

THE ASIAN AGE

NEW DELHI WEDNESDAY 23 OCTOBER 2019

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

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WINDOWS

British MPs thwart Boris' plan to get Brexit deal okayed

London: British MPs on Tuesday rejected Prime Minister Boris Johnson's plans to approve his Brexit deal by October 31, minutes after giving preliminary approval to the agreement. MPs voted by a majority of 14 to reject his timetable to push through the legislation this week, making it almost inevitable that Brexit will be delayed beyond next week's deadline. The Commons supported the Withdrawal Agreement Bill earlier, but then voted against the short timetable. The PM warned he would seek an election if MPs dismissed the plan and the EU granted an extension to 31 Oct. Brexit deadline. — AFP



Actor John Travolta poses during a photocall at the Rome Film Fest in Rome on Tuesday. — AP

3 Jaish terrorists killed in J&K fight

Srinagar: Three terrorists of the Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed were killed in an encounter in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district on Tuesday, the second such encounter in the past one week. The encounter lasted over four hours and security forces recovered arms and ammunition from the site, director general of police Dilbagh Singh told a news channel. — PTI

COUNTERPOINT



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

WEATHER

Max: 33°C
Min: 18°C
RH: 40%
Rainfall: 0%

Forecast: Sunny

ASTROGUIDE

Vikari: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Ashwayuja Bahula Dasami till 1.05 am (Thursday)
Star: Ashlesha till 3.08 pm
Varjyam: 2.11 am to 3.39 am (Thursday)
Durmuhurtam: 11.37 am to 12.23 pm
Rahukalam: 12 pm to 1.30 pm
SUNSET TODAY 5.44 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.27 AM
MOONRISE TOMORROW 1.56 AM
MOONSET TODAY 2.21 PM

MTNL, Bhel, ITDC's Ashok Hotel in Delhi up for disinvestment Govt decides to sell 11 PSUs

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO
NEW DELHI, OCT. 22

In a first, the Modi government at the Centre has finalised 11 "ailing" Public Sector Units (PSUs) for strategic sale as part of its disinvestment plan. The government move, however, aims at meeting the fiscal deficit target and bring the country's economy back on track. In its recent meeting with top officials of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), the finance ministry is learnt to have set an ambitious target to offload government's holdings.

These 11 PSUs include Bharat Heavy Electricals, Andrew Yule & Co, ITDC's Ashok Hotel, Balmer Lawrie Investments and Balmer Lawrie & Co, Mahanagar telephone Nigam (MTNL), Telecommunications Consultant India, National Textile Corporation, FCI Aravalli Gypsum and Minerals India, Hindustan Copper, MECON and Braithwaite & Co.

11 'ailing PSUs' Bharat Heavy Electricals (Bhel), Andrew Yule & Co, ITDC's Ashok Hotel, Balmer Lawrie Investments and Balmer Lawrie & Co, Mahanagar telephone Nigam (MTNL), Telecommunications Consultant India, National Textile Corporation, FCI Aravalli Gypsum and Minerals India, Hindustan Copper, MECON and Braithwaite & Co.

The move of the Central govt aims to bring economy back on track and meet the fiscal deficit target

The government will be a minority shareholder after these strategic sales which will be India's first such sale

"The government is all set for a series of blockbuster investments, lining up strategic sales of as many as 11 PSUs. Once the Cabinet gives its nod to the list, jointly prepared by Niti Ayog and department of investment and public asset management (DIPAM), the government will move ahead with the strategic sale of these PSUs whenever it finds the market condition suitable for the same," a top source in the finance ministry told Financial Chronicle on Tuesday. Besides, the government has also lined up a host of

other PSUs for strategic sales in tranches, which includes refiner and fuel retailer Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) to foreign and private firms. "Though it is a fact that BPCL's name does not find mention in the list as of now, the government will first have to take it to Cabinet for its approval," the source said, adding that the privatisation plan requires the nod of Parliament and as per plan, it may sell most of its 53.3 per cent stake to a strategic partner. The source added that the other PSUs, which

\$5tn challenge: Modi all set to meet top ministers today

ANIMESH SINGH
NEW DELHI, OCT. 22

With the NDA government's ambitious target of making India a \$5 trillion economy by 2025 facing the twin challenge of a domestic economic slowdown and unemployment reaching a 45 year high,

the Prime Minister has called a high level review meeting of the infrastructure sector on October 23 at his residence. Highly-placed sources said that Mr Modi would be brainstorming with ministers of key infrastructure sector-related ministries.

More on Page 2

have been approved by the government for disinvestment, include Bharat Immunologicals & Biologicals Corporation Ltd, Bharat Earth Movers, National Aluminium Company, National Mineral Development Corporation, Scooters India, Certification Engineers International Ltd, Projects & Development India, Bridge & Roof Co (India), Engineering Projects (India), Hindustan Newsprint Ltd, Cement Corporation of India, Hospital Services

Consultancy Corporation (India), Pawan Hans, National Projects Construction Corporation, ITDC Hotels (for long-term lease of 50 years). With such a move, it is well understood that the government will become a minority shareholder through these strategic sales which is happening in the country for the first time. The list also indicates the names of the companies which will participate in the sale. The idea is to meet the

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J&K, Ladakh govt staff to get salaries as per 7th pay panel

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 22

In a move that will bring some cheer to 4.5 lakh government employees in Jammu & Kashmir, the home ministry on Tuesday announced that staffers of the proposed Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh will get salaries and allowances as per 7th Pay Commission recommendations from October 31. The newly created UTs of J&K and Ladakh will come into existence from October 31.

The decision will benefit government employees who are presently working with the state government of J&K. Till now the J&K government had not implemented the Pay Commission recommendations.

'Kashmir leaders, separatists didn't lose kin to terror'

NEW DELHI: Leaders of Hurriyat and mainstream parties in Jammu and Kashmir, religious preachers and clerics have used their influence to get the children of ordinary Kashmiris killed while none of them lost their own to terrorism, Governor Satya Pal Malik said on Tuesday. PAGE 2

Union Home Minister Amit Shah cleared the proposal on Tuesday following which a formal order was issued by the ministry. The decision will lead to an additional payment of

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PM meets, lauds laureate Abhijit; RSS slams winner

NITIN MAHAJAN
NEW DELHI, OCT. 22

Nobel laureate Abhijit Banerjee on Tuesday called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the two had a "healthy and extensive" interaction on various subjects. Mr Banerjee, an India-born American professor at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), has won Nobel in economics with Esther Duflo and Michael Kremer for "experimental approach to alleviating global poverty."

"Excellent meeting with Nobel Laureate Abhijit Banerjee. His passion towards human empowerment is clearly visible. We had a healthy and extensive interaction on various subjects. India is proud of his accomplishments. Wishing him the very best for his future endeav-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi meets Nobel Prize winner in economics Abhijit Banerjee in New Delhi on Tuesday. — AP via Twitter

ours," PM Modi said in a tweet, sharing a picture of their meeting at his official residence.

Mr Banerjee, speaking to the media after his meeting with Prime Minister Modi on Tuesday, said he would not get into controversial statements because he had been warned, by the Prime Minister. "I had a cordial and good

meeting. PM Modi started by cracking a joke on how media is trying to trap me to say anti-Modi things... He's been watching the TV and he's been watching you guys. And he knows what you are trying to do," Mr Banerjee remarked. However, the economist came in for severe criticism from the Rashtriya

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Aadhaar, social media linking: SC transfers all cases to itself

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 22

The Supreme Court on Tuesday transferred to itself petitions seeking the linking of social media profiles with identity proof, including Aadhaar.

The petitions that the Supreme 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 court 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

Turn to Page 4

Trudeau wins Canada polls but loses majority

Will have to form alliance govt, seek trust vote

Ottawa, Oct 22: Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Liberal Party held onto power in a nail-biter of a Canadian general election on Monday, but as a weakened minority government.

Last projections declared the Liberals winners in 156 of the nation's 338 electoral districts, versus 122 for his main Conservative rival, Andrew Scheer, up from the 95 they held before.

With 13 seats short of a majority, Mr Trudeau will find it harder to pass legislation in his second term.

As early as Tuesday, Mr Trudeau will have to form an alliance with one or more smaller parties and the first test of his future government will follow in the coming weeks with a speech to Parliament outlining his legislative priorities and a confidence vote.

"From coast to coast to coast, tonight Canadians rejected division and neg-

ativity," Mr Trudeau said. "And they... voted in favour of a progressive agenda and strong action on climate change." He reassured Quebec that his Liberal government, despite an electoral setback in the French-speaking province, "will

be there for you." He also spoke directly to a growing sense of Western Canada's alienation, telling those in Saskatchewan and Alberta provinces: "I've heard your frustration." — Agencies



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BSP cadre blacken faces of Raj leaders

Jaipur: Two BSP leaders were garlanded with shoes, their faces blackened and paraded outside the party office on Tuesday by its workers who alleged corruption in ticket allocation in the 2018 Rajasthan Assembly polls.

The BSP workers also made Ramji Gautam, the national coordinator, sit on a donkey and paraded him.

More on Page 3

SC rejects CBI logic, grants PC bail in INX case

'No whisper of evidence' that PC tried to tamper with evidence: SC

AGE CORRESPONDENT
With agency inputs
NEW DELHI, OCT. 22

In a relief to former finance minister P. Chidambaram, the Supreme Court on Tuesday granted him bail in the INX Media case being investigated by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) while trashing the investigating agency's assertions that he was a flight risk, and saying that there was "no whisper" of any evidence that he had tried to influence witnesses or tamper with documents.

Mr Chidambaram, who has spent two months in the custody of enforcement agencies and in jail, can't walk free at least till Thursday as he is currently in the Enforcement Directorate's custody in a related money laundering matter.

Mr Chidambaram, 74, was arrested by the CBI 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 ED custody till Thursday.

'FLIGHT RISK'

The 'flight risk' of economic offenders should be looked at as a national phenomenon.

— TUSHAR MEHTA, Solicitor general

There can't be a universal formula 'merely because certain other offenders have flown out of the country'

— SUPREME COURT

Setting aside the Delhi high court's September 30 verdict denying bail to Mr Chidambaram, a bench of Justice R. Banumathi, Justice A.S. Bopanna and Justice Hrishikesh Roy said that he was not a "flight risk" and there was "no possibility of his absconding from the trial."

The apex court said that the high court's order, which said that the possibility of the senior Congress leader influencing witnesses could not be ruled out, was not "substantiated by any finding

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India urges Pak to drop \$20 fee India & Pakistan to sign Kartarpur pact tomorrow

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 22

India and Pakistan will sign the agreement for Kartarpur Corridor on October 24 at Zero Point, between Attari-Wagah borders.

The fresh date was announced after the two sides agreed on Thursday as the most convenient day to sign the agreement which has been held up only for one issue — Pakistan's demand to charge Indian pilgrims \$20 for travelling to Kartarpur through the corridor.

In a statement issued on Monday, the ministry of external affairs urged Pakistan government to shed rigidity and drop the ideas of charging pilgrims \$20 as "Service Fee" and offered to sign the agreement on October 23. However, the date was shifted to October 24 since Pakistani officials

US: Pak support to terror blocking talks with India

New Delhi: The United States government has said that it supports a direct dialogue between India and Pakistan but it is also aware that Islamabad's continued support to terrorists that engage in cross-border terrorism is the main impediment. The US said that while it is all for the rights of Kashmiris to peacefully protest, it condemns the actions of terrorists who seek to use violence and fear to undermine dialogue. PAGE 3

were not available on Wednesday.

India has said that it is disappointing that while understanding has been reached on most of the

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Assam: No government jobs for parents with more than 2 kids

MANOJ ANAND
GUWAHATI, OCT. 22

In what has come after two years of adopting a population policy, the Assam Cabinet has decided to deny government jobs to people with more than two children. In September 2017, the Assam Assembly had passed the "Population and Women Empowerment Policy of Assam" which specified that candidates with two children would be eligible for government employment and the existing government staff were to

strictly follow the two-children family norm. The policy will come into effect from January 1, 2021.

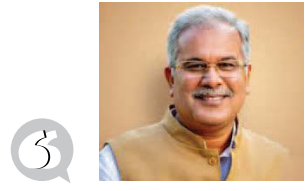
In a statement, the chief minister's office stated that those having more than two children will not be considered for government jobs with effect from January 1, 2021, as per the small family norm.

Assam finance minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, who was pushing for the population policy to be adopted, recently said, "While the state's population rose by 46 lakh from 2.66 crore in 2001 to 3.12

crore in 2011, a preliminary analysis has shown that it has increased by one crore in 16 years between 2001 and 2017. This increase is not only alarming but also unacceptable." Early marriage in communities living in char (riverine), tea gardens and tribal areas is one of the reasons behind this "alarming" increase in population, Mr Sarma said. "A very large number of girls in these areas marry between 14 and 16 years, while boys have been found to be marrying between 16 and 20 years," he said.



Rajasthan chief minister Ashok Gehlot on Tuesday chaired a review meeting of industries department at his residence



If voted to power Cong will waive farmers' loans in Jharkhand

— Bhupesh Baghel, Chhattisgarh CM

SHORT TAKES

Ramamurthy joins saffron fold

New Delhi: After Bhubneshwar Kalita and Sanjay Singh, another Congress leader, K.C. Ramamurthy on Tuesday joined the BJP. A senior leader from Karnataka, Mr Ramamurthy had resigned from the Rajya Sabha on October 16. The former Congress leader joined the saffron party fold at the BJP headquarters in the presence of the party's national general secretaries Bhpender Yadav and Arun Singh. Other than the Congress, three SP leaders — Neeraj Shekhar, Surendra Singh Nagar and Sanjay Seth had recently given up their Rajya Sabha membership to join the BJP. They were later re-elected to the Upper House of Parliament on a BJP ticket.

Re-polling to be held in five booths

Chandigarh: Re-polling will be held in five polling booths of as many assembly constituencies in Haryana on Wednesday as "some shortcomings" have been noticed, an official said. Arrangements have been made for re-polling in booth numbers 71 of Uchana Kalan assembly constituency in Jind district, 161 of Beri constituency in Hajaraj district, 28 of Narnaul assembly constituency in Narnaul district, 18 of Kosli in district Rewari and booth number 113 of Prithla in Faridabad district, state's joint chief electoral officer Dr Inder Jeet said on Tuesday. He said that the re-polling will be held from 7 am to 6 pm on Wednesday. — PTI

Lucky escape for Rajasthan minister

Jaipur: Rajasthan Tourism Minister Vishvendra Singh had a narrow escape on Monday when a dumper hit his vehicle from behind on the Dausa-Jaipur highway, police said. No one was hurt in the incident which occurred under Kotwali police station area, they said. "The minister was on his way to Jaipur when the dumper hit his vehicle. The vehicle got partially damaged from backside," a police officer said. He said a case was registered against the dumper driver for rash driving. — PTI

BIHAR: TOP RJD LEADER GOES ON SABBATICAL

Patna: In yet another indication that all was not well within Lalu Prasad's Rashtriya Janata Dal, a top leader of the main opposition party in Bihar on Tuesday announced that he was going on a sabbatical, citing "mental fatigue". Shivanand Tiwary, the RJD's national vice president, announced on the social media that he was taking a holiday from the role he had been playing in the party. "Feeling tired. The fatigue is more of the mind than the body. Want to write a memoir but unable to do even that...Hence taking a holiday from whatever role I had been playing in the RJD," the 76-year-old Tiwary said in a message he shared on social media. However, when probed further, Tiwary who has known Prasad since the days when the latter was a student leader, told PTI "I have not said anything in my message that I am resigning from the primary membership of RJD or even from the post I hold therein. It would not be correct to draw too many interpretations." — PTI

Niti CEO to make presentation on present state of economy

Economic slump: Modi set to meet top mantris today

ANIMESH SINGH NEW DELHI, OCT. 22

With the NDA government's ambitious target of making India a \$5 trillion economy by 2025 facing the twin challenge of a domestic economic slowdown and unemployment reaching a 45 year high, the Prime Minister has called a high level review meeting of the infrastructure sector on October 23 at his residence.

