on the circuit according to the latest schedule. — Reuters

Millwall bring in Rowett for revival

London: Former Stoke boss Gary Rowett was hired as the new manager of Championship strugglers Millwall on Monday. Rowett takes over from Millwall legend Neil Harris, who resigned earlier in October after four and a half years at The Den. The 45-year-old was chosen by Lions owner John Berylson after the American flew into England to carry out interviews. Rowett began his managerial career at Burton before spells at Birmingham and Derby. He led Derby to the Championship play-offs in 2017-18 before his disappointing spell with Stoke. He was sacked by Stoke in January, having won only eight of 26 league matches following the Potters' relegation from the Premier League. Millwall is currently sitting 17th in the Championship after blowing a two-goal lead in the final minutes of Saturday's 2-3 defeat at Brentford. — AFP

PARIS UNVEIL PARALYMPICS 2024 LOGO

Paris: The logo for the 2024 Olympics and Paralympics, depicting the Olympic flame within a gold medal, was unveiled in host city Paris on Monday. The circular design with Paris 2024 in the art deco style which was in vogue in 1924 when Paris last hosted the Games, also incorporates the lips and outline of Marianne, the personification of the French Republic since the revolution in 1789. "It is made up of three symbols, both simple and powerful," the organisers said in a statement. "The gold medal, symbol of sport. The flame, icon of the Olympic and Paralympic movement. Marianne, image of France. These symbols reveal a face that embodies our ambition to put people at the heart of the Games," the statement added. The golden Marianne marks a break from the colourful Eiffel Tower '24' logo used for the bid campaign. Organisers called it "a new phase" in the project where the objective was no longer the bid but the promotion of the Games themselves to the public and potential sponsors. "For the first time in the history of the Games, our emblem will be common to the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games. Because we are taking on both challenges with the same passion, the same determination, the same ambition," said the organisers. — AFP

1,500 games? Roger that

Federer gets off the blocks with a monumental win at home

Basel (Switzerland), Oct. 22: Roger Federer opened his bid for a 10th title at the ATP Swiss Indoors in Basel on Monday, crushing German qualifier Peter Gojowczyk in what was the Swiss legend's 1,500th career match.

This landmark 6-2, 6-1 success in his hometown set the 38-year-old up for his tilt at a 103rd title.

"I thought the match was good," Federer said. "I felt a nice spring in my step. I was quick to the ball and it didn't take me long to get used to the conditions, that's positive."

"There is a danger in playing Peter indoors since he's already had two solid qualifying matches. He also serves great indoors. But I was able to control things," he added.

Federer is defending the 2018 title at his hometown event. The victory improved his career record at the tournament to 72-9 and increased his Basel win streak to 21 straight matches.

Federer, who has made the Basel final on all of his last 12 visits, owns ATP titles this season in Dubai, Miami and Halle.

The Monday rout took just 54 minutes with Federer forced to break back in the second set before sprinting to the win.

He will face the winner from Radu Albot and Dusan Lajovic in the second round.

Federer, the winner of the previous two editions, last lost here in the 2013 final to Juan Martin del Potro.

Australian Alex de Minaur beat Bolivian Hugo Dellien 6-1, 7-5, a victory which sends the wild card into a match with the winner from second seed Alexander Zverev and American Taylor Fritz.

Henri Laaksonen knocked out French eighth seed Benoit Paire 6-3, 7-5 for the evening's second Swiss victory and German Jen-Lennard Struff defeated Miomir Kecmanovic of Serbia 6-4, 6-2.

SWISS MAESTRO HAILS MURRAY

Roger Federer praised Andy Murray's weekend Antwerp title just 10 months after the former number one underwent a hip resurfacing.

"Andy's achievement was great," Federer said after rolling into the second round of the ATP Swiss Indoors in Basel.

"I was a little bit torn, since he beat (fellow Swiss) Stan (Wawrinka) in the final, but it was a great way for him to come back," he added.

