

THE ASIAN AGE

NEW DELHI SATURDAY 26 OCTOBER 2019

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Recording artiste Kanye West and Kim Kardashian West attend The Fashion Group International's annual 'Night of Stars' gala in New York on Thursday. — AP

Indians, Chinese can soon visit Brazil sans visas

Beijing: Chinese and Indian tourists will be exempted from visas to enter Brazil for tourism or business, Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro has announced. Earlier this year, the Brazilian government ended visa requirements for tourists and businesspeople from the United States, Canada, Japan and Australia. Those countries, however, have not in return dropped their visa requirements for Brazilian citizens.

Full report on Page 4

RBI officer found dead in Odisha hotel

Bhubaneswar: Mystery shrouded the death of a general manager of Reserve Bank of India who was found hanging from the ceiling of a hotel room in Chandikhol of Jajpur district on Friday morning. The deceased Asish Ranjan Samal (52) was working as the GM.

Full report on Page 4

Ban on construction due to Delhi pollution

New Delhi: With air quality in the Delhi-NCR region turning 'very poor' ahead of Diwali, the Supreme Court-mandated Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority on Friday to stop construction partially.

Full report on Page 13

COUNTERPOINT



The Goddess of Wealth will knock on your door soon!

WEATHER

Max: 31°C
Min: 18°C
RH: 49%
Rainfall: 0%
Forecast: Sunny

ASTROGUIDE

Vikari: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Ashwayuja Bahula Trayodashi till 3.45 pm
Star: Uttara Phalguni till 8.26 am and later Hasta till 5.48 am (early hours of Sunday)
Varjyam: 3.55 pm to 5.20 pm
Durmuhurtam: 6.16 am to 7.48 am
Rahukalam: 9 am to 10.30 am
SUNSET TODAY 5.41 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.29 AM
MOONRISE TOMORROW 5.17 AM
MOONSET TODAY 4.46 PM

THE ASSEMBLY VERDICT

BJP, JJP to form Haryana govt

BJP goes for 'Jat-appeasement', concedes deputy CM post to Chautala

YOJNA GUSAI
NEW DELHI, OCT. 25

The BJP on Friday conceded a crucial role in Haryana politics and decided to form the government with the help of the Jat-dominated Jan Jati Party (JJP), a splinter group of Om Prakash Chautala-led INLD.

leaders and some ministers, failed to win mainly in the Jat dominated areas. Some of the BJP leaders who lost themselves belonged to the same community, indicating that the party was not the preferred choice of Jats.

Kanda effect behind deal?



Haryana Lokhit Party leader Gopal Kanda faces a case of abatement to suicide of an air hostess, Geetika Sharma.
He and other independent candidates had extended unconditional support to BJP
That led to uproar in various quarters and perhaps played a role in BJP dumping him and going with JJP

I would request BJP that we should not forget our core beliefs. We should form government... but take support of leaders with clean image, tweeted former Union minister Uma Bharti

In the recently concluded Assembly polls in Haryana, the BJP on its own remained short of simple majority as its candidates, including senior

in the state for Haryana and old age pension. It now remains to be seen as how the BJP implements the

Turn to Page 4

THE PULL AND PUSH OF ALLIANCE



JJP chief Dushyant Chautala with his mother Naina at their home in New Delhi on Friday. — PTI

The BJP will form a new government in Haryana with the Jannayak Janata Party, which has won 10 seats in the 90-member Assembly

As per the deal, the CM will be from the BJP, while the post of deputy chief minister will go to the JJP, most likely its chief, Dushyant Chautala

Keeping in mind the mandate of the people, leaders of BJP and JJP have decided that the two parties will form a government in Haryana together. The chief minister will be from the BJP and the deputy chief minister will be from JJP. Amit Shah said on Friday. Khattar is likely to remain CM.

Sena MLAs want Aaditya to be CM, Uddhav talks tough

AGE CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI, OCT. 25

There is a growing demand among the newly-elected Shiv Sena MLAs that Yuva Sena chief Aaditya Thackeray, who has swept the World Assembly seat, be named the next state chief minister. The party has called an urgent meeting of its legislators on Saturday, in which party chief Uddhav Thackeray will take note of their opinion before deciding the future course of action.