Highly-placed sources said that Mr Modi would be brainstorming with ministers of key infrastructure sector-related ministries to find ways of achieving the aforementioned goal amid prevailing domestic economic



Narendra Modi

slump. The PMO is learnt to have expressed concern over the current economic scenario and with even Nobel laureate Abhijit Banerjee having expressed grave concern about the banking crisis in India, the review meeting called by Mr Modi could not have come at a more pertinent time.

Modi set to address BJP cadre in Varanasi

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, OCT. 22

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will interact with the cadre from his parliamentary constituency, Varanasi on October 24, the day results of Maharashtra and Haryana assembly polls results will be announced. Exit polls have predicted that the BJP will retain power in both states.

The Prime Minister's interaction with the party cadre in Uttar Pradesh through video conferencing comes two days ahead of 'Deepotsav' celebration in Ayodhya by Yogi Adityanath led government on the eve on Diwali, October 26.

More than five lakh diyas will be lit at the banks of river Saryu and across the city and a team from the Guinness Book of World Records will be present to document the feat.

For the Prime Minister's interaction with the cadre — 'Deepotsav Karyakarta Samvaad' — Mr Modi has sought suggestions and questions on his official NaMo app.

This will be Mr Modi's first interaction with the cadre from his parliamentary constituency after the BJP retained power at the Centre with a thumping majority in the Lok Sabha polls held earlier this year.

The Prime Minister had last visited his parliamentary constituency on May 27, to thank the party cadre and the people of Varanasi, which he had been representing in Parliament since 2014.

In a tweet, Mr Modi urged all workers to join the interaction and asked them to share suggestions or questions they may have on his NaMo app.

For the PM's event, the BJP's state unit has asked the party workers to make necessary arrangements at its offices at all districts.

Govt must bear 'jazia tax' sought by Pak, says Cong

New Delhi, Oct. 22: Labelling the \$20 service fee proposed by Pakistan for each Kartarpur pilgrim as "jazia tax", Congress leader Manish Tewari said on Tuesday that the BJP government should bear the cost as a Sikh devotee paying for the visit to the gurudwara goes against the grain of "khule darshan" (open darshan). India and Pakistan are set to sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on October 23 for the opening of the Kartarpur corridor that will link the Indian side through a corridor to the Kartarpur gurudwara, where first Sikh guru Nanak Dev



spent his last days. New Delhi has asked Islamabad to reconsider its demand of charging USD 20 service fee a pilgrim.

"If Pakistan insists on \$20 Dollar Fee for Kartarpur pilgrims and India signs agreement on 23rd October 2019, then NDA/BJP Govt should undertake to pay that Jazia Tax in MOU itself. Paying to visit Kartarpur Sahib goes against grain of "KHULE DARSHAN in Holy Ardas," he said on Twitter.

Punjab chief minister Amarinder Singh has also urged the Pakistani authorities to reconsider the imposition of USD 20

fee per pilgrim as it went against the concept of "khule darshan" (open visit). The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), in a statement, said it is a "matter of disappointment that Pakistan continues to insist levying a service fee of \$20 per pilgrim per visit". The corridor is being built by India and Pakistan to connect Dera Baba Nanak in Gurdaspur and Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Pakistan's Kartarpur, the final resting place of Guru Nanak, to commemorate the 550th birth anniversary of the founder of Sikhism on November 12.

—PTI

Banerjee urges Centre to cut stakes in PSU banks

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 banking crisis in the sector.

"There is need to bring down stake of the government 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," Mr Banerjee said while interacting 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,



Economics Nobel Prize winner Abhijit Banerjee at a press conference, in New Delhi on Tuesday.

—BIPLAB BANERJEE

which led to network 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 Rs 50 crore and recommend action.

However, when asked about the state of the economy of the country, Mr 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. As far as banking sector is concerned, the government claimed that it has taken several measures to bring down NPAs in the banking system, but the health of public sector banks still looks as bad as some years ago.

J&K gov hits out at separatists & political leaders

Jammu, Oct. 22: Leaders of Hurriyat and mainstream parties in Jammu and Kashmir, religious preachers and clerics have used their influence to get the children of ordinary Kashmiris killed while none of them lost their own to terrorism, Governor Satya Pal Malik said on Tuesday.

Alleging that "affluent and powerful" sections have crushed the dreams of the youths in Kashmir and destroyed their lives, he appealed to the people to understand the truth and join the Centre's efforts to usher peace and progress in the state.

"Their own children are studying abroad and are well settled. But to the children of commoners, they show the way to 'jannat' (paradise) get them killed. All this has been happening here," Mr Malik said addressing the seventh convocation of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University in Katra town. "Politicians, bureaucrats, affluent and powerful have crushed the dreams of the youths and destroyed their lives."

"The society leaders, religious preachers, Moulvis, Hurriyat and mainstream parties have used their influence to get the children of ordinary Kashmiris killed. None of them have lost their own child and nobody from their families joined terrorism," he said.

Mr Malik, who is known for his candid remarks, said that after joining as Governor, "I have not taken input from the intelligence agencies. They are not telling the truth to Delhi or us."

"I directly talked to 150 to 200 youths and tried to identify those in colleges and universities who do not stand up for the national anthem. I talked to them and those in the age group of 25 to 30 years, whose dreams have been crushed, are misled and are angry... They do not want Hurriyat, us or Delhi government or autonomy because they were shown that the way to paradise is by getting martyred," he said.

The governor said he

told such youths that they already have a paradise in Kashmir.

"I want to tell the people of Kashmir and the youth to understand the truth. You have beautiful place in the world to live.... "Give it in the hands of Delhi which has opened its treasure for you. We are not going to take it (the place) anywhere. Come forward and tread the path of progress and development," the governor said.

—PTI

Describing the current situation in Kashmir as "very painful", former CPI(M) MLA from Jammu and Kashmir, M.Y. Tarigami on Tuesday said the matter on Article 370 had been "misrepresented" in the country through a concerted campaign by the Sangh Parivar.

"Unfortunately, things as they exist today in the whole of the country the situation has undergone a change. People are ill-informed. The Sangh Parivar for so many years they campaigned on certain issues like the Article 370. It is being misrepresented before the people as if it is a clause which is promoting terrorism, it is a clause which has not allowed the integration with the mainstream, which has virtually divided people, denied fruits of development. The fact is otherwise," the former MLA from Kulgam claimed.

The controversial Article 370 had been abrogated by the central government on August 5 and the final implementation of the bifurcation of the state into two Union Territories would happen on October 31.

Mr Tarigami, who was in New Delhi on routine medical visit to the All India Institute of Medical

Sciences, however, appealed to the people, specially youth of Kashmir not to indulge in violence.

"See, we cannot be sure about how the future will turn out. But certainly there is huge huge disappointment...youth is in deep distress, no doubt about that. We are worried about the future days ahead.

"But we will certainly appeal to the people of Kashmir, particularly the youth, whatever the provocation from authorities, whatever wrongs, the Constitutional fraud, the betrayal committed by the government of India, violence doesn't remain an option for the people of Kashmir. We should not fall into the trap of those who want to isolate us and defeat us."

— M.Y. Tarigami, Former J&K MLA

Mr Tarigami said speaking with this newspaper at the official residence of CPI(M) General Secretary Sitaram Yechury.

—PTI

Govt staff can accept bigger gifts this Diwali

AGE CORRESPONDENT WITH AGENCY INPUTS NEW DELHI, OCT. 22

The Central government is learnt to have increased the monetary limits for accepting gifts for all its employees, relaxing the ceiling by more than three-fold, agencies quoting official sources reported on Tuesday.

All officials under groups 'A' and 'B' categories shall not accept any gift without the sanction of the government if the value exceeds ₹5,000, they said, citing recently amended rules. Earlier, the limit to accept gifts for these employees was ₹1,500.

Similarly, group 'C' employees will be able to accept gifts up to ₹2,000 instead of ₹500 without taking government approval.

Officials said the ceiling limits were revised to bring them on par with those for the three all India services — Indian Administrative Service, Indian Police Service and Indian Forest Service.

Gifts include free transport, boarding, lodging or other pecuniary advantage when provided by any person other than a near relative or personal friend having no official dealings with the government servant.

A casual meal, lift or other social hospitality is not considered a gift, according to existing rules.

The government has also removed the limit of ₹1,000 for government employees to receive and retain gifts from foreign dignitaries.

"A government servant, being a member of the Indian delegation or otherwise, may receive and retain gifts from foreign dignitaries in accordance with the provisions of The Foreign Contribution (Acceptance or Retention of Gifts or Presentation) Rules, 2012, as amended from time to time," agencies said, quoting a Personnel Ministry order, without citing further details.

—PTI

Army officer loses life in gunbattle

Jammu, Oct. 22: An Army officer was killed in a gunfight with terrorists who had sneaked into Indian territory taking cover of firing from the Pakistani side in Rajouri, and two civilians were injured in cross-border shelling on villages along the LoC in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, officials said.

Giving details of the Rajouri incident, a senior Army officer told PTI that a patrol team saw "suspicious movement" near the forward area along the Line of Control (LoC) in the Kalal belt of Nowshera sector and engaged with the terrorists.

In the ensuing gunfight, a Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO) of the Army was critically injured and later succumbed to his injuries, he said, adding that Pakistani troops also fired at the Indian side in the sector. —PTI

Article 370 not cause of Kashmir issue: Tarigami

SREEPARNA CHAKRABARTY NEW DELHI, OCT. 22

Describing the current situation in Kashmir as "very painful", former CPI(M) MLA from Jammu and Kashmir, M.Y. Tarigami on Tuesday said the matter on Article 370 had been "misrepresented" in the country through a concerted campaign by the Sangh Parivar.

"Unfortunately, things as they exist today in the whole of the country the situation has undergone a change. People are ill-informed. The Sangh Parivar for so many years they campaigned on certain issues like the Article 370. It is being misrepresented before the people as if it is a clause which is promoting terrorism, it is a clause which has not allowed the integration with the mainstream, which has virtually divided people, denied fruits of development. The fact is otherwise," the former MLA from Kulgam claimed.

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Sciences, however, appealed to the people, specially youth of Kashmir not to indulge in violence.

"See, we cannot be sure about how the future will turn out. But certainly there is huge huge disappointment...youth is in deep distress, no doubt about that. We are worried about the future days ahead.

"But we will certainly appeal to the people of Kashmir, particularly the youth, whatever the provocation from authorities, whatever wrongs, the Constitutional fraud, the betrayal committed by the government of India, violence doesn't remain an option for the people of Kashmir. We should not fall into the trap of those who want to isolate us and defeat us."

— M.Y. Tarigami, Former J&K MLA



Congress Committee general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra visits Hanuman Temple at Churva in Rae Bareilly district, Uttar Pradesh on Tuesday. —PTI



Punjab politics

People within Congress created trouble between Amarinder, Sidhu: Navjot Kaur

BSP leaders garlanded with shoes

Workers allege corruption in '18 Rajasthan poll ticket distribution

Jaipur, Oct. 22: Two BSP leaders were garlanded with shoes, their faces blackened and were paraded outside the party office on Tuesday by its workers, who alleged corruption in ticket allocation in the 2018 Rajasthan Assembly polls.

The BSP workers also made Ramji Gautam, the national coordinator, sit on a donkey and paraded him and former state unit chief Sitaram outside the party office in Bani Park here.

"Our workers are upset with the leaders. The workers were active on the ground for five years but parachute candidates from the BJP and Congress were



given tickets in lieu of money. BSP workers and leaders are being ignored and exploited," a BSP worker present there said. He said they held three

demonstrations in the state but the leaders did not convey their plight to BSP chief Mayawati. "Therefore, we had to take this step," he said.

Following the incident, Ms Mayawati has dissolved the state committee of the BSP and lashed out at the Congress.

In a tweet in Hindi, she alleged that the Congress first indulged in horse-trading and now, it was getting BSP leaders attacked in Rajasthan. "The Congress party first caused defections among the BSP MLAs and is now getting senior people attacked in order to harm the movement. It is most con-

demnable and shameful. The Congress is setting a very wrong tradition against the movement and people can give a befitting reply."

"Therefore, the Congress should desist from such disgusting antics," she said in another tweet.

In September, all the six MLAs of the BSP in Rajasthan had joined the Congress as a block to jump provisions in anti-defection law.

The BSP was the largest party offering support to the Congress government, which had been short of a majority since elections in late 2018.

— PTI

Informed legislation will help in realising the stated objectives of various laws

— M. Venkaiah Naidu, Vice-president

SHORT TAKES

BSF spots drones near Pak border

Ferozpur: BSF personnel posted in Punjab's Hussainiwala sector have spotted three drones along the India-Pakistan border, officials said on Tuesday. Though there were reports that Border Security Force (BSF) troops fired at the drones coming from the Pakistani side on Monday night, there was no official confirmation. Earlier this month, drones were sighted by residents of Basti Ram Lal, Tendi Wala and Hajara Singh Wala villages, following which the BSF was put on alert. At that time, search operations were carried out by the BSF and the Punjab Police but nothing suspicious was found. The force had also sensitised residents living along the Indo-Pak border to immediately inform police if they spotted anything unusual. — PTI

Two Pak nationals held at border: BSF

Ferozpur (Punjab): Two Pakistani nationals, roaming suspiciously on the Indian side of the border here, have been apprehended by BSF personnel, officials said on Tuesday. Md. Lateef and Md. Saif are residents of Okara district in Pakistan. They were nabbed by the Border Security Force (BSF) jawans after they crossed the international border and entered into the Indian territory near the border outpost in Samsake in Ferozpur district of Punjab on Monday evening. The duo were in the custody of BSF and were being questioned. — PTI

Vadra discharged from hospital

New Delhi: Sonia Gandhi's son-in-law Robert Vadra was admitted to a Noida-based private hospital for a night after he complained of back pain, sources said on Tuesday. Mr Vadra, who is married to Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi, was admitted to the Metro multi-specialty hospital in Noida on Monday, where he stayed overnight. He was discharged on Tuesday. Mr Vadra underwent some tests and after treatment and medication, was discharged from the hospital. — PTI

IIT Bhubaneswar student found dead inside hostel

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO BHUBANESWAR, OCT. 22

Odisha police on Tuesday intensified probe to ascertain the exact cause behind death of IIT student Chirag Pravin Jain on Monday evening.

The 18-year-old Chirag reportedly died after falling from the hostel building of IIT Argul in Bhubaneswar.

The deceased hailed from Pune and was a second year computer science student at the IIT here.

As per reports, Chirag was found lying in a pool of blood in the courtyard of Mahanadi hostel on Monday evening. Though he was rushed to a private hospital in Bhubaneswar, the doctors declared him as brought dead.