Federer said that Murray's perseverance to regain match fitness after his major surgery was admirable.

"He's been playing to try and get close to his old level," Federer added.

"It's nice to see Andy healthy again. I remember in the locker room of the Australian Open (when a tearful Murray played in pain and lost in a five-set first round match in January). "It was very confusing for him and for all of us. I'm extremely happy for him," Federer said. — AFP

Pelicans to start season without Zion

New York, Oct. 22: New Orleans Pelicans rookie forward sensation Zion Williamson will be sidelined up to two months after undergoing arthroscopic surgery on his right knee on Monday just as a new NBA season is about to begin.

The Pelicans play in the league's opening game at defending champion Toronto on Tuesday, when Williamson's debut was expected to be the main attraction.

Instead, it's being put on hold after a smashing pre-season run in which Williamson averaged 23.3 points, 6.5 rebounds and 2.3 assists a game in four appearances for New Orleans.

The Pelicans said Williamson, the top pick in the 2019 entry draft,



Roger Federer serves to Peter Gojowczyk during the 1,500th match of his career at the opening day of the Swiss Indoors tennis tournament in Basel on Monday. Federer won 6-2, 6-1. — AFP

Hewitt ticks Nick for Oz

Sydney, Oct. 22: Australia captain Lleyton Hewitt says he has been willing to overlook Nick Kyrgios' recent outbursts on the ATP Tour to select the talented but wayward star in his team for the revamped Davis Cup finals.

Kyrgios is currently serving six months probation on the ATP tour after a meltdown at the Cincinnati tournament in August and calling the ATP "pretty corrupt" during this year's US Open.

The suspended sentence applies only to the ATP Tour and not the Davis Cup and Hewitt is confident the 24-year-old Kyrgios will be on his best

I feel like on the Davis Cup court he's done absolutely everything I've needed in the past; he hasn't put a foot wrong. There's a lot he does in a team environment. I think we will see the best of him.

— LLEYTON HEWITT
Australian Davis Cup captain on Nick Kyrgios

behavior at the 18-team world finals in Madrid from November 18 to 24. Hewitt said Kyrgios' latest ban had not affected his decision to select the

player in a strong Australian team, drawn in a group with Belgium and Colombia.

The Australia team also includes world No. 28 Alex de Minaur, Jordan Thompson, John Millman and doubles specialist John Peers.

"I have been watching that closely. I feel like on the Davis Cup court he's done absolutely everything I've needed in the past; he hasn't put a foot wrong," Hewitt said.

"There's a lot of things he does in a team environment that I actually think we will see the best of him," Hewitt added. — AP



Steffi Graf, tournament ambassador of the WTA Elite Trophy, enjoys a rally at the event in Zhuhai, China. Graf has won 22 Grand Slams. — WTA

VIENNA | OPEN

Berrettini rallies to make final

Vienna, Oct. 22: Italy's Matteo Berrettini fought back from a set down to beat Briton Kyle Edmund 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 in the first round of the Vienna Open on Monday, giving his chances of qualifying for next month's ATP Finals a shot in the arm.

Novak Djokovic, Rafael Nadal, Daniil Medvedev, Roger Federer, Dominic Thiem and Stefanos Tsitsipas have already qualified for the season-ending tournament in London, with Alexander Zverev and Berrettini currently occupying the last two available spots. Third seed Berrettini fired 10 aces and saved four of five break points during the encounter where the 23-year-old Italian was also forced to call for a trainer after he rolled his ankle early in the match.

However, after dropping serve once in the opening set, he broke Edmund twice and did not face a single break point in the deciding set to set up a second round clash with Grigor Dimitrov of Bulgaria.

Dimitrov, who won his 300th match on the ATP tour, knocking out qualifier Damir Dzumhur 6-3, 7-5 in a lop-sided contest. — Reuters

Nothing to worry, confirms Rory

Chiba (Japan), Oct. 22: Rory McIlroy says things are "all good" with Brooks Koepka — but the Northern Irishman doesn't need a reminder that he hasn't won a major in five years.