Efforts at government formation have started in the wake of the announcement of the Assembly results, and the meeting is



Posters calling young Shiv Sena MLA Aaditya Thackeray the 'future CM' surfaced in Worli, indicating that the Sena workers want him to become CM

a part of this, party sources said. The meeting will be held at the Thackerays' Bandra residence, Matoshree, at noon. While Mr Thackeray will address the newly-elected MLAs, he will also gauge their views on government formation, and the power-sharing formula

will be among the major issues discussed. Uddhav Thackeray has also indicated he will bargain hard with the BJP. Asked which party would get the chief minister's post, he had said: "It is time to remind the BJP about the formula arrived at when BJP chief Amit

Turn to Page 4

Flat owners in Maradu to get ₹25L for losing homes

Compensation to be paid by builders

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 25

The Supreme Court on Friday said all owners of flats built at Maradu in the port city of Kochi in violation of coastal zone regulation guidelines and have been ordered to be pulled down will get ₹25 lakh each.

A bench of Justices Arun Mishra and S. Ravindra Bhat ordered the payment of ₹25 lakh to each of the 322 flat owners after the bench was told the three-member committee headed by a retired Kerala high court judge ordered payment of around ₹14 lakhs each based on the value indicated on the stamp paper of the sale deed.

Noting the market escalation of the price of the flats compared to when the sale deeds were entered into, the bench said each of the flat owners who would lose their dwellings would be paid ₹25 lakh each.

The Supreme Court by its September 27 order had directed the Kerala government to pay ₹25 lakh as interim compensation to each of the flat owners of Maradu whose dwellings were ordered

Turn to Page 4



An anti-government protester stands in front of a burning barricade in Valparaíso, Chile, on Thursday. At least 18 people have died in a week of nationwide clashes and looting sparked by a hike in subway fares. — AP

Guj-based firm gets contract to rebuild Parliament, Rajpath

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 25

The contract for revisiting the master plan for development of Central Vista (Rajpath) and a common Central Secretariat has been awarded to a Gujarat-based firm with the government prescribing stringent timelines for completing various works, including refurbishment of the Parliament building by 2024.

Talking to the media here, housing and urban affairs minister Hardeep Singh Puri said the consultancy was given to Gujarat-based HCP Design, Planning and Management Pvt. Ltd by

the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) on October 18.

The Central Vista, located at the heart of the city, extends from Rashtrapati Bhawan to India Gate, and is a tourist attraction.

A ministry release said that a lot of visitors come to Central Vista along the Rajpath and there is an imperative need to enhance its beauty to make it a world-class tourist attraction.

The process for selection of consultant was started on September 2 when a notice inviting bids was issued by the CPWD. The consultancy has been sanctioned at a cost of ₹229.75 crore.

More on Page 13

Court grants bail to ailing Sharif in graft case

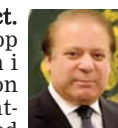
Lahore, Oct. 25: A top Pakistani court on Friday granted bail to ailing former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif who is undergoing treatment after being diagnosed with an acute immune disorder which reduced his blood platelet count to dangerous levels.

The 69-year-old Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo was rushed to the Services Hospital in Lahore from the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) office late on Monday night after a massive drop in his platelet count.

A two-member bench of the Lahore high court (LHC), headed by Justice Baqar Najafi, heard the petition of PML-N president Shahbaz Sharif seeking the release of his elder brother from the custody of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) on medical grounds in the money laundering case and accepted it.

According to the short order, Mr Sharif will have to submit two surety bonds worth Rs 10 million each for his release in the case. — PTI

More on Page 5





Setback
NDA's performance in Bihar Assembly by-poll not as per expectation: Chirag Paswan



Going solo in bypolls in Uttar Pradesh helped expose the BJP's darker side

— Akhilesh Yadav, SP president

SHORT TAKES

ED challenges bail to Shivakumar

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate moved the Supreme Court Friday challenging the Delhi High Court decision granting bail to Karnataka Congress leader D.K. Shivakumar in a money laundering case. A lawyer associated with the case said that Special Leave Petition against the October 23 verdict giving relief to Shivakumar has been filed. He was arrested by the ED on September 3 and walked out of the Tihar Jail on Wednesday evening. He was in judicial custody as the trial court had denied him bail in the case. The high court on Wednesday granted him bail saying he cannot tamper with the evidence. — PTI

Modi magic on the wane, says NCP

Mumbai: The NCP on Friday claimed the BJP lost seats wherever Prime Minister Narendra Modi campaigned in Maharashtra and claimed "Modi magic" was on the wane. NCP chief spokesperson Nawab Malik also said the party will seek legal opinion before deciding to take action against a section of the electronic media for "deluding" people with opinion polls that suggested several key opposition leaders were losing the Assembly election. "The BJP leaders talk about Modi magic. He (Modi) addressed a rally in Satara, their candidate did not get elected," he said. — PTI