As it is still unclear whether Chirag jumped or fell down or was pushed by someone from balcony of the hostel, senior police officials registered an unnatural death (UD) case and initiated a detailed probe into the incident. A team of forensic experts



Chirag Jain

visited the spot for investigation while another team of doctors conducted his autopsy.

Stalin, public relations officer (PRO) IIT Bhubaneswar, said Chirag Jain was a bright student.

The public relations officer denied commenting on the issue citing that it would be inappropriate to comment anything right now as police investigation is still underway.

IIT authorities said that Chirag's parents were informed about the unfortunate incident. The institute also condoled the death of the student.

Bhubaneswar Deputy Commission of Police (DCP) Anup Sahoo stated, "The second year student fell down from the terrace on Monday evening and was rushed to the hospital where he was declared dead. An unnatural death case was registered."



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with former US secretary of state Henry Kissinger, former British PM Tony Blair, former Australian PM John Howard, former US secretary of state Condoleezza Rice and former US secretary of defence Robert Gates in New Delhi on Tuesday. — PTI

US supports direct talks between India, Pakistan

'Concerned over human rights abuse in Pak'

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, OCT. 22

The United States government has said that it supports a direct dialogue between India and Pakistan but it is also aware that Islamabad's continued support to terrorists that engage in cross-border terrorism is the main impediment. The US said that while it is all for the rights of Kashmiris to peacefully protest, it condemns the actions of terrorists who seek to use violence and fear to undermine dialogue.

The United States also expressed concerns over reports of human rights abuses and discrimination in Pakistan.

Acting assistant secretary of state for South and Central Asia Alice G.

Wells told the subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and Nonproliferation of the House Foreign Affairs Committee that Pakistan's act of harbouring terrorist groups is destabilising the region and restarting productive bilateral dialogue between India and Pakistan needs building of trust.

"We believe that direct dialogue between India and Pakistan, as outlined in the 1972 Simla Agreement, holds the most potential for reducing tensions," Ms Wells told the subcommittee. She added that backchannel negotiations in during 2006-2007 between the two countries reportedly made significant progress on a number of issues, including the

issue of Jammu & Kashmir. "History shows us, what is possible restarting a productive bilateral dialogue requires building trust, and the chief obstacle remains Pakistan's continued support for extremist groups that engage in cross-border terrorism. We believe the foundation of any successful dialogue between India and Pakistan is based on Pakistan taking sustained and irreversible steps against militants and terrorists in its territory," Ms Wells said in a statement submitted to the Congressional subcommittee on a day before the hearing on "human rights in South Asia: Views from the state department and the region".

Passenger dies of cardiac arrest on Qatar flight

Hyderabad, Oct. 22: A 69 year-old Ukrainian suffered a cardiac arrest and collapsed on board a Doha-Bangkok flight, prompting the crew to divert the aircraft to the airport here, where doctors declared him brought dead, airport sources said here on Tuesday.

Galyna Konkina, who had a history of heart ailment and undergone a bypass surgery 20 years ago, was found "unresponsive and unconscious" in the flight at 1.30 am, following which the Qatar Airways flight landed at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport here about two hours later.

Airport sources said the crew had carried out pulmonary resuscitation, but to no avail.

The flight landed here at 3.25 am and the patient was seen by the doctor at the airport.

The patient was declared brought dead due to cardiac arrest, the sources said.

Qatar Airways in a statement confirmed "with deep regret," the death of the passenger on board the flight.

The airline offered its condolences to the family of the 69-year-old Ukrainian passenger.

— PTI

Table with columns: Sr. No., Equipment/Item Name, Quantity, EMD, Opening Date. Includes items like RVG, Video Assisted Thoracoscopic Surgery, Nephelometer, etc.

Advertisement for Delhi Police regarding firecracker guidelines. Title: Attention! Hon'ble Supreme Court Guidelines FOR SALE & USE OF FIRECRACKERS. Lists banned items and permitted categories.

TENDER NOTICE for Winch and Winch System at HCSL, Kolkata. Includes details about the tender process and contact information.

ग्रेटर नोएडा औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण. सूचना संख्या-1, नॉलेज पार्क-04 ग्रेटर नोएडा सिटी, गौतमबुद्ध नगर. सार्वजनिक सूचना. Details about industrial development in Greater Noida.



New hospitals

Employees State Insurance Hospitals to be set up in every district of nation, says Union minister S.K. Gangwar



I can say this with confidence that Cong is going to form the next govt in Haryana

— Kumari Selja, Haryana Cong chief

SHORT TAKES

Brahmos testfire by IAF a success

New Delhi: The IAF has carried out successful firing of BrahMos surface-to-surface missiles from a mobile platform at Trak Island in Andaman Nicobar islands, officials said on Tuesday. The drill to check the IAF's capability to hit targets with "pin-point" accuracy at targets close to 300 KM was conducted on Monday and Tuesday, they said. "Surface-to-surface missiles were fired by IAF at Trak Island in the Andaman Nicobar group of islands," said an official, adding the missile engaged the designated mock targets close to 300 km away. "A direct hit on the target was achieved in both the cases," he said. — PTI

PM likely to visit Saudi on Oct. 29

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to visit Saudi Arabia on a day-long visit on October 29 to participate in an annual investment forum to be held there, official sources said on Tuesday. Mr Modi's visit comes months after Saudi crown prince Mohammed bin Salman paid a visit to India in February. He will attend the third edition of the Future Investment Initiative, an annual investment forum held on October 29-31. — PTI

Kartarpur pact

Continued from Page 1 elements for facilitating the visit of pilgrims from India, Pakistan continues to insist on levying a service fee of \$20 per pilgrim, per visit. "Government has consistently urged Pakistan that in deference to the wishes of the pilgrims, it should not levy such a fee," the Indian government said in a statement. The MEA said that while agreeing to sign the agreement, the Government of Pakistan has been once again urged to reconsider its insistence on levying service fee. "India would be ready to amend the agreement accordingly at any time," MEA said.



Congress chief Sonia Gandhi meets a delegation of Rajiv Gandhi Model United Nations and Indian Youth Congress representatives to appraise her on the deliberations that took place during the recently concluded three-day Model United Nations and Youth Parliament Session in New Delhi on Tuesday. — PTI

Sonia seeks report on Raj civic bodies' row

New Delhi, Oct. 22: Congress president Sonia Gandhi has sought a report on the controversy over the Rajasthan government allowing those not elected in civic polls to head civic bodies in the state. According to sources, Mrs Gandhi has asked AICC in-charge of the state Avinash Pande to submit a report on the row, after state Deputy chief minister had Sachin Pilot questioned the decision of his own government.

The sources said Mr Pande rushed back to Delhi this morning after Monday's polling in Maharashtra, where he was in-charge of the election control room, and is likely to submit a report on the issue.

Taking a stand that appeared to go against the view of chief minister Ashok Gehlot, Mr Pilot made it clear he was not consulted on the decision that was notified on Wednesday.

Two other ministers in the Congress-run state have separately opposed the move that allows people who are not elected councillors to contest for posts like mayors and chairpersons of corporations and municipalities.

The non-councillor candidates still have to be elected by councillors to the top posts.

"This is not a good decision and I do not agree with this. The decision is not practical and not politically right and there is a need to make changes to the decision," Mr Pilot told reporters. — PTI

Censorship in place in Bengal: Gov Dhankhar

In fresh face off, says Mamata gov't 'behaviour unconstitutional'

Kolkata, Oct. 22: In a fresh face off with the West Bengal government and the Raj Bhavan, governor Jagdeep Dhankhar on Tuesday accused it of "unconstitutional behaviour" with him and wondered whether some "sort of censorship" is in place in the state as district officials have refused to meet him. Mr Dhankhar said that the district officials had told him that government permission is needed to attend meetings with him.

The officials, the governor said, had told him that permission to attend the meeting with him is not available as all senior government officials are presently in north Bengal, where chief minister Mamata Banerjee is on an administrative tour.

The refusal by the district officials to attend a meeting called by the governor is "unconstitutional", Mr Dhankhar said.

He had last week expressed his wish to hold meetings with district magistrates, bureaucrats and elected representatives of North and South 24 Parganas districts, a tour of which he has begun from Tuesday.

The office of the governor had on Monday evening received letters from the two district magistrates stating that the officials would not be able to attend his meetings as they will be busy with the CM's ongoing tour of north Bengal, Raj Bhavan sources said. — PTI



Mamata Banerjee and Jagdeep Dhankhar

However, the district magistrates had said that other arrangements for his tour will be made, the sources said.

The letters by the district magistrates said, "This is to kindly inform you that permission of the state government is required for the undersigned to request the invitees to attend the scheduled meeting."

"I am astonished to receive the letters from the district officials in which they have expressed their inability to attend the meetings, that too four days after my intimation. I do not know whether some sort of censorship is in place in West Bengal," he said.

"Despite this I will continue my tour of the districts," he added. Later while speaking to reporters, he wondered whether the state government goes on a holiday when the chief minister is on a district tour.

"Is it appropriate that whenever the governor wants to meet someone there has to be censorship, an approval from the state government? I am not subordinate to the state government..." Mr Dhankhar said. — PTI

Sahai new power secy, Kumar to be UIDAI chief

New Delhi, Oct. 22: Senior IAS officer Sanjeev Nandan Sahai was on Tuesday appointed the new power secretary replacing Subhash Chander Garg, who had sought voluntary retirement after being shunted out from the post of finance secretary soon after the Budget was passed by Parliament.

Mr Garg was serving a three-month notice period pending acceptance of his voluntary retirement. An order issued by the personnel ministry said Mr Sahai, a 1986-batch IAS officer of UT cadre, will be power secretary in place of Mr Garg who superannuates on October 31.

Mr Sahai is at present special secretary in the ministry.

Mr Garg, who would have retired next year after completing the 60-year age of superannuation, was removed as finance secretary and appointed power secretary in July.

In other appointments, Pankaj Kumar, the additional secretary in the ministry of electronics and information technology, will be the CEO of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), which issues Aadhaar. — PTI

All votes cast went in BJP's favour: Villagers

Poll official on duty in Maha village denies claim

Pune, Oct. 22: Voters in a Maharashtra village have alleged EVM malfunction during the Lok Sabha bypoll on Monday, saying it resulted in votes cast for any candidate going to BJP's account, a claim denied by poll officials.

NCP legislator Shahshikant Shinde said he was witness to such a thing happening when he visited the polling booth in Navlewadi village in Satara district.

Kirti Nalawade, the returning officer for the Koregaon Assembly segment in Western Maharashtra, where this village is located, refuted the claim.

Mr Shinde said the EC should take a serious note of this incident and initiate steps to check its recurrence.

Villagers said votes cast in favour of the NCP nominee Srinivas Patil were going into the "account" of BJP candidate Udayanraje Bhosale, a claim the district election officials rejected.

Mr Shinde said when he reached the polling station and raised the issue with the election officials from the booth, they hurriedly changed the EVM machine. Bypoll for Satara LS constituency was held simultaneously

Sidda raises doubts on EVMs' credibility

Bengaluru, Oct. 22: With exit polls forecasting a facile victory for the BJP in Maharashtra and Haryana and a rout for its rivals, led by the Congress, former Karnataka chief minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday expressed suspicion about the credibility of the electronic voting machines (EVMs).

Exit polls varied widely in their projection of seats for the rival alliances, but were in no doubt about an emphatic victory with more than two-thirds seats for the BJP-led NDA in both the

states. Speaking to reporters at Hubballi, the senior congress leader said he had travelled via road from Solapur to Hyderabad when he had gone to Maharashtra for campaigning and the road condition there was "pathetic", despite Nitin Gadkari, who is Union minister for road transport and highways, hailing from the state.

There has not been development there in five years, he alleged.

"Don't know how people are voting them. I don't know," Mr Siddaramaiah said. — PTI

with the Assembly poll on October 21.

"I received a call from some voters and our party workers who informed me that votes cast for the NCP candidate were going to the BJP nominee. By the time I reached there, around 270 votes were cast in a similar manner," Mr Shinde said.

Mr Shinde said as some voters had expressed their

doubts, the NCP polling booth agents asked the officials to verify the claims.

Before polling commenced in the morning, a mock poll was held in the presence of all polling booth agents and at that time, no one had raised any objection. Polling went on smoothly till 4 pm, Ms Nalawade added. — PTI

CBI to quiz Prajapati in UP mining scam probe

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, OCT. 22

The CBI is all set to question former mining minister of UP Gayatri Prasad Prajapati in connection with agency's probe into the multi-crore sand mining scam in the state by the end of this week.

Sources in the agency said Mr Prajapati's questioning will be part of CBI's probe into the latest FIR registered by the Central probe agency in the multi-crore sand mining scam in UP. Mr Prajapati is considered close to Samajwadi Party supreme and former chief minister of UP Akhilesh Yadav. The CBI on October 1 conducted searches at 11 locations in Uttarakhnad and UP after registering a fresh FIR in connection with the multi-crore sand mining scam against 12 people, including two senior IAS officers serving as



Gayatri Prasad Prajapati

secretaries in the UP government.

Sources said the case pertained to the alleged irregularities in the allocation of sand mining leases in Saharanpur. Former district magistrates of Saharanpur Ajay Kumar Singh and Pawan Kumar are among the 12 accused named in the FIR. Mr Singh is presently the secretary of Khadi and Village Industries Board, while Mr Kumar is now posted as special secretary in the housing and urban planning depart-

ment. "It is suspected that the public servants booked in this case are close to Mr Prajapati, former state mining minister", sources said, adding that this is the reason that the CBI wants to question Mr Prajapati.

The probe agency had recovered ₹15 lakh from the residence of Mr Singh besides documents of two properties, they said, adding it is alleged that between 2005 and 2015, 13 leases were granted to accused lease holders in Saharanpur. These leases were renewed in 2012 and 2015 by then district magistrates in alleged violation of government orders of allotting lease deeds only through e-tendering.

These public servants in criminal conspiracy with private persons had abused their official position and executed lease deeds in favour of accused, sources claimed.

Woman held for links with Iqbal Mirchi

Mumbai, Oct. 22: The ED on Tuesday arrested a woman in connection with its money laundering probe against late gangster Iqbal Mirchi for allegedly forging documents, officials said.

They said Rinku Deshpande, about 45 years of age, was placed under arrest under the provision of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

The Bengaluru-based woman was "not cooperating" and hence she was arrested during questioning, they said.

They said the woman had forged documents and had been shown as a tenant in one of the property that was dealt by Mirchi, an aide of global terrorist Dawood Ibrahim.

This is the fourth arrest in the case and the agency had arrested Mirchi aide Humayun Merchant on Monday. — PTI

Govt to divest PSUs

Continued from Page 1 budgetary shortage arising out of the recent tax exemption announcement. This revenue generation will be apart from the off-budget dividend of around ₹58,000 crore from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which has already come to the government's kitty.

The Centre also plans to give some of the hotels, which are currently being managed by ITDC Hotels, on joint venture basis to its strategic partner. "These hotels include Dony Polo Ashok (Itanagar), Punjab Ashok, Ashok Hotel (New Delhi), Hotel Janpath (New Delhi), Hotel Samrat (New Delhi), Lalitha Mahal Palace Hotel (Mysore), Hotel Jaipur Ashok (Jaipur), Hotel Jammu Ashok (Jammu) and Hotel Patliputra Ashok (Patna)," the source added.

Earlier this month, a group of secretaries cleared strategic sales in Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL), BEML, Container Corporation of India (Concor) and Shipping Corporation of India (SCI). Stake sales in THDC India and Neepco, both power companies, have also been approved. These could be taken over by the state-run NTPC.