World No.1 Koepka made worldwide headlines at the CJ Cup in South Korea last week after scotching the notion of a burgeoning rivalry with second-ranked McIlroy.

"What Brooks said wasn't wrong," McIlroy told the Golf Channel during an exhibition match at Narashino Country Club, venue for this week's Zozo Championship in Japan.

McIlroy was responding after the American said: "I've been out here for what, five years. Rory hasn't won a major since I've been on the PGA Tour. So I just don't view it as a rivalry."

The comments lit up social media and made worldwide headlines, so McIlroy's response was eagerly awaited. When it came, it was measured.

"He's been the best player for a couple years, four majors. I don't think he had to remind me I hadn't won one in a while, but you know," McIlroy smiled.

"But no, I love Brooks. He's a great guy. Obviously super competitive like we all are. I can see where he's coming from. You know, we were out here. We can't control anyone else. We just have to play own golf."



He's been the best player for a couple years, four majors. I don't think he had to remind me I hadn't won one in a while, but you know. But no, I love Brooks. He's a great guy. Obviously super competitive like we all are.

— RORY MCILROY
golfer

"Brooks and I are good. We're good friends. I've been really happy for him to see how good he's played the last couple of years," McIlroy added.

But the facts are that the pair have been by some distance ahead of their peers in 2019, so any time they go head to head is going to have some added spice — and like it or not, fans love a rivalry.

Each won three times last season, Koepka retained his US PGA Championship while McIlroy became only the second player after Tiger Woods to win multiple FedEx Cups. — AFP



Enric Mas of Spain (centre) celebrates on the podium after winning the Tour of Guangxi cycling race in Guilin, in China's southern Guangxi province, on Tuesday. — AFP

N. Korea stripped of hosting rights

Kuala Lumpur, Oct. 22: The final of an Asian club tournament has been moved from Pyongyang to Shanghai, football officials said on Tuesday, a week after North and South Korea played out a surreal World Cup qualifier in an empty stadium.

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) said it had been "compelled" to shift the November 2 AFC Cup match between North Korea's 4.25 SC and Al Ahli from Lebanon to a "neutral venue" due to logistical and other issues.

Its statement did not mention the inter-Korean showdown in Pyongyang but said that commercial partners had warned of challenges in broadcasting the highly anticipated final of Asia's second-tier continental competition.

Last week's match — a historic encounter between two countries still technically at war — took place with no live broadcast and no foreign media in attendance, and with FIFA president Gianni Infantino one of just a handful of spectators.

Infantino said he was "disappointed" after attending the match and "surprised" by the absence of fans and lack of media.

The Asian football body cracked the whip after last week's match between North and South Korea — a historic encounter — took place with no live broadcast and no foreign media in attendance.

Tottenham Hotspur star Son Heung-min described the game, which ended 0-0, as "very aggressive" and one South Korean official likened it to warfare.

Last week's debacle raised doubts over the prospects for further North-South sporting cooperation, once a driver of nuclear diplomacy.

The South's team had expected large crowds and until the last minute had no idea that even North Korean spectators would be absent.

The match came after a series of North Korean missile tests raised tensions in the region, and after the breakdown of talks with the US over Pyongyang's weapons programmes. — AFP



Injury woes

Dortmund skipper Marco Reus (in pic) and striker Paco Alcacer to miss Wednesday's Champions League match at Inter Milan



We didn't deserve to lose. We deserved more but they are a very strong defensive team.