Rahul will return stronger: Antony

New Delhi: Amid uncertainty over leadership issue in the Congress, senior party leader A.K. Antony on Friday said Sonia Gandhi is its leader and will remain continue till the time the party wants. "Don't worry about Rahul Gandhi also, he will come back with more strength," he told reporters at a press conference. Responding to a query on whether Sonia Gandhi should take responsibility and step down after Congress' defeat in the assembly polls, Mr Antony told reporters on Friday. — PTI

CBI MOVES SC AGAINST BAIL TO CHIDAMBARAM

New Delhi: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Friday moved the Supreme Court seeking review of its judgment granting bail to former Union finance minister P. Chidambaram in INX Media case being investigated by it. Pointing to the "error apparent" in the judgment sought to be reviewed, the investigating agency has also sought that the review petition be heard in the open court. The CBI said that if the errors being pointed out by it are considered by the court, this could alter the grant of bail to the former finance minister. The top court by its October 22, 2019 judgment has granted bail to Chidambaram brushing aside the CBI's contentions that the former finance minister was a flight risk, could tamper with the case documents and influence the witnesses. The CBI in its review petition has contended that the findings arrived at by the court are "contrary to the records, which is required to be corrected." The top court on October 22 while rejecting CBI's contention that Chidambaram was a flight risk, could tamper with the documents and influence the witnesses had said that Chidambaram was not "flight risk".

NCP threatens legal action against 'fake opinion polls'

SONU SHRIVASTAVA
MUMBAI, OCT. 25

The Sharad Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) Friday threatened to take legal action against certain poll agencies for showing opinion polls of individual candidates.

NCP chief spokesperson and NCP Mumbai chief Nawab Malik said that these opinion polls misled people about a candidate who won the Assembly election by a margin of over 1 lakh votes. If needed, the party would bring a private bill in this connection in Parliament, he said.

Mr Malik said that by broadcasting fake opinion polls, these news channels tried to create an atmosphere in favour of the ruling party candidates. "The NCP is seeking legal opinion to take action against these news channels that telecast opinion polls causing an illusion before the people and hampering the prospects of the Congress-NCP candidates in the Assembly election," said Mr Malik, who is the only NCP candidate to have won the election in Mumbai.

The NCP Mumbai chief said that the BJP had planned to decimate the Opposition but the election results indicated otherwise. The people have smashed the BJP's arrogance, he said. Mr Malik said that a few news channels tried to defame the party by telecasting news that party leader Praful Patel had connections with fugitive gangster Dawood Ibrahim. He said that the government had failed to deliver the promises made by the BJP five years ago.



Ramtek Assembly MLA Ashish Jaishwal and Bhandara Legislative Assembly MLA Narendra Bhandekar meet Shiv Sena party chief Uddhav Thackeray at Matoshree in Mumbai on Friday. — PTI

Raut posts cartoon taking potshots at alliance partner

AGE CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI, OCT. 25

After the Maharashtra Assembly election results showed a dip in the Bharatiya Janata Party's tally as compared to the 2014 polls, Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut took a dig at his party's senior ally by posting a cartoon on his Twitter account.

The cartoon showed a tiger (the Sena symbol) wearing a clock (the NCP's symbol) locket and sniffing a lotus (the BJP's symbol).

Captioned "Bura na maano Diwali hai", the cartoon went viral on various social media.

Even if in jest, the cartoon was symbolic of the Sena's current political situation. The Sena won 56 seats while the NCP-Congress alliance bagged 98 seats in

SENA'S DIG AT BIG BROTHER



► The Sena, in its mouthpiece Saamana, has acknowledged the BJP's "big brother" status, stating that the latter got the "Janadesh (mandate)" and not the "Mahajana-desh (huge mandate)."



the state Assembly elections. The cartoon possibly hinted that the Uddhav Thackeray-led party has better options to form the next government if the BJP does not listen to its demands. Despite winning less number of seats as compared to the 2014 Assembly polls, Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray

seems to be in a better position to bargain for a better deal with the BJP. In the Sena mouthpiece Saamana, the party acknowledged the BJP's "big brother" status, but stated that the latter got the "Janadesh (mandate)" and not the "Mahajanadesh (huge mandate)."

Cong to hold stir against regional free trade pact

Terms RCEP 3rd jolt to country after note ban, GST

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 25

The Congress on Friday decided to launch a nationwide agitation against the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) terming it as the third setback for the country after demonetisation and the GST.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the newly-constituted Congress Policy Group this morning. The 18-member group is headed by Congress President Sonia Gandhi and has among its members former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, former Congress President Rahul Gandhi, Jairam Ramesh, Kapil Sibal and Priyanka Gandhi among others.