The other eight PSUs, which have been lined up by the government for disinvestment in the second tranche, include Bharat Pumps & Compressors, Central Electronics, Ferro Scrap Nigam, Hindustan Fluorocarbons, Container

Corporation of India, Hindustan Prefabs, MMTC/STC, three units of SAIL (Bhadrawati, Salem and Durgapur).

In the third phase of tranche, the PSUs which are likely to go for disinvestment include Dredging Corporation of India, Hooghly Dock & Port Engineers, Kamrajhar Port, Shipping Corporation of India, HLL Lifecare, Indian Medicines & Pharmaceuticals, RITES, IRCON International, Karnataka Antibiotics & Pharmaceuticals, Hindustan Antibiotics and Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals.

However, the source added that Air India and its subsidiaries would form part of the disinvestment programme in the fourth tranche. "Those subsidiaries of Air India include Air India, Air India Charters, Air India Air Transport Services, Allied Air Services, Air India Engineering Services and Hotel Corporation of India," it said.

These strategic sale will help the government in its plan to raise ₹1,57,000 crore from disinvestment of the PSUs, against the budgeted divestment of ₹1 lakh crore in this financial year for partly bridging the fiscal gap arising out of the ₹1.45 lakh crore tax stimulus offered to the corporates. It is, however, learnt that the Centre has taken the move to line up the CPSEs for strategic sale in five tranches over the next few years.

Modi meets, lauds Nobel laureate Abhijit

Continued from Page 1 Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) affiliate Bharatiya Shikshan Mandal (BSM), which termed the Nobel as "political" and his work as "theory" that lacked practical application.

The national organising secretary of BSM, Mukul Kanitkar, while speaking to this newspaper, said that Mr Banerjee had till now not been able to practically implement his ideas as they are just theories. The senior Sangh functionary also wrote a blog in which he raised questions about the award, terming it "political" in nature. "Policies that Mr Banerjee is advocating have

already failed. Yet, it is being advocated and being authenticated by conferring Nobel Prize. This is very dangerous. Why the US did away with Obamacare, because it was pressuring the economy. Greek economy also collapsed as it preferred doling out food tickets rather than encouraging people to work," said Mr Kanitkar. His detailed comments were also posted on the blog Uttarastha, titled Nobel ki Raajneeti ya Arthashastra ka Bhram, just hours after the Prime Minister met the Nobel laureate. Mr Kanitkar alleged that Mr Banerjee was the right candidate to be used as

part of an international conspiracy.

"The ideological background of Banerjee makes him ideal case to be picked up for an international conspiracy. Education in South Point Kolkata, higher education in JNU, research in MIT. He left his Indian wife to marry a foreign student. All of this is a shortcut to become an intellectual aligned with the prevailing ecosystem. The country is already burdened with award winners like Amartya Sen, Arundhati Roy, Ravish Kumar and that's why this suspicion," stated Mr Kanitkar in his blog post. Taking a dig at Mr

Banerjee and the Congress in the same breadth, Mr Kanitkar suggested that the Congress should try and implement his "Nyay" scheme in one of the big Congress-ruled states. The concept of Nyay, a welfare scheme promising cash amount for all, floated by the Congress ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, also came under fire as Mr Kanitkar hoped that Congress governments in states of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Punjab would implement it.

"However, Indian origin Banerjee should be congratulated for the prize," added Mr Kanitkar.

SC to hear Aadhaar-social media linking

Continued from Page 1 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."

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 straightaway that they are mandated to share information."

Citing the example of the US, Justice Gupta said that the government can have its own agency for decrypting of the messages. Justice Bose said "it is like there is a closed door and they are saying you can open the room. But you want the keys to it too. The question however is whether they are under legal obligation to give you (govt) the key?"

Opposing attorney general's submission that intermediaries were obliged to provide the decrypted messages, senior counsel Mukul Rohatgi appearing for one of

the social media platforms cited 2011 Rules to contend that they were under no obligation to share the decrypted messages. He said that they don't have the key to decrypt the messages.

Solicitor general Tushar Mehta said that one had to take a balanced approach — balancing the national interest including security with individual privacy. He said that there could be no privacy for those engaged in acts of terror.

Senior counsel Shyam Divan appearing for Internet Freedom Foundation urged the court to hold its hands from passing any order as they are used by the government to interfere with the privacy of the people.

7th pay panel salaries

Continued from Page 1 ₹4,800 crore annually as all government employees of UTs of Ladakh and J&K will be paid salaries and other important allowances like the transport, LTC, medical, children's education and hostel as per the recommendations of the 7th Pay Commission.

Out of ₹4,800 crore, the employees will get ₹607 crore for children's education, ₹1,823 crore for hostel allowance, ₹1,200 crore for transport allowance, ₹1,000 crore for LTC, ₹108 crore for fixed medical allowance and an additional ₹62

crore for other allowances.

The Centre has been working in close coordination with the J&K administration to ensure a smooth transition on October 31 for division of assets and other resources between Ladakh and J&K.

On August 5, the BJP-led government announced that it was abrogating Article 370 that gave special status to Jammu & Kashmir and splitting the state into two separate UTs of Ladakh and J&K where the latter would also have a state Assembly.

SC grants PC bail

Continued from Page 1 materials and is only a generalised apprehension and appears to be speculative."

Noting that the CBI had no evidence against Mr Chidambaram regarding directly or indirectly influencing witnesses, the court said, "In number of remand applications, there was no whisper that any material witness has been approached not to disclose information about the appellant (Chidambaram) and his son. It appears that only at the time of opposing the bail and in the counter affidavit filed by the CBI before the high court, the averments were made that '...the appellant is

trying to influence the witnesses and, if enlarged on bail, would further pressurise the witnesses... In the absence of any contemporaneous materials, no weight could be attached to the allegation that the appellant has been influencing the witnesses by approaching the witnesses," the court said.

Brushing aside solicitor general Tushar Mehta's contention that "flight risk" of economic offenders should be looked at as a national phenomenon, the court said that there can't be a universal formula "merely because certain other offenders have flown out of the country".



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

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 Bhola 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 will have to form an alliance

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.



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

Indian-Canadian Singh is kingmaker

Toronto, Oct. 22: 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 leg-



Jagmeet Singh

islation. 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 turn-around 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

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



Boris Johnson

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 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

Novice bid 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 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 Vertter wrote. — 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. 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. — PTI



Donald Trump

Sharif rushed to hospital as blood platelets drop

SHAFQAT ALI ISLAMABAD, OCT. 22

The platelets of incarcerated former Prime Minister and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo Nawaz Sharif, who was rushed to hospital from the prison after recent blood tests raising doctors' concerns, have dropped to a dangerously low level.

Sources said that the medical examination conducted in the Services Hospital revealed that the former Prime Minister's platelet count fell dangerously low below 2000, whereas the nor-



Nawaz Sharif

mal range is between 150,000 and 450,000. According to Mr Sharif's C B C report, his overall white blood cells are seven, while his red blood cells are 4.33.

Doctors initially believed Sharif had contracted dengue fever, which is rampant in Pakistan, but the government issued a statement saying his concerning low platelet count may have been the results of medica-

tion he was taking.

Earlier, the Services Hospital's medical board has decided to transfuse mega unit platelets into Sharif as the count has dropped further.

Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) president Shehbaz Sharif visited the hospital to inquire about party supremo and elder brother Nawaz Sharif's health and held consultations with doctors regarding the former Prime Minister's health.

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



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

RECEP ERDOGAN, Turkey President

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. — AFP

EAST DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
Office of The Executive Engineer-(M. Shah-(N))-II
C-12, Yamuna Vihar, Delhi - 110053

Item rates online tenders are invited vide NIT NO. E.E.-[M Shah(N)]-II/2019-20/22 dt. 18.10.19 for the works of (Item No.1) Imp. Dev. of back lanes from H.No. C-1/1A to C-1/24A, side lane from H.No. C-1/24A to 361 in C-1 Block Yamuna Vihar, side lane from H.No. C-2/25A to C-2/1, back lane from H.No. C-2/72 to C-2/63 in C-2 Block Yamuna Vihar, side and front lanes from H.No. B-5/306 to B-5/299, side lane from H.No. B-5/298 to B-5/326 and back lane from H.No. B-5/306 to B-5/299 in B-5 Block Yamuna Vihar, back lane from H.No. C-5/33 to 41 and from H.No. C-5/123 to 132 in C-5 Block Yamuna Vihar and side lane from H.No. B-2/155 to 136 in B-2 Block Yamuna Vihar, road from Canterbury Public School to H.No. B-1/228 in B-1 Block Yamuna Vihar and side berm and drain both side from Mother dairy to H.No. B-1/95 in B-1 Block Yamuna Vihar by pdg. B/W front lane and back lane from H.No. C-7/135 to 123 in C-7 Block Yamuna Vihar by pdg. RMC in ward no. 45-E, Yamuna Vihar, Shah(N) Zone. Earnest money: Rs. 1,65,600/- (Tender No. 316898), (Item No.2). Imp. Dev. of road from H.No. C-7/136 to road no. 66 in Yamuna Vihar by pdg. RMC in ward no. 45-E, Yamuna Vihar, Earnest money: Rs. 3,77,950/- (Tender No. 316899), (Item No. 3). Imp. Dev. of road from Dividing road to Priya Panchwati restaurant in Yamuna Vihar by pdg. RMC in ward no. 45-E, Yamuna Vihar, Earnest money: Rs. 4,10,600/- (Tender No. 316900), (Item No. 4). Imp. Dev. of gali no. 10 from H.No. L-36/B to L-166/67 in L-Block Gautam Vihar and gali no. 7 from H.No. K-439 to K-342 in K-Block Gangotri Vihar, Khajoor wali gali from H.No. V-220 (Lat Bihari Tiwari ji walli) to Ambekar Chopal and its links in V-Block Arvind Nagar, road Ambekar Chopal to H.No. 441 and from H.No. 351 (Main Brahmputra road) to Dhani chowk (Khajoor wali gali) in Ghonda gali no. 1 from H.No. J-46 to H.No. J-15/6 and its links in J-Block Jai Prakash Nagar, gali no. 2 from H.No. J-16 to J-53 in J-Block Jai Prakash Nagar gali no. 2 from H.No. V-139 to V-168/6 in V-Block Arvind Nagar gali no. 1 A from Baba Balraj carparking to H.No. K-22/32 and its links in A-Block Gangotri Vihar and gali no. 1B Siddharth gali from H.No. B-259 to near Ch. Lahu house and its links in K-Block Gangotri Vihar by pdg. RMC in ward no. 46-E, Ghonda, Shah(N) Zone, Earnest money: Rs. 1,91,600/- (Tender No. 316901), (Item No. 5). Improvement Dev. of gali no. 5, X-Block X-N/378 to X-2/32 and link X-8 to X-2/5, Gali no. 6 X-Block, X-5/25 to Tomar Garments, Gali no. 6, X-Block X-157/46 to X-152/42 to 157/29 and link gali no. 8 H.No. X-221, Gali no. 10 X Block X-1/8 to E-687 and link gali no. 10a, H.No. X-9/63 to GNB School X-Block 1/1th pista Kararar Nagar by pdg. RMC in ward no. 47-E, Brahmputra Shah(N) Zone, Earnest money: Rs. 69,450/- (Tender No. 316902), 6. Providing and laying Rising main of Bhajanpura pump house at Bhajanpura thana road Bhajanpura main market (Wazirabad road) in ward no. 45-E, Yamuna Vihar, Earnest money: Rs. 2,54,500/- (Tender No. 316903). Tender and other details can be seen and download from the website <http://mcdetenders.com> On or before 01.11.2019. Tender cost and earnest will be submitted upto 05.11.2019 upto 14.00 hrs and tender will be opened on 05.11.2019 at 14.30 hrs in the office of S.E.-I/SHAH(N). RO NO - 74/DPI/EAST/2019-20 E.E.[M Shah(N)]-II

EDMC's Citizens Helpline No. 155303

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that this person **Named:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** About 25 years, **Sex:** Male, **Height:** 5 feet 5 inch., **Complexion:** Fair, **Built:** Thin, **Face:** Long, **Wearing:** Shirt and Pant has been found dead at Nand Nagri B-4, Old Police C-3 Park, Delhi on dated 17.10.2019.

In this regard a DD No. 11-A, dated 17-10-2019 has been registered at PS. Nand Nagri, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far.

Any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following. **SHO PS. Nand Nagri, Delhi DP/7408/NE/19 Ph.: 011-22137761, 8750870730**

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that one Male namely **Hemchand Pandey, S/o Sh. Hari Dutt Pandey, R/o Village-Rehar, Post-Bhowali, District-Nainital, Uttarakhand, Age:** 40 years, **Height:** 5'2", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Oval, wearing Blue Colour Shirt & Blue Colour Jeans Pant, has been missing/kidnapped from the area of PS Shakarpur, Delhi since 18.09.2019. In this regard a DD. No. 28A, dated 21.09.2019 has been registered at P.S. Shakarpur, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the Male but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about him please inform undersigned.

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> **SHO P.S. Shakarpur, Delhi**
E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639
Ph. No.: 011-24368638, 24368641
DP/7060/ED/19 Ph.: 011-22542992, 22542441

THE ASIAN AGE

23 OCTOBER 2019

In Haryana, Maha, Opp. fails to show will to fight

There wasn't much anticipation in the Opposition camp about the results for the Assembly polls in Maharashtra and Haryana, which were held on Monday. When exit polls practically indicated a clean sweep for the saffron party, not much surprise could have been occasioned.

The Opposition was dispirited by the shock it received in the last Lok Sabha election and was in disarray. The comprehensive win of the BJP under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi was in part thought to be a consequence of the less-than-transparent functioning of the Election Commission and the questions raised in respect of electronic voting machines.

One day a full-fledged commission of inquiry will be needed to get to the bottom of this — and the allegations either dismissed or upheld. For now, however, the Opposition parties may have expected more of the same in these state polls in the context of EVMs, and clearly showed a lackadaisical approach.

For all these reasons, the BJP's position appeared unassailable. Besides the so-called EVM factor, Mr Modi's personal appeal — enhanced by his trademark demagogic abilities — seems not to have waned since the Lok Sabha poll. In part this is on account of influential sections of the media, particularly the television channels, becoming force multipliers for the ruling dispensation.

Besides, serious failings of the Modi government on the economic front, which have hurt all Indians, especially the poor, appear to have been more than counter-balanced by the flagrantly majority community-oriented pitch of the ruling party, whose discomfitting of the minority communities was made to look like being part of a constructive programme for social cohesion and gender justice though very aggressive social media and fake news campaigning.

The BJP's "communal" approach does appear to have had considerable appeal, seriously limiting the Opposition parties.

That said, the principal Opposition party has for too long now given the impression of being at sixes and sevens. It has serious leadership issues to contend with — not just at the top but also in the states.

Seen in the context of the just held state polls, the BJP did manage to bridge the gulf with its cantankerous ally Shiv Sena in Maharashtra, while Congress and ally NCP bled everyday with defections and in-fighting. In Haryana too the Congress was plagued by infighting and the non-BJP parties had no semblance of coordination. The index of Opposition disunity was high in both states. But it is never over till it's over. We shall learn of the voters' preference tomorrow.