— Unai Emery, Arsenal manager after their shock 1-0 defeat at Sheffield United in the EPL

SHORT TAKES FC Goa take on rebuilt Chennaiyin

Margao: Most of their key players of last season retained for this year, FC Goa will begin their Indian Super League campaign against former champions Chennaiyin FC here on Wednesday. The Gaurs will look to start the new season on a winning note against a club that finished rock-bottom last season. However, after a summer of rebuilding, Chennaiyin will be eager to prove that the last season was just an aberration. Interestingly, both managers — Sergio Lobera and John Gregory — are into their third seasons with FC Goa and Chennaiyin. Last season runners-up FC Goa have a sense of stability in the team as they have retained most of their key players, international and domestic. The likes of Ferran Corominas, Hugo Boumous, Ahmed Jahouh and Edu Bedia are all into their third season too with the Gaurs. Mandar Rao Dessai, Seriton Fernandes, Lenny Rodrigues and Jackichand Singh are all familiar with Lobera's methods. —PTI

Weather holds key in Hazare semis

Bengaluru: Host Karnataka will hold the edge when it takes on Chhattisgarh in the semifinals of the Vijay Hazare Trophy here on Wednesday while Tamil Nadu and Gujarat are set for an interesting battle in the other last four clash. The weather holds the key in both matches as rain is forecast for Wednesday. Karnataka made short work of Puducherry in the quarterfinal after coming through with seven wins from eight games in the league phase. In the other semifinal, Tamil Nadu, lucky to come through against Punjab on the basis of having won more games in the league phase, faces Gujarat, a comfortable winner against Delhi. Having lost to the Dinesh Karthik-led side in the league phase, Gujarat will be aiming for revenge and will be aware of the need to raise their game. Tamil Nadu's batsmen after a dominant show in Group 'C' struggled against a disciplined Punjab attack on Monday — PTI

IRAN BARRED OVER REFUSAL TO FACE ISRAELI JUDOKAS

Paris: The International Judo Federation said on Tuesday it had banned Iran from competition indefinitely over the country's refusal to face Israeli competitors. The federation issued a provisional ban last month while investigating a report that Iran had ordered a judoka to lose deliberately at the world championships to avoid facing an Israeli competitor in the subsequent round. "Following the events, which occurred during the last World Judo Championships Tokyo 2019, the final suspension of the Iran Judo Federation from all competitions... Has been pronounced," the IJF said. Iranian fighter Saeid Mollaei, defending his title at the Tokyo World Championships in August, had said he was ordered to throw his semi-final rather than risk facing an Israeli in the final of the -81kg class. The Iranian, 27, lost the semi-final and then went on to lose his third-place fight. Mollaei said he had been instructed to withdraw from the competition by the presidents of the Iran Judo Federation and the Iran Olympic committee. — AFP

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Blades go bang bang

Mousset strikes as Sheffield defeat big gun Arsenal

Sheffield, Oct. 22: Unai Emery claimed Arsenal were unlucky to suffer a shock 1-0 defeat at Sheffield United as Lys Mousset condemned the Gunners to their latest away-day flop on Monday.

Emery's side are without an away Premier League win since the opening weekend of the season after failing to rise to the challenge posed by fired up United at Bramall Lane.

French forward Mousset, making his first Premier League start for United, punished poor Arsenal defending in the first half to score his second goal since signing from Bournemouth.

That was enough to

send Arsenal crashing to just their second defeat of the season, ending an eight-game unbeaten run in all competitions.

The north Londoners sit fifth in the league after a powder-puff performance that showed Emery's rebuilding job is still a work in progress.

But Emery insisted Arsenal deserved at least a draw and criticised the failure to give a penalty for a foul on Sokratis.

"We didn't deserve to lose. We can speak about two key moments, one is the goal and the other is a clear penalty with Sokratis. With VAR, the foul should have been reviewed, but we have to

accept it," Emery said after Arsenal's winless run in the city of Sheffield extended to 26 years.

"We had more chances than them. If we scored

THE RESULT

Sheffield United 1 (Mousset 30)
Arsenal 0

● Under Emery, Arsenal have kept just two clean sheets in 24 away league matches and once again they wilted too easily in a hostile environment

one goal then we could have controlled better." Asked if Arsenal have a mental block in away games, Emery said: "We prepare for the matches the same home and away and think to win. "We deserved more but they are a very strong defensive team." Under Emery, Arsenal have kept just two clean sheets in 24 away league matches and once again they wilted too easily in a hostile environment. "We conceded a lot of corners in the first half and they scored the goal. It can happen. Above all, we have to improve by not allowing balls like that," Emery said. "We are playing some young players who are

taking experience but the most important thing is to win."