Briefing reporters after the meeting, senior Congress leader and former Union minister A.K. Antony told the media: "Our country is heading for deep economic crisis and slowdown. It affects almost all sections of the economy". Mr Ramesh said: "RCEP

THORAT RULES OUT POSSIBILITY OF FORMING GOVT WITH SENA

SONU SHRIVASTAVA
MUMBAI, OCT. 25



Balasaheb Thorat

State Congress president Balasaheb Thorat on Friday ruled out the possibility of forming the government with the Shiv Sena. Mr Thorat said that his party has not received any such proposal from the Uddhav Thackeray-led party.

If the Sena sends such a proposal, the Maharashtra Congress will seek the opinion of the central leadership, the newly elected Sangamner MLA said.

He also clarified that the

is against the interests of the country. It would promote Made in China, affect the agricultural sector, including diary products and also ensure free data flow.

"There is a text in the RCEP which is bad, but there is a context to the RCEP, which is worst," he said.

party has not chafed out any such strategy to keep the BJP away from power in the state.

The state Congress president added that he did not believe that the Sena would dare to split from the saffron alliance and seek his party's support.

"The public has voted to break BJP's arrogance. BJP has been brought to the ground by the public," he said.

Congress general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal said Congress has decided to lead massive demonstrations throughout the country. "We have already told our PCC chiefs and are also in touch with other Opposition parties to launch a protest on a common platform," he said.

SC RESERVES ORDER ON REBEL K'TAKA MLAs

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 25

The Supreme Court on Friday reserved its verdict on a plea by 15 Congress and Janata Dal (Secular) rebel lawmakers of the Karnataka assembly of the rebel lawmakers of the then Speaker's decision as "malafide and vengeful".

Defending the then Speaker's decision to unseat the rebel lawmakers, senior counsel Kapil Sibal said that Speaker could not have ignored the conduct of 15 unseated lawmakers who were hobnobbing with the BJP

Krishna Murari reserved the verdict as both Congress and the Janata Dal (Secular) defended the unseating of the rebel lawmakers, while disqualified lawmakers described the then Speaker's decision as "malafide and vengeful".

Defending the then Speaker's decision to unseat the rebel lawmakers, senior counsel Kapil Sibal said that Speaker could not have ignored the conduct of 15 unseated lawmakers who were hobnobbing with the BJP

leaders, going to the governor after submitting their resignations and then leaving for Mumbai in the chartered plane of BJP's Rajya Sabha member Raveev Chandrasekhar.

Appearing for Congress leader Siddaramaiah, Mr Sibal said that the issue involved in the matter before the top court was of great importance that would have a bearing on the future polity of the country thus it should be referred to the five-judge Constitution bench.

CBI to grill bank officials, Ratul

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 25

The CBI is all set to confront two senior officials of a nationalised bank with Ratul Puri, the nephew of Madhya Pradesh chief minister Kamal Nath, in Tihar Jail where he is lodged in connection with the VVIP copter scam case.

Sources said, "Puri will soon be confronted with two officials of a nationalised bank in connection with a ₹354 crore bank fraud case. The CBI is preparing to file its own chargesheet in the case very soon".

Another Central probe agency — the Enforcement Directorate (ED) — recently filed a chargesheet before a Delhi court against Mr Puri and the company Moser Baer as part of its money laundering probe in the same case.

The CBI has booked Mr Puri (the then-executive director of Moser Baer) and four others in connection with the crore bank fraud case. The agency sleuths had also conducted searches at several locations



Ratul Puri

including the premises of the company and accused the directors immediately after registering the case.

Those booked by the CBI, include the company, and MD Deepak Puri, directors Nita Puri, Sanjay Jain and Vineet Sharma.

A complaint was received by the CBI from the deputy general manager, Central Bank of India (Parliament Street, New Delhi) regarding the alleged offences of criminal conspiracy, cheating, forgery for the purpose of cheating, using forged documents as genuine and criminal misconduct by the accused.

Moser Baer India directors in conspiracy with unknown public servants allegedly cheated the bank to the tune of ₹354.51 crores.

Byelections in U'khand, WB Nov. 25

New Delhi, Oct. 25: Assembly bypolls to three seats in West Bengal and one in Uttarakhand will be held on November 25, the Election Commission announced on Friday.

The bypolls in the two states were not held earlier on the request of the state governments.

While the local body elections were on in Uttarakhand, the West Bengal government had cited the Durga Puja festivities to postpone the bypolls.

The notification for the Assembly bypolls to the Pithoragarh seat in Uttarakhand, and the Kaliaganj, Karimpur and Kharagpur Sadar seats in West Bengal will be issued on October 30.

While polling will take place on November 25, counting of votes will be taken up on November 28, the commission said.