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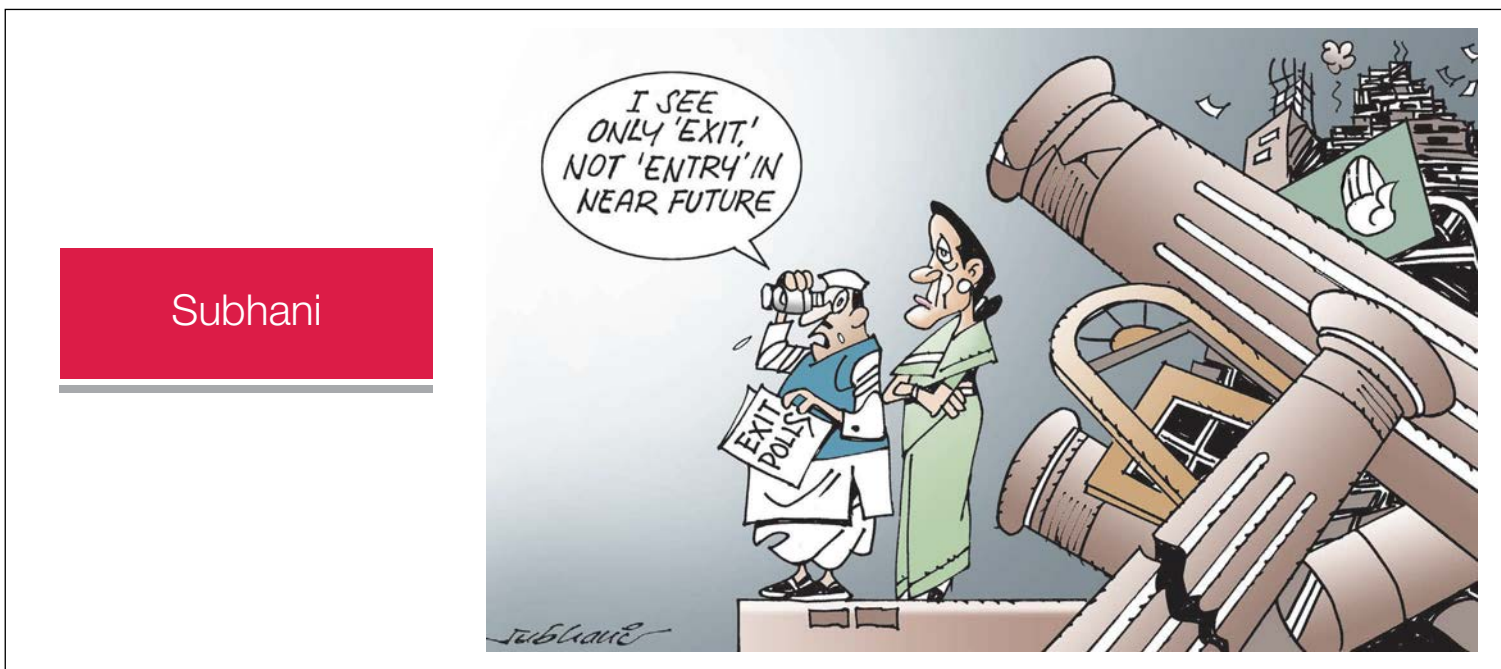
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Subhani

Leave growth to pundits, let's end poverty instead



Sanjeev Ahluwalia

If development, or the promise of it, won the BJP its imposing political dominance in 2014 and again in 2019, is it now destiny which will maintain the inertia of electoral endorsements?

"Development" is best measured by the 17 Sustainable Development Goals under which there are 169 targets to be achieved by 2030. They range from changing human behaviour to delivering better and more public goods and services whilst also investing more in the global commons.

Conflicting priorities and trade-offs induced by fiscal or technological constraints cause uneven achievement across the goals even though the individual targets are nationally determined and therefore reflect both realism and relevance to national priorities. But league tables are notorious for sparking off competitive pressures - at least at the target setting stage!

Growth and good jobs (Goal 8) is just one of the seventeen goals. But this is what Modi 1.0 initially chose to adopt as a headline proxy for development. Growth is now considerably subdued and good jobs are scarce. A more representative proxy is needed.

The Narendra Modi government is smart. The rhetoric has already shifted away from the single metric of growth and good jobs to sanitation, clean water, affordable housing, clean cooking fuel, more renewable energy, health insurance and better education - all of which are metrics for sustainable "vikas".

How well are we doing on the development metric? The 2018 progress report for the SDGs produced by the UNDP, in partnership with the NITI Aayog, rates progress ranging from a low 42 per cent in UP,

with Bihar and Assam also being underachievers at below 50 per cent, to a high of 69 per cent in Himachal Pradesh and Kerala closely followed by Tamil Nadu at 66 per cent. The targets are expected to be achieved by 2030 which is still a decade away so the low scores by themselves are not troubling. But are we at least making a dent in inequality, poverty and hunger?

Goal 10 is the metric for reducing inequality. Not surprisingly, states dominated by tribes like Meghalaya and Mizoram score a perfect 100 per cent as do smaller Union Territories of Dadar and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu and Lakshadweep, closely followed by Puducherry at 94. These heavenly locations seem to have unlocked the magic box of equality.

But the surprise is that so has newly created Telangana! Dividing states seems to do wonders for reducing inequality. Consider that even generally lagging Bihar scores a very high 82 per cent. Its erstwhile tribes dominated part of Jharkhand, scores a respectable 72.

Unexpectedly, traditionally Communist Kerala - God's Own Country - is not a star performer on equality. Could this be due to a skewed pattern of outward migration, which is a mainstay of the state's economy?

UP remains a laggard on equality with the lowest score of 38 per cent closely followed, oddly, by Arunachal Pradesh. Goa at just 50 per cent is a surprise - an explosion of wealthy expatriates driving the economy does not seem a surefire recipe for higher equality.

The low score for equality in Haryana at 55 per cent and Punjab at 62 per cent possibly reflect that land endowments remain the key drivers of

prosperity. And these endowments are unevenly distributed.

How do states fare in Goal 1 - poverty reduction? There are fewer surprises here. Jharkhand has the lowest score at 37 per cent. Bihar reverts to its stereotypical image and clocks just 45 per cent. UP unsurprisingly is a low 48 per cent.

But the surprise here is that Maharashtra and Gujarat, the industrial powerhouses do poorly at 47 and 48 per cent. Telangana, the star state for equality, also does poorly on poverty reduction at 52 per cent - so is it just better at redistributing poverty?

A big surprise is that industrialisation and poverty reduction do not correlate well across states. Possibly, heightened industrial and commercial activity pulls in the poorest from adjoining areas in search of manual, unskilled work. A pool of low-wage workers with no social security is the unsavoury underbelly of industrialisation in India.

Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala are the star performers in poverty reduction even though they did not fare well on equality. Mizoram, Tripura, Meghalaya and Uttarakhand join them as star performers.

The key lesson is that firing on all cylinders seems necessary to reduce poverty and inequality simultaneously - a complex development challenge, about which not enough is heard in the political rhetoric of parties.

Goal 2 tracks hunger, stunting of children and anaemic women giving birth. Oddly the index data does not correlate well between poverty and hunger. Star per-

(We) should focus on populating the key SDGs - reducing poverty, removing hunger and enhancing equality - better and more frequently - to get a fuller picture of how the Union and each state government is faring

formers in poverty reduction like Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh slip lower in the hunger rankings. Telangana, a leader in equality, gets a lowly rank of 53 per cent in reducing hunger.

Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Sikkim - kindly, closely-knit communities all - are star performers in not letting people go hungry to bed. They also do well on equality.

Goa tops the league tables on reducing hunger, though it does not do well on equality or poverty reduction. Possibly, abundant high-protein fish and coconut in the diet might be the reason.

Punjab which did poorly on equality and not so good on poverty reduction is a star performer for reducing hunger. Possibly the Sikh community's enviable tradition of open "langar" has done the trick. The high density of gurdwaras ensures that no one starves.

Measuring development outcomes is a statistical nightmare, as compared to measuring growth - though we seem to have argued our way to even making growth measurement controversial. Why not leave growth to the small set of macro-economists who measure it for their own devious reasons?

The rest of us should focus on populating the key SDGs - reducing poverty, removing hunger and enhancing equality - better and more frequently - to get a fuller picture of how the Union and each state government is faring.

Prime Minister Modi has the right instincts. Meeting with and applauding the American Nobel laureate with an Indian heart - Abhijit Banerjee - is but one example of his sagacity. One hopes he will substitute growth with a fuller and more representative metric for development, drawn from what is accurately measurable in the Sustainable Development Goals bouquet.

The writer is adviser, Observer Research Foundation

LETTERS BRIDGE OVER INSECURITY

With the inauguration of India's highest all-weather permanent bridge between the Dars and Suru rivers, it becomes clear that defence minister Rajnath Singh is working on his plan for border development in right earnest. The 1,400-foot bridge is officially named the Col Chewang Rinchen Setu after the soldier also known as the "lion of Ladakh" and will help India combat any unethical moves by our neighbours. It will also help the Indian Army move quickly in remote areas. The structure is a symbol of power and honour of the Indian Army!

Kavya Shah Ujjain

CHANGE OF HEART?

HAS NARENDRA MODI had a change of heart? Or, was he well-disposed towards Abhijit Banerjee, the Nobel-winning economist, all along? Mr Modi and Mr Banerjee met each other for a "long and fruitful" conversation on Tuesday. Why then did commerce minister Piyush Goyal disparagingly call Mr Banerjee "Left-leaning" and say that the people of India had rejected him? BJP general secretary Rahul Sinha had even said, "Those people whose second wives are foreigners are mostly getting the Nobel Prize. I don't know whether it is a degree for getting the Nobel." Vicious and tasteless, these remarks make one wonder about the intentions of the present government.

Bidyut Chatterjee Faridabad

OVER THE HILL

THE OMISSION of some big names like Chris Gayle, Lasith Malinga, Keiron Pollard, Dwayne Bravo and Quinton de Kock in the draft for England's inaugural hundred ball competition "The Hundred", must not come as a surprise. The old-warhorses are clearly over the hill, and cricketing wisdom implies that the new kids on the block must take over. Star Afghan leg-spinner, Rashid Khan, was the first overseas player to be picked. The tournament slated for the year next could be a huge draw.

N.J. Ravi Chandrer Bengaluru

Every Monday the best letter of the week wins ₹500. Email: letters@asianage.com



Dr Niaz Murtaza

Zia crippled Pak with his poisoned bequest

Many kids lose their real father early, to be then raised by a cruel stepfather who influences (and distorts) their growth more than the real one. Pakistan suffered the same fate. Jinnah, the father of the nation, died early. Zia later became the cruel step-father of the nation who crippled its long-term capacities to function as a normal state by corroding its basic societal structures more than any other ruler.

The Ayub, Yahya and Musharraf eras gave more violence but produced few durable changes in societal structures. Bhutto ranks as a distant second in harming long-term national abilities through nationalisation and a politicised bureaucracy. But then he also bequeathed some long-term pluses, eg, a constitution.

It is Zia who mainly shaped the deeply flawed social, political, economic, security and foreign policy structures of today's Pakistan and crippled its long-term capacities.

In each sphere, he injected new

toxic strains, elevated existing ones hugely or reversed gains from previous eras. Socially, he cemented bigotry, deep conservatism and the politics of faith. These traits exist latently in many developing states, and even developed ones. They kept erupting in Pakistan off and on before him too. But he provided official patronage to them and declared them to be virtues.

Thus, individual latent urges crystallised into officially funded, muscular and violent societal forces. The elevation of these urges sapped the nation of creativity, tolerance and focus, with severe effects for economic potency.

Politically, he ensured a move from issues-based to corrupt patronage politics. Patronage politics emerges from the clan-based social structures of South Asian societies. The 1970 polls were won via issues-based politics. But Zia nixed that gain via partyless polls and block grants for MPs. Political corruption became endemic in his era.

The foreign policy mix included raising militants to achieve regional aims, which unleashed huge terrorism at home later. The security policy mix included extensive surveillance of society by intelligence agencies and their control over political actors.

Economically, he left a state that abdicated its role in upgrading industry, ran high fiscal and external deficits and debt levels, and chased IMF loans. The state played a key role in East Asian progress. The pre-Zia Pakistani state did play this role to some extent - via the Planning Commission and PICIC during the 1950s and 1960s and state-owned industrialisation under Bhutto. Both eras had their problems. But under Zia this role ended. The state started running perennial fiscal and external deficits and became addicted to IMF loans. The involvement of the military in business increased hugely to reduce private sector space.

These structures largely remain

intact today. This raises the obvious question of why we were unable to reverse his deep imprint even 30 years after his death. It takes a second to destroy a machine but days to repair it. It takes an idiot to destroy it but an expert to repair it.

Zia ruled for 11 years with absolute powers, guided by security-phobic lenses and with little regard for public welfare. Obviously, it would take highly capable rulers with a concern for public welfare, long tenures and full powers to undo this harm. No civilian has had the longevity or full powers to do so. His army successor Musharraf had these luxuries. But despite his enlightened moderation mantra, his policies turned Zia-era extremism into huge terrorism as he too was guided by security-phobic rather than public welfare lenses.

Today, Pakistan has a sullied global reputation. The economy is industrially stagnant and suffers large deficits and debt. Politics suffers from instability, corruption, incompetence and agencies' control.

Society is bigoted and intolerant with little space for freedom of thought and speech. All these reflect the corrosion of basic societal structures and the undermining of social, political, economic and national capacities primarily under Zia.

This corrosion has made Pakistan vulnerable to frequent social and economic turmoil, external threats and sanctions. So, even as it just emerged from its worst social turmoil since 1971 in the form of terrorism, it has plunged headlong into serious economic turmoil and FATF warnings. Political instability is high.

There is little chance that Pakistan can resolve these serious social, economic, political and external challenges and repair its corroded societal structures and national capacities under a manipulated political system. This can only be achieved by ensuring civilian supremacy and allowing political stability.

By arrangement with Dawn



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 visualizes 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 hoisted 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

after launching a massive anti-Congress movement from Bihar, which gave the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) critical legitimacy in India's mainstream politics, paving the way for AB Vajpayee and LK Advani to join the federal government in 1977.

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.

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.

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.

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 unac-

ceptable. 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 Iraqis

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*

Great Dictator, his searing portrayal of Hitler's racist regime. In an epochal moment in the film, Chaplin, playing a Jewish barber with striking resemblance to Hitler albeit with a caring heart, surprises the assembled troops with an unusual appeal. "Soldiers! Don't give yourselves to brutes — men who despise you — enslave you — who regiment your lives... You are men! You are not cattle! You are men! You have the love of humanity in your hearts! You don't hate! Only the unloved hate — the unloved and the unnatural!" Chaplin and Prysner seem to believe that all soldiers are potential chocolate-cream soldiers, given the chance. It's not clear though what JP was thinking.

By arrangement with Dawn



In Kashmir, the motif is fear



Anand K. Sahay

TRUBLE IN PARADISE-3

Srinagar/Baramulla/Sho pian: 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-Soura 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 governmen-

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 not for use against little boys enjoying a game of cricket...**

confiscated ID back. This can also mean arrest under the dreaded Public Safety Act unless relations or friends are able to mobilise funds to propitiate the petty gods in uniform. For fear of being picked up arbitrarily, young men avoid going to their apple orchards to tend to the fruit, and send their fathers or uncles instead. Many have apparently left the valley to visit friends or relations in Jammu, Delhi, or other cities.