This was a signature win for the Blades after last season's promotion and they sit proudly in ninth place, just three points behind Arsenal.

With the Bramall Lane crowd in full voice, a bruising clash got off to a contentious start when Sokratis appealed in vain for a penalty after having his shirt tugged by John Egan.

Emery's men should have taken the lead when Sead Kolasinac curled a perfect low cross towards Nicolas Pepe in the six-yard box, but the unmarked Ivory Coast winger completely miscued his shot.

— AFP



Sheffield United's Lys Mousset (second from right) celebrates with teammates after scoring against Arsenal in their English Premier League match in Sheffield on Monday. — AFP

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Rising Blues stars face acid test

Amsterdam, Oct. 22: Chelsea's young guns will test their run of form at one of the homes of youth development on Wednesday as they attempt to stop an Ajax team on course to replicate last season's thrilling Champions League run.

The Blues are on a five-match winning streak in all-competitions after beating Newcastle United 1-0 at the weekend but come up against the Group H leaders in Amsterdam.

Ajax are averaging over three goals a game at home and abroad and are hungry for European success after semi-final heartache last season.

Fikayo Tomori, Ross Barkley, Mason Mount, Callum Hudson-Odoi and Tammy Abraham all started Saturday's win at Stamford Bridge, the first time since 2013 five English players made the



Liverpool's Mohamed Salah (left) and Dejan Lovren at a training session in Liverpool on Tuesday, the eve of their Champions League Group E match against Genk. — AFP

London club's starting XI. They second on three points in Group H after a wobbly opening two games in the Champions League, with a pair of matches coming up against on-fire Ajax that could decide their European destiny.

"These two games against Ajax are really big because they're such a strong team... The movement of the team and the way they play football will be a big test for us," coach Frank Lampard told the Chelsea website on Monday.

Ajax's remarkable form has led to rumours that coach Erik ten Hag is a potential Bayern Munich target, rumours that the 49-year-old refused to play down on Monday as Nico

Kovacic comes under fire in Germany. They are also top of Group H after beating both Lille and Valencia 3-0 with the same brand of thrilling football that captured Europe's imaginations last season.

BARCA SEEK SIXTH STRAIGHT WIN

Prague, Barcelona will be looking to extend their five-game winning streak when they take on Champions League underdogs Slavia Prague in the teams' first-ever encounter in Prague on Wednesday.

Brushing aside political turmoil around them, Ernesto Valverde's men eased past Eibar 3-0 away on Saturday to secure a six-point lead in the Czech top flight. — AFP

RONALDO NOT READY FOR RETIREMENT

Turin, Oct. 22: Cristiano Ronaldo reassured Juventus supporters and his legions of fans worldwide that at 34 he's not ready for retirement yet.

"Age is just a number. It does not mean that at 34, 35, 36 you are at the end of your career," Ronaldo said at a news conference ahead of Juventus' Champions League match against Lokomotiv Moscow on Tuesday.

"I can show that with my performances, how I play, the way I play, the way I still feel good, sharp, thinking about the game, more mature. This makes the difference," he said.

In the second season of a four-year deal at Juventus, Ronaldo had sparked concern among his fans when he said in an interview published a few weeks ago that he was starting to enjoy seeing himself "outside of football, so who knows what will happen in the next year or two?"

Ronaldo recently scored his 700th goal as a professional while on international duty with Portugal and has been nominated for a record sixth Ballon d'Or award — which would break his tie of five with Lionel Messi. But Ronaldo said he's more interested in winning a treble with Juventus.