The Pithoragarh seat in Kumaon region of Uttarakhand fell vacant following the death of sitting MLA Prakash Pant. — PTI

Paswan's nephew set to head LJP's Bihar unit

Patna, Oct. 25: Newly elected Lok Sabha MP from Samastipur — Prince Raj — was on Friday appointed as the LJP's new chief in Bihar, replacing his uncle Pashupati Kuma Paras, also a member of Parliament.

The appointment was made by LJP president and Union minister Ramvilas Paswan, which party's central parliamentary board chairman and MP Chirag Paswan announced at a press conference here.

Prince Raj, son of Ram Chandra Paswan, trounced senior Bihar Congress leader Ashok Kumar in the by-poll at Samastipur reserved



Prince Raj

seat, result of which was declared on Thursday. The by-election was necessitated due to death of Ram Chandra Paswan.

Chirag Paswan was taking care of the LJP's Bihar unit after election of Paras from family's pocket borough Hajipur reserved parliamentary constituency in the general election. — PTI

DELHI POLICE
SHANTI SEWA NYAYA

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DP/9168/19



Free trade pact

Moily asks PM to not permit import of dairy products, arecanut, pepper under Free Trade Agreement



After bypoll results, our party (JD-U) will bounce back in the Assembly elections.

— Nitish Kumar, Bihar CM

SHORT TAKES

Haryana cops on alert for Diwali

Chandigarh: Haryana Police has put in place adequate precautionary measures to prevent any untoward incident during the Diwali across the state. "All the Commissioners of Police and district Superintendents of Police have been instructed to ensure adequate safety, security and traffic arrangements in their respective areas to avoid any kind of unfortunate incident during the celebrations," Additional Director General of Police, (Law and Order) Navdeep Singh Virk stated in a press release. He said that police would ensure no mishap takes place in godowns, storage as well as retail points of firecrackers. — PTI

Intruder killed near Pak border

Amritsar: A Pakistani intruder was shot dead by the Border Security Force personnel along the Indo-Pak border in Amritsar sector of Punjab on Friday, officials said. The incident took place at the Bharopal border outpost, they said. After observing suspicious movement of an intruder who entered the Indian territory, the BSF troops challenged him to stop, a BSF official said. When he did not pay heed, the BSF troops opened fire at him and he succumbed to bullet injuries, the official said. — PTI

HP college course on ancient wisdom

Dharamshala: The Government Degree College of Dharamshala has introduced a six-month certificate course in "Ancient Indian Wisdom", from the current academic session. Tibetan spiritual leader the 14th Dalai Lama on Friday addressed the students and faculty members. While addressing the gathering, the Dalai Lama said that all seven billion human beings in this world are the mentally, emotionally and physically similar and that they belong to one community. — PTI



Haryana chief minister Manohar Lal and JJP leader Dushyant Chautala during a press conference in New Delhi on Friday. — PTI

AIMIM victory in Bihar dangerous, says Giriraj

‘Owaisi’s party influenced by Jinnah ideology’

NAYEAR AZAD
PATNA, OCT. 25

Union minister Giriraj Singh on Friday stoked a controversy by terming AIMIM’s victory in Kishanganj “a threat to social integrity” and compared party chief Asaduddin Owaisi with Jinnah. In a tweet on Friday, Mr Singh said that “The most dangerous result in Bihar by-election has emerged from Kishanganj where Asaduddin Owaisi’s Party AIMIM has won. The party is influenced by the ideology of Jinnah and it also hates Vande Mataram. AIMIM’s victory is a threat to the social integrity of Bihar. People should think about their future”. In Kishanganj, BJP candidate Sweetsy Singh was defeated by AIMIM nominee Qamarul Hoda by around 11,000 votes. Political parties in



The most dangerous result in Bihar by-election has emerged from Kishanganj where Asaduddin Owaisi’s Party AIMIM has won. The party is influenced by the ideology of Jinnah
— Giriraj Singh, Union minister

Kishanganj was earlier considered a Congress traditional seat. Though few Bharatiya Janata Party leaders came out in support of Giriraj Singh’s statement against Asaduddin Owaisi’s party AIMIM, a section in NDA differed and criticised him for trying to create differences through his controversial statements. The Opposition RJD also slammed BJP’s fire-brand leader for giving the statement. According to RJD spokesperson Bhai Birendra, “NDA’s performance has disturbed the BJP in Bihar. Leaders like Giriraj Singh are giving such kind of statements to divert public attention but they cannot change the fact. At the moment, I can only say that the by-poll results were just a trailer the BJP will see the whole picture during 2020 assembly elections”. — PTI