The presence of the armed forces is ubiquitous. For instance, in Shopian district, the Valley's smallest, there are 226 villages and some 15 camps of the security forces, three of them in the small district town alone. The largest of these, at Balpora, is thought to accommodate around one thousand soldiers. But no terrorist has been caught yet, while torture of civilians is whispered about.

(To be concluded)

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-

verse of matter, a man's sense of joy and satisfaction continues to be the centre of all his evaluations. Several learned and enlightened individuals recognise that it is unscientific for humans to judge the universe, its structure or its operations by the reactions of just one of the myriad species on this planet.

There is an observation of Aristotle which is akin to this saying: "Man when perfected is the best of animals, but when separated from law and justice, he is the worst of all since armed injustice is the more dangerous".

In times like this, the simple yet powerful prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi provides an ideal around which to fashion our philosophy. His prayer is a precious document for us, an indispensable, and invaluable frame of reference by which to judge our own lives.

Moin Qazi is a well-known banker, author and Islamic researcher. He can be reached at moinqazi123@gmail.com

Asif Kapadia

MEETING MARADONA, FINDING DIEGO

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.

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 flaw 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.

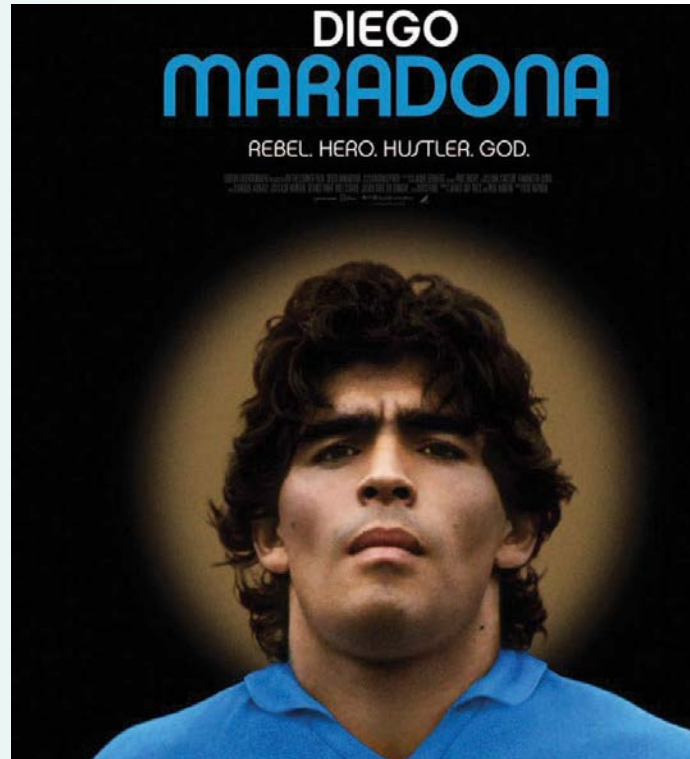
Amy, both prodigy and child, was eager to please, but also to shock and subvert. She craved acceptance, nurturing, tried des-

perately to cope with the demands of fame, struggled with drinking, bulimia, drugs, and her father. Tabloids covered it all, but they bypassed the young, insanely 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.



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, because "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. He asked Diego Maradona about the "hand of god" goal, about his family, growing up, his addiction, his illegitimate kids. "It's all in the film — in the film, whenever you hear his voice, that's what we talked about... He has never really talked about that... I realise only now, having been to Argentina, having shown the film there... there were people there who have grown up with him, who are obsessed with him, have been writing about him all their lives, they'd be lucky to have 15 minutes with him. I met him for nine hours. That's mad!"

"There may not be a lot that's usable from those nine hours," says Kapadia, "but the stuff we got, no one else has ever got. He even said that to me. At one point I asked him a tough question, and he said, 'Look, you've got real nerve asking me this question. Who do you think you are to ask me these questions?'"

Diego Maradona, he recounts, was speaking a very particular kind of Argentinian Spanish that Kapadia didn't understand. So along with a headphone on, on his phone's WhatsApp was

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.

Kapadia's film traces Diego Maradona's life from birth, as the son born to loving parents after four daughters in Villa Fiorito, Buenos Aires' shanty town, who took care of his family since the age of 15, but its main focus is on Maradona in Naples, where he arrived in 1984, soon after a public brawl led to his inglorious departure from FC Barcelona.

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Naples is the "city where Diego Maradona rose from the dead", and which, after he brought it victory against AC Milan, Juventus and Italy's other northern giants, hung a poster outside a local cemetery, declaring, "They don't know what they missed".

With a succession of championship wins, Maradona had elevated Napoli to the most successful era in its history and Neapolitans celebrated each victory as only they can — they held mock funerals for Juventus and Milan, painted huge murals of Maradona on the city's ancient buildings and named newborn children after him.

The idea for a documentary on Diego Maradona, Kapadia says, got planted sometime in 2012, when he met a producer who had unearthed hundreds of hours of candid footage shot by two cameramen in Naples.

It was unseen footage, apparently commissioned by Maradona himself, as a "safeguard against getting kidnapped."

Naples in those years was controlled by the Camorra (mafia) which had partially financed Maradona's move from FC Barcelona. And though he ended up being close to them, he also wanted a record of his whereabouts.

Kapadia and his producer, James Gay-Rees, got the footage and permission from the court to use revealing calls recorded by the Italian police who had been tapping Maradona's phone. As Kapadia and his team watched the videos, listened to the phone calls, a theme began to emerge — Death and Resurrection.

In Kapadia's film, we see a young, short Argentinian 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

his colleague and translator Laura, listening in from Buenos Aires, and then translating it into another phone that was also plugged into Kapadia's ear.

"While he's saying you've got real nerve saying this to me, I'm kind of smiling, and then slowly the translations come along, and he says, 'but for that I respect you, because most people don't have the nerve to say this to my face. They say it to my back'."

But often, in response to difficult questions, "he would give me this brilliant 20-minute answer... some blather... That's what he does. He's the master of diversion."

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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 hearts, Italy in our hearts."

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 spiced 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.



PHOTO: BUNNY SMITH

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

There were reports that Kapadia was considering a documentary on Sachin Tendulkar. Kapadia met Sachin, and dropped the idea... 'Some people are not very interesting...' he says, speaking generally, not specifically.

I would say the most interesting thing is, Diego 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...

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 Nilanjay 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

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.

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

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

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 Expertis IT Employment Outlook Survey by Expertis 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 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.

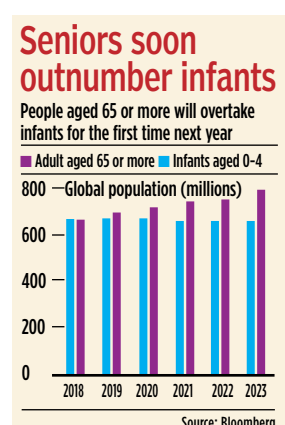
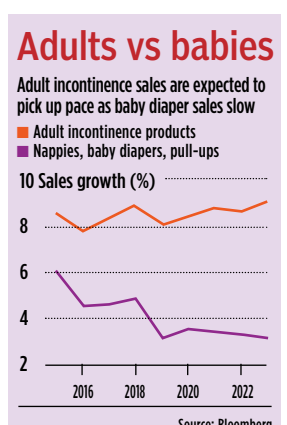
But manufacturers like market leaders Essity and Kimberly-Clark Corp reckon only half of the more

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 "I'll 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

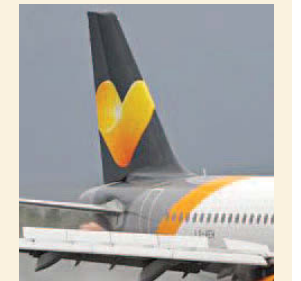
Thomas Cook India is negotiating with the liquidator of its global namesake to buy out the brand.

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 current 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 profit-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.

OPENING BELL
PROJECTION FOR TODAY

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 radio waves 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 Guruprasad 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

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.

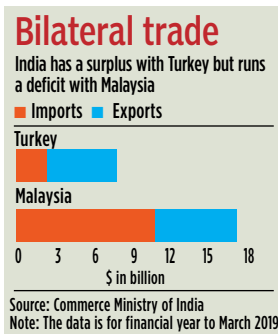
Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government is exploring the possibility of both tariff and non-tariff measures to limit import of goods from the two countries, the people said, asking not to be identified as a final decision is yet to be taken. The options include stringent quality tests and a safeguard 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 soy oil 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 the United Nations General Assembly. Erdogan had urged India to hold talks with Pakistan over the disputed region following Modi's August decision to

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

revoke autonomy in the Muslim-majority state.

Key imports from Turkey are mineral fuels and oils, nuclear reactors and salt.

— Bloomberg

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 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).

— PTI

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

Amitabh 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.

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 Fifty 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, 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 whistle-blower 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."

— AGENCIES

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.

The suit alleged the company was facing continuous "targeted and malafide actions" in the wake of an engineered payment default crisis at one of its subsidiaries National Spot Exchange (NSEL).

According to the suit, there was no money trail traced to NSEL, 63 Moons and its Founder Jignesh Shah by multiple investigative agencies.

However, the group was targeted as part of a "conspiracy" by Chidambaram, Krishnan and Abhishek, the suit alleged.

The company demanded Rs 10,000 crore in damages.

— PTIs

Bajaj Fin net up 63% to ₹1,506 cr

MICHAEL GONSALVES
PUNE, OCT. 22

Bajaj Finance, on Tuesday reported 63.11 per cent year-on-year (YoY) rise in consolidated net profit at Rs 1,506.29 crore for the second quarter ended September 30, beating estimates, which propelled its shares to new high.

The Pune-headquartered non-banking finance company had posted a net profit of Rs 923 crore in the same quarter of the previous year.

Analysts tracked by

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.

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 values 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 whistle-blower 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

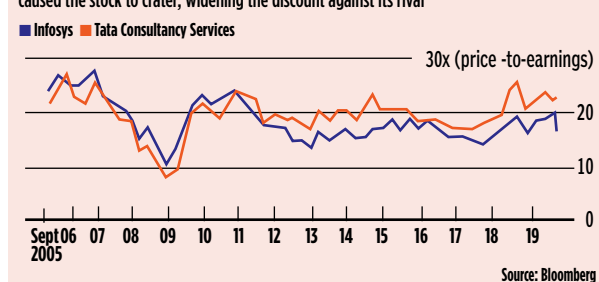
per cent in Mumbai after the letter was published by the Deccan Herald.

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 whistle-blower 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 whistle-blower'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 Sikka'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



Really?

Oscar-nominated Brazilian filmmaker Fernando Meirelles says he has not watched any Marvel films



Lot more #MeToo allegations will come to surface as people dig deeper

— Jennifer Aniston, American actress

BRIEF

Bell and Dax forgot their wedding anniv

Los Angeles: Kristin Bell says she and husband, actor Dax Shepard forgot to celebrate their five-year wedding anniversary. Bell, who tied the knot with Shepard on October 16, 2013, took to Instagram on Monday to share how neither remembered it. "We were reminded by family and friends that at some point last week, it was our five year wedding anniversary. In truth, neither of us remembers which day. That's because we have been living the celebration of our commitment every moment since," she wrote. — PTI

The Irishman to open Cairo Film Festival

Los Angeles: The Irishman will open the Cairo international film festival. According to the Hollywood Reporter, the screening marks the Middle East and North African premiere of the film with a showcase at the Cairo Opera House on November 20, a week before it hits Netflix. "We are excited to raise red curtain of the festival with the epic masterpiece from one of the greatest filmmakers of all time, the genius that is Martin Scorsese," said festival president Mohamed Hefzy. — PTI



'Rare for big films to focus on real issues'

Los Angeles: Natalie Portman has no clue what the final draft of Thor: Love and Thunder will offer, but the actor has weighed in on the rumours of a breast cancer storyline for her character Jane Foster. The actor said big budget entertaining movies hardly focus on real-life issues and it would be great if the rumours surrounding the film's plot are true. "It's just very rare that these kind of big entertainment films look at more serious, real-life issues. I really don't know anything about it. I haven't seen anything, but I've heard the same rumours as you have," she said. — PTI

SNL CREATOR MAKES BALDWIN RETURN AS TRUMP

Los Angeles: Alec Baldwin had no plans of coming back to Saturday Night Live as US President Donald Trump impersonator but it was show's creator Lorne Michaels' inner Jedi that made him change his mind. Baldwin returned to the show for its 45th season premiere as Trump and spoke about revisiting his decision on The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon. "I said to them — and it was not with any malice or any lack of affection for them — I said, 'I don't want to do that anymore. I don't want to do the Trump thing again. I'm gonna stop,'" he told host Jimmy Fallon. The actor then said the "Lorne Michaels Jedi mind trick thing" convinced him to return for the new installment. "He called me the Friday before the show — the day before the show — and he's like, 'I don't think you understand.' And I go, 'What don't I understand? I've been thinking about it all summer. Every day, it's all I think about,'" as Baldwin said in Michaels' voice. He recalled the SNL chief saying, "I don't think you understand how important this is." — PTI



Alec Baldwin

Naruhito completes enthronement to ancient Chrysanthemum throne In ancient throne ritual, new Emperor vows to fulfill his duty

Tokyo: Japan's new Emperor Naruhito on Tuesday completed his ascension to the ancient Chrysanthemum throne in a solemn, ritual-bound ceremony performed before hundreds of dignitaries in the Imperial Palace.

"I hereby declare my enthronement at home and abroad," Naruhito said from inside an elaborately adorned structure housing his throne, with his wife Empress Masako alongside him standing before her own throne.

A powerful typhoon that hit Japan earlier this month, killing dozens, forced the cancellation of a huge parade, but the rest of the day's events went ahead with the pomp and tradition of a dynasty that claims more than 2,000 years of history.

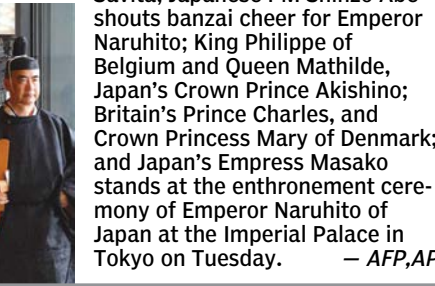
The royal family filed into the palace's Pine Room dressed in heavy robes, with the women sporting sculpted wigs topped with golden headpieces.

Set in the centre of the room were the two structures housing the thrones, draped with purple curtains that were ceremonially opened to reveal the royal couple standing within.

Naruhito wore a outfit topped with a voluminous copper robe and a rarely seen black headpiece, while Masako wore a multi-layered kimono, trailed by attendants to help her move in the weighty outfit.

The ceremony was conducted largely in silence, with only drums and gongs sounding. Some 2,000 guests, including foreign dignitaries and royalty, stood at the sound of a deep drum beat before the proclamation began.

"I hereby pledge that I will always pray for the happiness of Japanese



people and world peace and, by standing by the Japanese people, I will fulfill my duty as the symbol of Japan and of the unity of the people of Japan," added Naruhito.

"We, the people of Japan, will respect your highness the emperor as the symbol of the state and of the unity of the Japanese people," Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told the emperor, before exclaiming "Banzai!" or "Long live the emperor" three times. Naruhito officially

assumed his duties as emperor on May 1, the day after his father became the first Japanese monarch to abdicate in two centuries.

But the transition was not complete until his new role was officially proclaimed. In the wake of Typhoon Hagibis, the government postponed a royal parade until November 10, but the rest of the day's ceremonies were left unchanged.