"We want to win Serie A, we want to win the Cup, the Champions League," he said. "Juventus should think big... We are going to try to win all the trophies, we know it will be difficult, especially the league and the Champions League, but I think it is possible. Everything is possible," Ronaldo said. — AP

MILITARY GAMES



Anandan Gunasekaran

TN's Anandan bags two gold medals

Wuhan (China), Oct. 22: Tamil Nadu's Para-athlete Anandan Gunasekaran scooped two gold medals in the disabled men's 100m and 400m IT1 events to open India's medal account at the 7th CISM World Military Games here on Tuesday.

Gunasekaran clocked 12.00 seconds to win the 100m event, India's first medal in the ongoing Games. Peru's Casas Jose was second with a timing of 12.65 while of Fajardo Pardo Teodicelo of Colombia took the bronze with 12.72 seconds.

Later, the 32-year-old Indian clinched his second gold by clocking 53.35 seconds in the disabled men's 400m IT1 event.

Colombia's Teodicelo (58.95) and Ranchin Mickael (1:00.31) took the silver and bronze respectively. The IT1 event is competed among ambulant athletes who have single or double below the knee amputation or substantial foot to knee damage.

IT4 event is competed among wheelchair participants who have spinal cord injuries but with full trunk function. Gunasekaran is a

2018 National Para Athletics champion in 200m and 400m. He had also won a silver in 400m in the 2017 World Para Athletics Grand Prix in Dubai. National record holder shot putter Tajinder Singh Toor finished sixth in a world class field with a best throw of 20.36m.

Toor was in search for Tokyo Olympics mark of 21.10m but he failed to touch it. Romani Darlan of Brazil won the gold with a best throw of 22.36m while Poland's Bukowiecki Konrad (21.84m) and Bob Bertemes (20.66m) of Luxembourg were second and third respectively.

In the men's 400m, national record holder Muhammed Anas missed a medal as he finished fourth with a time of 46.86 seconds. He had clocked the national record timing of 45.21 in July.

In the men's boxing Satish Kumar (+91kg) and Duryodhan Singh Negi (69kg) entered the quarter-finals by winning their respective bouts. Satish beat O'Griofa Antoine of Ireland 5-0 while Negi defeated Miliusha Dzmityri of Belarus 3-2. — PTI

Ballon d'Or snubs Modric, Neymar

Paris, Oct. 22: While Megan Rapinoe is the leading candidate for the second ever women's Ballon d'Or, the holder of the men's award, Luka Modric, and the world's most expensive player Neymar missed out as France Football unveiled nominees in four categories on Monday.

Modric, fresh from guiding Croatia to a World Cup final, broke the 11-year Cristiano Ronaldo-Lionel Messi, who are both included, stranglehold on the men's award last year.

Paris Saint-Germain's Neymar, who cost the French club 222 million euros in 2017, failed to make the 30-man shortlist after a year overshadowed by injury, suspension and controversy for both club and country.

Messi has just collected the Fifa Best award, as did Rapinoe, which split from the Ballon D'Or in 2016. Rapinoe dominated the Women's World Cup, on and off the field, in the summer.

She was joint top scorer and was voted player of the tournament as

she led the United States to victory in France in July.

The 34-year-old Reign FC playmaker, already a campaigner for LGBT rights and gender equality, made headlines during the tournament by publicly taking on US President Donald Trump.

Last year, Norwegian Ada Hegerberg was the first women's winner.

The Lyon forward did not play in the World Cup but is among the 20 nominees as are stars who were present at the competition, such as Australia striker Sam Kerr, England's Lucy Bronze and France captain Amandine Henry.

Virgil Van Dijk, 28, who has had an impressive six months with Liverpool lifting the Champions League, could become a rare defensive winner of the men's award.

Fabio Cannavaro was the last defender to win in 2006, and only the fourth since the award began in 1956.

Another nominee, Kylian Mbappe, the top goal scorer in Ligue 1 last season, would represent a genuine change of the guard. — AFP