Kanda asked to appear in court Nov. 27

New Delhi, Oct. 25: The case against newly-elected controversial Haryana politician Gopal Kanda for allegedly abetting suicide of an air hostess is dragging for seven years in a Delhi court which is yet to complete recording of prosecution evidence. Kanda, who has pledged unconditional support to the BJP in the Haryana Assembly, has been asked to appear before Special Judge Ajay Kumar Kuhar on November 27 and 28. On October 4 and 11, the court had granted him exemption from personal appearance after he had

informed that he was busy in election campaign for Sirsa constituency which he was contesting as a candidate of Haryana Lokhit Party. The court has fixed November 27 and 28 for recording of the prosecution evidence in the case. Geetika Sharma, the air hostess employed with Kanda’s MLDR airlines, was found dead on August 5, 2012 at her Delhi residence. In her suicide note, she had said that she was ending her life due to

“harassment” allegedly by Kanda and his employee Aruna Chadha. The proceedings in the case was delayed as special public prosecutor Rajiv Mohan was not appearing in the matter. The judge also noted that the court has received a copy of an order from the director of prosecution informing that advocate Manish Rawat has been appointed prosecutor in the case. Rawat has been appointed in place of special public prosecutor Rajiv Mohan on behalf of the state to conduct the trial. — PTI

Don't seek Kanda help: Airhostess brother tells BJP

AGE CORRESPONDENT
with agency inputs
NEW DELHI, OCT. 25



Gopal Kanda

The family of the former airhostess, Geetika Sharma, who allegedly committed suicide, hit out at the BJP for taking the support of Gopal Kanda, the controversial Haryana M.L.A. for securing power in the state. The victim’s brother, Ankit Sharma, questioned the government over its attempts at seeking support of a criminal. He urged the government to look at Kanda’s past and character before taking his help. “Kanda faces trial in the suicide of Geetika Sharma. What about the ‘Beti Bachao Beti Padhao’ slogan in Haryana? We are giving the responsibility of women to a hooligan, to somebody who pushed somebody to kill themselves. Are we for real in this?” Ankit Sharma told reporters. He added that his family had been humiliated for the past seven years and lamented over how justice has been delayed. “I just wish to say that they should not give our future in the hands of a criminal. Please see that this man was in jail for 1.5 years and his bail has been

denied 8 times. If you support this criminal, you will destroy 10 more girls like her.” “There is a charge sheet against him of 1,800 pages which is full of evidences on what he did to my sister, how he destroyed her life...t that charge sheet is of no use if you don’t have a trial on time,” Ankit said. Along with other newly-elected independents, Haryana Lokhit Party (HLP) candidate Gopal Kanda had offered his unconditional support to BJP as it fell short of the half way mark in the 90 member state Assembly. The 23-year-old air hostess Geetika Sharma was found dead in 2012, blaming then-Haryana minister Gopal Kanda for her death. He was a minister in the Congress government of Bhopinder Singh Hooda when the case came to light. The BJP had at that time protested against Kanda.

Pandits move SC to support govt decision on Art. 370

New Delhi, Oct. 25: Two Kashmiri Pandits and an apex body of various associations formed by the community have moved the Supreme Court in support of the government’s decision to abrogate provisions of Article 370 that gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir.

The plea by Tej Kumar Moza, Karishma Tej Kumar Moza and All India Kashmiri Samaj, seeking to be made parties in the ongoing matter, said that Article 370 was a transitory provision that was enacted keeping in mind the peculiar situation of Jammu and Kashmir and to enable it to completely integrate into the Union of India. It categorically provides power to the President to cease the operation of the Article through a public notification, the plea said. “It is therefore, submitted that the formulations and notifications of the 2019 order is in consonance with the provisions of Article 370 and the 2019 Amendment Act is a consequential legislative action that flows from it,” the plea said. “The Treaty of Accession of Jammu and Kashmir to the Republic of India was an unconditional one and it was always the intention of the state of Jammu and Kashmir to be integrated with the Republic of India. Article 370 was a temporary provision inserted with the object of peace in the state,” the plea said. The petition also stated that Jammu and Kashmir has been consistently threatened by infiltration from Pakistan and China. — PTI

Govt appoints new L-Gs for J&K, Ladakh

Mumru to be J&K L-G, Mathur named Ladakh L-G

New Delhi, Oct. 25: Girish Chander Mumru, a senior IAS officer, who worked closely with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Gujarat and is currently the expenditure secretary, was on Friday appointed the first Lt Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, six days ahead of the state becoming a Union Territory.