Naruhito began the day by "reporting" the procla-

mation to deities and his ancestors in the ancient royal dynasty, wearing a voluminous white robe and a rarely seen black hat complete with a tail extending up 60cm (two feet) at the back of his head.

And a series of banquets will be held from the evening for guests ranging from Britain's Prince Charles to South Korean Prime Minister Lee Nak-yeon. The government has also announced more than half a million people con-

victed of minor offences will be pardoned as part of the events. Small crowds braved the rain to stand outside the palace, hoping for a glimpse of arriving visitors.



LIGHTHOUSE PUT ON WHEELS FOR A MOVE FROM SEA

Copenhagen: A 120-year-old lighthouse has been put on wheels and rails to move it away from the North Sea, which has been eroding the coastline of north-western Denmark.

When the 23-metre Rubjerg Knude lighthouse was first lit in 1900, it was roughly 200 metres from the coast; now it is about only 6.

Arne Boelt, the local mayor, said many things could go wrong when moving the defunct building, which weighs about 1,000 tons. "But it's worth risk... alternative would be to dismantle it. Environment minister Lea Wermelin, called it "a national treasure" in an attempt to justify the £5,80,000 spent by the ministry to save it. — AP

While earlier studies had revealed that parental abuse in rats was linked to shrinkage in the brain's amygdala and hippocampus — parts of the brain that process fear and memory — the current research noted how this affected behaviour of pups.

The researchers have noted that the stress caused from the abuse was sufficient on its own to damage hippocampus. — PTI

CUBA JR SUED FOR PINCHING FEMALE NY CLUB WORKER

Los Angeles: Oscar-winning actor Cuba Gooding Jr has been sued by a New York nightclub server for assault, battery and intentional infliction of emotional distress.

According to court documents obtained by the Blast, Natasha Ashworth, who works at a Tao nightclub, was serving Gooding's table, when he asked her, "Do you want to see my impression of a penis?" She said no. He then drank from his glass and spit liquid out of his mouth. She walked away. As per the suit, at



4:20am, Ashworth was standing at the bar when Gooding approached her and pinched her butt. She asked him to behave, but he replied, "Aw, that's no fun", and then rejected the charge, saying he had only touched her back. The suit further claimed that Gooding tried again to touch Ashworth, but she deflected his hand. After he spoke with management, he allegedly tried to touch her rear a third time, which she avoided by turning away. — PTI



Alex Morgan (left) and Jameela Jamil at the 2019 InStyle Awards at the Getty Centre in Los Angeles on Monday. — AFP, AP



Jason Momoa (left) and Sylvia Hoeks at premiere of Apple TV+ series See in Los Angeles on Monday. — AP



Katrina Kaif at an event in Mumbai on Tuesday. — AFP

Bellbirds have the loudest avian mating call in the world: Study

Boston: Bellbirds have the loudest bird calls yet documented in the world, according to a study which found that their mating songs pack more decibels than the screams of howler monkeys, and the bellows of bisons. According to the study, published in the journal Current Biology, the male white bellbird's mating call is about three times louder than screaming

phias — the previously loudest bird singer. The researchers, including those from the University of Massachusetts in the United States, said that the bellbird's calls were so loud that they wondered how the females of the species listened to them at close range without doing permanent damage to their hearing. — PTI

Trash to treasure: Everest garbage sets a new life

Kathmandu: A group of tourists sip water at a five-star hotel in Kathmandu, unaware that the green glasses in their hands were once bottles discarded on Mount Everest — left by climbers eager to make their ascent.

In homes across the Nepali capital upcycled items, from pots to lamps, crafted from Everest waste products are slowly making their way as authorities and businesses look

for fresh ways to tackle the damage caused by decades of commercial mountaineering. Tonnes of trash — including empty cans and gas canisters, bottles, plastic and discarded climbing gear — litter the mountain, which has been dubbed the "highest dumpster in the world".

"Waste doesn't need to be wasted," Nabin Bikash Maharjan of local recycling organisation Blue

Waste to Value said. "We received a mix of materials from Everest — aluminium, glass, plastic, iron — much of which

could be recycled," he explained, adding, "We need to up-cycle and add value to them." After heavy criticism for the

condition of one of its greatest natural resources, Nepal's government and mountaineering groups this year organised a six-week clean-up. Scaling almost 8,000 metres (26,300 feet) from base camp to the closest camp to the summit, a 14-strong team retrieved more than 10 tonnes of trash that was flown or driven to recycling centres in Kathmandu. — AFP

Dilli ki Diwali

26th to 29th October, 6 PM onwards,
Central Park, Connaught Place

दिल्ली सरकार
आप की सरकार



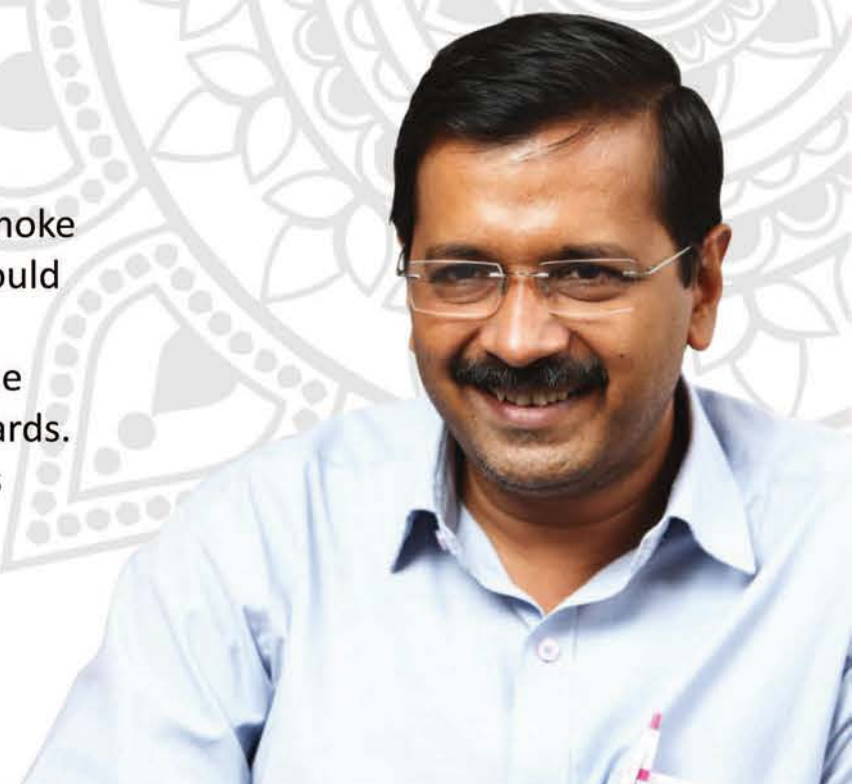
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हर मुमकिन प्रयास,
ताकि दिल्ली को मिले हवा साफ

**LET'S MAKE THIS DIWALI SPECIAL!
CELEBRATE WITH THIS LASER SHOW,
KEEP DIWALI POLLUTION FREE!**

ENTRY FREE

After bringing down pollution in Delhi by 25%, our next challenge is the crop burning smoke from neighbouring states that increases pollution manifold. And Diwali celebrations should not make pollution levels worse in Delhi. To celebrate Diwali responsibly, the Delhi Government is organizing a spectacular laser show. Come with your family and enjoy the laser show from 26th to 29th October at Central Park, Connaught Place from 6pm onwards. Entry to the event is absolutely free. Come, let's celebrate a smoke-free Diwali with this laser show and do our bit in making this festival pollution free!



दिल्ली कर दिखाएगी

SPORT | Cricket

Rohit hails support from Kohli and coach Shastri

14

SPORT | Football

Mousses strikes as Sheffield defeat big gun Arsenal

16



GUIDE TO FORTUNE

Tick the answer and check them below.

1 The world's longest straight road without any corners — Highway 10 — is located in which country?

- Saudi Arabia
- USA
- Betty Williams

2 Who created the political symbol of the elephant for the US Republican Party?

- George Cruikshank
- Thomas Nast
- Mort Drucker

3 Which country has the world's largest prison population?

- India
- China
- USA

SHORT TAKES

13 girls among 29 minors rescued

New Delhi: Led by the SDM of Dwarka, a team of Delhi police, labour department and NGO "Bachpan Bachao Andolan" on Tuesday conducted a raid, rescuing 29 child/bonded labourers from seven plastic and rubber toys manufacturing units. The children (16 boys and 13 girls) were in the 11-16 age group, with some of them working for less than minimum wages in 12-hour work schedules in factories housed in small and cramped rooms in five to six-storied buildings in Nasipur village in Dwarka. There was no ventilation and none of the rooms were provided with ceiling fans. Most of the children were from Bengal and UP, the NGO said, adding that the wages ranged from a mere ₹4,000 to ₹8,000 per month. A few children were not given any wages by the factory-owners who would force them to work on the pretext of undergoing training.

4 held for wire theft at grid site

New Delhi: The Delhi police has arrested four persons who had robbed 4,910 kg robbed aluminum wire worth crores from an under-construction power grid site in Yamuna Khadar area of Sonia Vihar. The accused were identified as Bhim Singh, Dayaram, Kuldeep Kumar and Arihant Jain. The site manager reported that four persons robbed high tension wires from the under construction power grid site keeping hostage the security guards and later fled with the 20 ton wires. Following the tip-off, Bhim Singh was arrested from Jwalapuri, Delhi and later on his instance other accused including the receiver were arrested. Bhim was previously involved in five similar cases, while Arihant was involved in three cases.

Arms supplier, aide arrested

New Delhi: The Delhi police has arrested a 31-year-old man and his associate for allegedly supplying illegal arms and ammunition to criminals in Delhi and its peripherals. Police have also recovered five sophisticated 7.65 mm pistols along with 10 cartridges from the possession of the accused. The accused has been identified as Chandernjit, a resident of Najafgarh area and his associate and receiver of illegal weapon has been identified as Azad Mehto (27), a resident of Delhi's Shiv Vihar area. On a tip-off, Chandernjit was apprehended near Raja Harish Chander Hospital, Narela. Azad was apprehended from Niloti, said the police.

Blow to BJP: MCDs say DJB water fit for drinking

Saffron party sticks to its earlier stand, says report of party-ruled civic bodies on water purity far from reality

SHASHI BHUSHAN
NEW DELHI, OCT. 22

Water provided by the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) "is not fit for human consumption," according to city BJP. However, the municipal corporations ruled by BJP claim that out of total sample of 8,638 lifted to test contamination only 25 failed the purity test. This precisely means that majority of water samples tested by the municipal bodies had been found fit for drinking.

On October 6, Delhi BJP president Manoj Tiwari and Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly Vijender Gupta, in a joint

press conference, had claimed that the water supplied by DJB is not potable. "After the BIS investigation report, it has been proved that the water in Delhi is not potable. Deficiencies have been found in all the samples taken for testing. Owing to this, poor people are compelled to buy and drink water while those who are extremely poor are forced to drink this polluted water," Mr Tiwari had said.

However, the municipal bodies' report, in possession of this newspaper, has contradicted the claims made by the BJP leaders.

As per the reports of the

▶ DJB vice chairman Dinesh Mohania said that before making any false claims, BJP leaders must check with their party ruled civic bodies.

▶ As the Assembly elections are approaching, Delhi BJP leadership has started misleading people with their falsehood.

▶ Senior BJP leader Mahender Nagpal said that the findings of the report is far from ground reality and they have received lots of complaints from people about poor water quality.

▶ They are surprised that reports are showing that DJB water is almost 100% fit for human consumption.

three civic bodies — East, North, and South Delhi Municipal Corporation — out of the total sample 8,638 lifted to test contam-

ination only 25 failed the purity test, which comes approximately 0.29 per cent. The remaining water

was found safe for drinking. The water samples were collected by the public health department of the three BJP-ruled municipal corporations.

Union water resources minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat already said that water supplied by DJB is potable and has passed laboratory tests to meet all parameters.

Reacting to the report about water contamination, DJB vice-chairman Dinesh Mohania told this newspaper that before making any false allegations, BJP leaders must check the facts with their party ruled civic bodies. "As the Assembly elections are approaching,

Delhi BJP leadership has started misleading people with their falsehood. BJP ruled Union government and local bodies certified that water supplied by DJB is potable. Mr Tiwari and Mr Gupta must explain to Delhiites from where they got this contaminated water sample," said Mr Mohania.

Questioning the water testing reports of the party ruled civic bodies, four-time former councillor and senior BJP leader Mahender Nagpal said that the findings of the report is far from ground reality. "We received lots of complaints from people about poor water quality and it is surprising

that reports are showing that DJB water is almost 100 per cent fit for human consumption. We have to check whether tests were done properly or not," Dr Nagpal added. Mr Mohania, however, clarified that few samples which failed the civic bodies' quality test may be due to local faults. "After seeing the volume of samples lifted for testing, it looks that 25 samples failed due to local faults, like leakage in pipeline, leading to contamination of water. We regularly try to identify and rectify such local faults to ensure safe and pure supply of water," added Mr Mohania.

Woman beaten to death by son for refusing money

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 22

A 22-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly bludgeoning his mother to death after she did not give him money. The police has recovered the iron rod (museli) used in the commission of the crime from the possession of the accused.

The accused has been identified as Ashutosh, a resident of Northeast Delhi's Meet Nagar area. According to DCP (Northeast district) Vij Prakash Surya, on October 17 a police control room (PCR) call was received from Guru Teg Bahadur hospital regarding the admission of a woman, identified as

▶ The accused asked his mother seven to eight times for money but she did not reply. He got furious and took an iron rod and hit her on the head several times and fled the spot.

Shiksha Devi, in an injured condition by her son Mukul.

"The victim's son, Ashutosh, was absconding since then. As per CCTV footage available, he was the last person seen after the incident. On October 21, Shiksha Devi succumbed to her injuries," said the DCP, adding that a case under

relevant sections was registered and an investigation was taken up.

"After receiving specific inputs, Ashutosh was arrested from Modi Nagar in Uttar Pradesh on October 21. During interrogation, the accused revealed that on October 17, at about 10.30 am, he asked his mother to give him some money. However, his mother did not reply as she was praying," said the DCP.

"He asked his mother 7-8 times for the same, but still she did not reply. Accused Ashutosh got furious and took an iron rod and hit his mother several times on the head. After this, he ran away from the spot," the DCP added.

BJP complains to Lokayukta over CM's pic on pink tickets

NEW DELHI, OCT. 22:

The Delhi BJP has filed a complaint with the Lokayukta accusing chief minister Arvind Kejriwal of "misusing his power" by getting his photograph printed on the tickets that will be issued to women passengers for free travel in DTC and cluster buses.

Pink tickets having a face value of ₹10 each will be given to women commuters from October 29 under the Delhi government's free ride scheme. The government will then reimburse the transporter based on the number of such tickets issued.

Besides complaining to the Delhi Lokayukta, leader of opposition in the Delhi Assembly Vijender Gupta, also submitted a memorandum to lieutenant governor Anil Bajjal urging him to stop the "blatant misuse of power" by Mr Kejriwal.

It is important to stop the Delhi government from printing and circulating tickets to "avoid the wasteful expenditure of government exchequer", Mr Gupta said.

"If the move to forestall the printing of photographs on tickets is not immediately taken, the misuse of power for personal glorification will set in motion dismantling democratic process," the petition said.