Mr Mumru, 59, an IAS officer of 1985 batch, worked as Mr Modi’s additional principal secretary during his tenure as Gujarat chief minister. He was due for retirement on November 30. He will be administered oath of office on October 31 in Srinagar after which he will be the administrative head of Kashmir and Jammu provinces. The state’s third province — Ladakh — has been carved out as a separate Union Territory. Former defence secretary R.K. Mathur was appointed the first Lt Governor of Ladakh. The 65-year-old



Mumru Mathur

▶ **The present governor of the state, Satya Pal Malik, moves to Goa for the remainder of his tenure as the governor**

bureaucrat, belonging to 1977 IAS batch, retired as chief information commissioner last year. He will be administered oath of office on October 31 in Leh.

The present governor of the state Satya Pal Malik moves to Goa for the remainder of his tenure as the governor. He was first appointed governor of Bihar in September 2017 and later shifted to Jammu and Kashmir last year in August.

Malik succeeds Mridula Sinha, who completed her five-year tenure in August this year but continued to hold the post till October 23. The two Union territories — Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir — will come into existence on October 31 after the Centre abrogated the special status of the state and bifurcated it into union territories on August 5.

With the appointment of Mr Mumru, the tenure of advisors to the Jammu and Kashmir governor — K Vijay Kumar, Khursheed Ganai, K Sikandan and K.K. Sharma — may come to an end as all of them are seniors in service to the new Lt Governor.

In another order, former Intelligence Bureau (IB) chief and Union government appointed interlocutor to Jammu and Kashmir, Dineshwar Sharma, has been appointed as administrator to Lakshadweep. An order to this effect was issued by the Union home ministry. — PTI

CHHATTISGARH STATE POWER GENERATION CO. LTD
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No. 03-03/Tn-S-616/3614 RaipurDtd. 24/10/2019

E-TENDER NOTICE NO. Tn-S-616/2019

Online bids are invited by the undersigned through CSPGCL e-bidding system (SAP-SRM) from Experienced & reputed contractors for the work as mentioned below:—

S. No./ Tender No./ Rfx No.	Particulars	Last date & time of bid submission	Bid opening date (EMD, Techno-Commercial Bid)	E.M.D. (Rs.)	Tender Cost (Rs.)
1. TS-875/ 8100015629 (with RLA)	Work contract to carry out acid cleaning work followed by high pressure water jet cleaning of condenser tube for unit #1 & 2 of 2x500 MW, ABVTPS, Marwa, Janjgir-Champa.	18.11.2019 Upto 15:00 Hrs.	18.11.2019 Upto 15:30 Hrs.	1,40,500/-	1180/- +GST @18%
2. TS-876/ 8100015649 (with RLA)	Work contract for co-ordination in operation, monitoring and maintenance of coal handling plant with all sub system / auxiliaries including wagon unloading work of 2x500 MW, ABVTPS, Marwa, Janjgir-Champa for 02 years.	11.11.2019 Upto 15:00 Hrs.	11.11.2019 Upto 15:30 Hrs.	4,65,000/-	1180/- +GST @18%

For more details, please visit our website at: <http://www.cspgc.co.in/cspgcl/>. Any amendment/ corrigendum, if required, will be displayed on our website only.
Executive Director (S&P): Gen CSPGCL :Raipur

SAVE ELECTRICITY

SUICIDE CASE

informed that he was busy in election campaign for Sirsa constituency which he was contesting as a candidate of Haryana Lokhit Party. The court has fixed November 27 and 28 for recording of the prosecution evidence in the case. Geetika Sharma, the air hostess employed with Kanda’s MLDR airlines, was found dead on August 5, 2012 at her Delhi residence. In her suicide note, she had said that she was ending her life due to

“harassment” allegedly by Kanda and his employee Aruna Chadha. The proceedings in the case was delayed as special public prosecutor Rajiv Mohan was not appearing in the matter. The judge also noted that the court has received a copy of an order from the director of prosecution informing that advocate Manish Rawat has been appointed prosecutor in the case. Rawat has been appointed in place of special public prosecutor Rajiv Mohan on behalf of the state to conduct the trial. — PTI

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Email : greaternoida@canfinhomes.com
CIN : L85110KA198PLC008699

POSSESSION NOTICE [Rule 8 (1)]

The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Can Fin Homes Ltd. under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of the powers under section 13 (2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 01.08.2019 calling upon the borrower Mrs. Simran And Mr. Mohd. Yusuf to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 25,53,868/- and interest from 01.08.2019 to till date of final payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described here in below in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on this 23rd Day of October, 2019 of the year.

The borrower’s attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

The borrower in particular and the public in general is here by cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of CFHL for an amount of Rs. 25,53,868/- and interest there on.