However, a senior AAP leader questioned the BJP and said, "Our Prime Minister's photo is there on all the banners of schemes like Ayushman Bharat, etc. Why does BJP not complain about it?" — PTI



A decorated view of Sarojini Nagar Market as shoppers purchase various items ahead of Diwali in New Delhi on Tuesday. — PTI

Man climbs atop floodlight at Chhatrasal stadium

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 22

A 52-year-old man, who climbed a floodlight pole at Chhatrasal Stadium, on Tuesday, to protest against the Delhi government in connection with resuming job

the floodlight pole at Chhatrasal Stadium to protest against the Delhi government in connection with resuming job, a senior police officer said.

Mr Lakra was finally convinced after his demands were accepted by the Delhi government, the police officer said. He was brought down safely with the help of the police and the Delhi Fire Service (DFS) after three hours, the officer added. Earlier, in February this year, he had staged a similar protest by climbing the floodlight pole at Chhatrasal Stadium, the police said.

▶ Lakra climbed the floodlight pole at Chhatrasal Stadium to protest against the Delhi government in connection with resuming job

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Ability to fulfil dreams starts with individual, says Naik

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 22

Union minister of state for AYUSH Shripad Naik on Tuesday said in the 21st century India, the ability to fulfil dreams starts with the individual.

Addressing members of the Akhil Bhartiya Jaiswal (Sarvavargiya) Mahasabha and Jaiswal Sarvavargiya Mahasabha (Delhi) at his residence here, Mr Naik said: "If people are educated, empowered, and skilled and have adequate means available to achieve the right ambience to fulfil their wishes and needs, then we think the country can fulfil these things".

Echoing similar view, Brajesh Jaiswal (Gupta) of Delhi, and communication in-charge of Akhil Bhartiya Jaiswal (Sarvavargiya)



Shripad Naik

Mahasabha, said: "We have to walk together now. It is evident that sense of self-reliance develops when problems get solved. Solution to problems encourages speed of self-reliance. Along with the change in the mindset and beliefs of the people running the systems is also very essential. Then only the desired results can be achieved. When we are trying to solve problems we should not think in isolation".

Over 1.8L cases dropped in '17: NCRB

Insufficient evidence, failure to find clues forced police to close files

New Delhi, Oct. 22: The Delhi police had to dispose of more than 1.80 lakh cases in 2017 owing to insufficient evidence or its failure to find clues, the maximum among all states and union territories, according to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data released for the year.

Uttar Pradesh had the second-highest number of such cases at 81,170. No cases were reported disposed in Lakshadweep because of lack of evidence or inability to find clues. However, Uttar Pradesh topped the crime list with over three lakh FIRs registered in 2017.

The National Crime Records Bureau, responsible for collecting and analysing crime data as defined by the Indian Penal Code and special

▶ The data showed Delhi, the national capital, also had the maximum number of cases pending investigation from 2016 at 1,70,311 followed by Maharashtra at 1,59,395 cases.

and local laws in the country, released the data for 2017 on Monday, after a delay of more than one year. The agency comes under the Union home ministry.

The data showed Delhi, the national capital, also had the maximum number of cases pending investigation from 2016 at 1,70,311 followed by Maharashtra at 1,59,395 cases. As many as 1,82,833

authentic cases were disposed of by the Delhi police due to insufficient evidence, no clue or other similar factors, according to the National Crime Records Bureau data.

It showed that 5,522 cases were abated during investigation. As many as 25,368 cases of 2016 were chargesheeted the next year, in addition to 26,707 cases of 2017. Delhi police transferred

25 cases to other agencies or states.

"In Delhi, there is a facility to register First Information Reports (FIRs) online in cases of motor-vehicle theft and other thefts, which may have increased the number of crime cases under these heads," said deputy commissioner of police (crime) Rajan Bhagat.

"This makes it statistically non-comparable with other cities where online registration is not available," he added.

Another officer said people file complaints online even for petty things they have lost. These are also included in the total number of cases registered by police and where police cannot do anything, the officer added.

Delhi Metro takes over operations of Rapid Metro

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 22

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) is going to take over the operations and maintenance of the Rapid Metro Link Gurgaon developed by the Rapid Metro Rail Gurgaon Limited (RMGL) and the Rapid Metro Rail Gurgaon South Limited (RMGSL) from October 22 (Tuesday). The services of the 11.6 km long corridor will continue to operate as per the normal time table as earlier.

DMRC is committed towards providing the best possible services to the commuters of the Rapid Metro line.

The DMRC management has already deployed adequate staff to maintain station operations, train operations, signalling and telecom, electrical, traction, safety and security, etc. so that the passenger services may be maintained in a smooth and trouble-free manner.

With the takeover of operations of the Rapid Metro, the total operational Metro network in Delhi and NCR has now become 389 km with 285 stations, which includes the Noida-Greater Noida corridor.

The names of the stations covered by the Rapid Metro system are Sector 55-56, Sector 54 Chowk, Sector 53-54, Sector 42-43, Phase-1, Sikandarpur, Phase-2, Phase-3, Mousari Avenue, IndusInd Bank Cybercity, and Vodafone Belvedere Towers.

- Saudi Arabia
- USA
- Thomas Nast
- Betty Williams



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: Shabbaz 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 who made 497 for nine

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. Klaasen 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.

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



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 *usne 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 any 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 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

Player	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

Player	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

part of the CoA which was 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

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. — AFP



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. — AFP

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

Yash, Sanya win squash U-19 titles

Chennai: Top-seeds Yash Fadte and Sanya Vats won the boys and girls under-19 titles respectively in style, posting easy wins in the finals of the HCL Sub-junior and Junior National Squash Championship here on Tuesday. While the promising Fadte eased past Sankalp Anand (Delhi) 11-2, 11-8, 11-4, Vats outplayed Amira Singh 11-5, 11-8, 11-6. Host Tamil Nadu finished with two titles as Darshil Parasampuria and Arihant K.S. won in the boys under-11 and under-13 sections respectively. Tiana Parasampuria (girls under-15), Yuvraj Wadhvani (boys under-15) and the talented Neel Joshi (boys under-17) from the START Academy near Mumbai, run by former PSA player and five-time national champion Ritwik Bhattacharya, emerged victorious. Ace table tennis player G. Sathiyam Gnanasekaran gave away the prizes. — 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. Rejecting the charges, the Iranian federation denied that pressure had been applied to force Mollaei to withdraw from the championships. However the IJF disciplinary commission examining the case found that Iran's actions "constitute a serious breach and gross violation of the Statutes of the IJF, its legitimate interests, its principles and objectives." The ban will last until "the IJF give strong guarantees and prove that they will respect the IJF Statutes and accept that their athletes fight against Israeli athletes." — AFP

Blades go bang bang

Moussset 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 Moussset 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 Moussset, 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

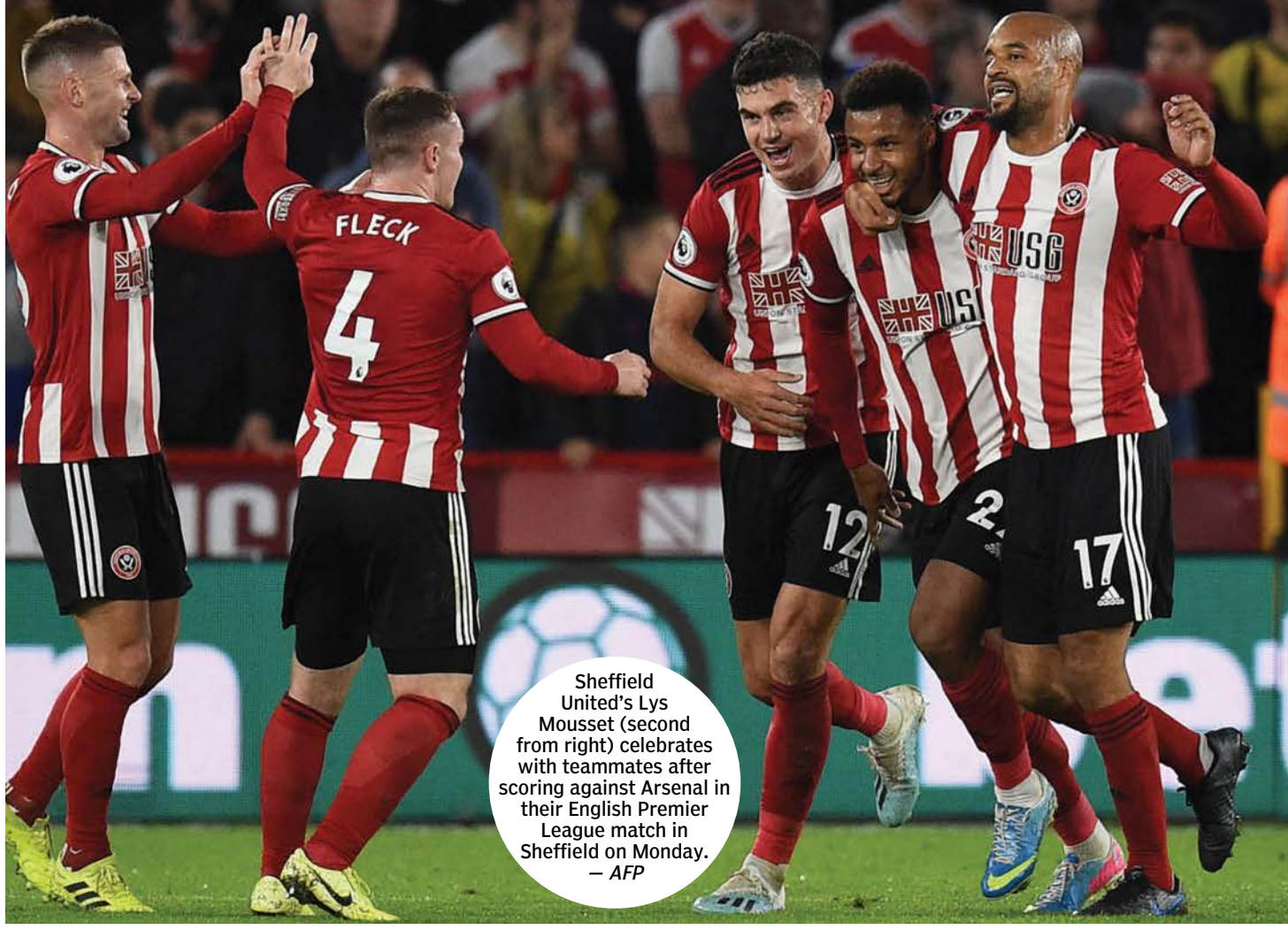
one goal then we could have controlled better." Asked if Arsenal have a mental block in away games, Emery said: "We prepare for the matches the same home and away and think to win. "We deserved more but they are a very strong defensive team." Under Emery, Arsenal have kept just two clean sheets in 24 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 cross towards Nicolas Pepe in the six-yard box, but the unmarked Ivory Coast winger completely miscued his shot. — AFP

THE RESULT

Sheffield United	1
(Moussset 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



Sheffield United's Lys Moussset (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

Live on TV

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

RB Leipzig vs Zenit	from 10.25 pm on Sony Six, HD
Ajax vs Chelsea	from 10.25 pm on Sony TEN 2, HD
Saizburg vs Napoli	from 12.30 am (Thursday) on Sony Six, HD
Genk vs Liverpool	from 12.30 am (Thursday) on Sony Six, HD
Inter Milan vs Dortmund	from 12.30 am (Thursday) on Sony Ten 2, HD
Slavia Praha vs Barcelona	from 12.30 am (Thursday) on Sony TEN 1, HD
Lille OSC vs Valencia	from 12.30 am (Thursday) on Sony TEN 3, HD

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 with goals from Lionel Messi, Luis

Suarez and Antoine Griezmann. Their fifth straight competitive win — including a 2-1 victory over Inter Milan in their last Champions League game — took them to the top of La Liga a point ahead of Real Madrid. Last week the two giants agreed to postpone the Clasico, which would have been a showdown for the top league spot, from next Saturday to December because of the protests in Catalonia. In a much calmer Prague, reigning Czech champions Slavia came back from a goal down to see off minnows Pribram 3-1 on Saturday to secure a six-point lead in the Czech top flight. — AFP

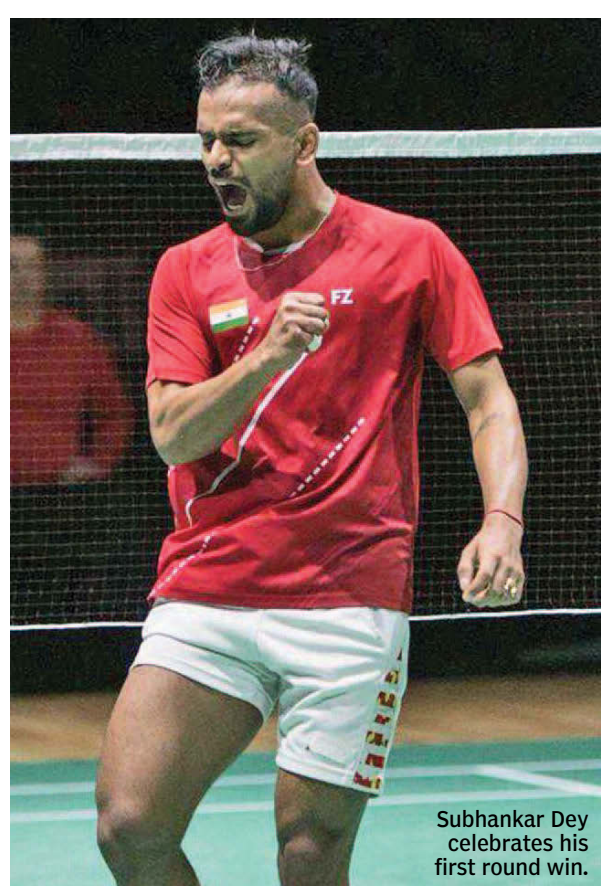
RONALDO NOT READY FOR RETIREMENT

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, especially the league and the Champions League, but I think it is possible. Everything is possible," Ronaldo said. — AP

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



Subhankar Dey celebrates his first round win.

It was Subhankar's Dey at French Open

● Subhankar Dey notched up an upset win over Tommy Sugiarto of Indonesia to advance to the second round

Paris, Oct. 22: World champion P.V. Sindhu began her French Open campaign with an easy win over Michelle Li in the women's singles first round here on Tuesday. The world number six Sindhu, who has been struggling of late, beat Li 21-15, 21-13 in a match that lasted 44 minutes. In the men's singles, Subhankar Dey notched up an upset win over Tommy Sugiarto of Indonesia to advance to the second round. The world number 42 Indian rallied to beat his world number 17 opponent 15-21, 21-14, 21-17 in a one hour 18 minutes first-round match. This was Subhankar's second win over the Indonesian, a former world number three, this year as the Indian had won 14-21, 22-20, 21-11 in the India Open in March. Subhankar had lost to Sugiarto in the New Zealand Open last year. Olympic silver medalist Sindhu had a 5-2 head-to-head record over the world number eight Canadian

after Tuesday's match. Sindhu had beaten Li during the 2018 Commonwealth Games in Australia in their previous meeting. Sindhu will play against world number 26 Yeo Jia Min of Singapore in the second round of the BWF Super 750 tournament. Since claiming her maiden World Championships title in August, Sindhu has looked awfully out-of-form as she had failed to cross the second round in three tournaments. She faltered in the second and first rounds at the China Open and Korea Open respectively last month. Sindhu again exited in the second round in straight games against Korea's An Se Young in Denmark Open last week. — PTI