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Flat No - A - 1, First Floor, Plot No - S-43, Shalimar Garden , Extn - I, Block - S , Sahibabad, Ghaziabad-201005
East : Remaining Part of Plot No S - 43, South : Service Lane, West : Plot No.-S-42, North : 60 ft wide road

Date : 25.10.2019
Place : Greater Noida

sd/-
Authorised Officer
Can Fin Homes Ltd

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that one girl **Namely: Chandani, D/o: Saeed Ahmed, R/o: H.No. A-13/14, Gali No. 01, A-Block, Sonia Vihar, Delhi, Age: 21 Years, Height: 4'5", Face: Round, Complexion: Fair, Built: Strong, Wearing: Yellow Colour Suit-Salwar and Haiwai Chappal in feet has been missing since 04.10.2019 from the area of PS Khajuri Khas, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 04-A, dated 06.10.2019 has been lodged at PS. Khajuri Khas, Delhi.**

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing girl but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing girl please inform the undersigned.

Phone: 011-24368638 and 24368641, Ext. 2101
Web-site : <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-Mail ID: cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639

SHO
PS. Khajuri Khas, Delhi.
Ph.: 011-22962735, 22966851
DP/7402/NE/19

DELHI POLICE
SHANTI SEWA NYAYA

Attention!

Hon'ble Supreme Court Guidelines FOR SALE & USE OF FIRECRACKERS

- ▶ **No item(s) other than the Reduced Emission firecrackers (Improved crackers) and Reduced Emission firecrackers Green crackers: Safe Water and Air Sprinklers (SWAS) as prescribed and approved by the Petroleum and Explosive Safety Organization (PESO) shall be sold in the premises.**
- ▶ **Categories of firecrackers banned/not permitted**
 - **Joined Firecrackers (series crackers or laris)**
 - **Fireworks containing barium salts/ lithium/ arsenic/ antimony/ lead/ mercury**
 - **Firecrackers manufactured earlier but non-permissible as per above Hon'ble Supreme Court judgement.**
- ▶ **Only those crackers permitted to be sold whose decibel (sound) level are within the permissible limits (125 dB(AI) or 145 dB(C)pk at 4 meters from the point of bursting)**
- ▶ **Bursting of fireworks not allowed in silence zones : Silence Zone is an area comprising not less than 100 meters around hospitals, educational institutions, courts, religious places or any other area which is declared as such by the competent authority.**
- ▶ **Timings of Firecracking as per directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court:**
 - From 08.00 PM till 10.00 PM on Diwali Days**
 - From 04.00 AM till 05.00 AM on Gurpurab**
 - From 09.00 PM till 10.00 PM on Christmas Eve & New Year Eve.**
 - From 11.55 PM till 12.30 AM**
- ▶ **Community fire cracking to be undertaken at pre-identified areas/fields as far as possible.**

ALL CONCERNED TO PLEASE NOTE & ABIDE.

Delhi Police Wishes You A Happy Diwali

DP/9166/19



Health of poor improved up to 70% due to Ujjwala, Swachha Bharat, says Amit Shah



It is sad to see that a truck driver of Alwar district died in the terrorist attack

— Sachin Pilot, Dy CM, Rajasthan

SHORT TAKES

NBCC official held for taking ₹4L bribe

New Delhi: The CBI has arrested a top official of the state-owned National Buildings Construction Corporation (NBCC) for allegedly receiving a bribe of ₹4 lakh for clearing bills worth over ₹24 crore.

Ceasefire violation by Pak in Kupwara

Kupwara: Homes of several people were damaged in a ceasefire violation by Pakistani troops along the Line of Control (LoC) in Kupwara, Jammu and Kashmir, on Friday.

Walls collapse in Odisha, 4 killed

Bhubaneswar: Four persons, including a woman, were killed while four others sustained injuries in separate wall collapse incidents due to incessant rainfall on Friday.

WITHDRAW NOD FOR MAHADAYI PROJECT: GOA CM

Panaji: Goa chief minister Pramod Sawant on Friday wrote to Union environment minister Prakash Javadekar, asking for immediate withdrawal of the Centre's consent for the Kalsa-Bhanduri project on the Mahadayi river in neighbouring Karnataka.

RBI officer found dead in Odisha hotel room

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO BHUBANESWAR, OCT. 25

Mystery shrouded the death of a general manager of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) who was found hanging from the ceiling of a hotel room in Chandikhol of Jajpur district on Friday morning.

The exact reason behind his death is yet to be ascertained, it is suspected that the banker took the extreme step due to family dispute

On Friday morning, the hotel staff knocked at the door of the room, he did not answer. When he did not open the door until late, the hotel staff called up police.

pected that the banker took the extreme step due to family dispute. In a similar incident, a home guard was found hanging on Friday morning inside a private nursing home near the Nayagarh district collector's office.

Lost in sea, Andaman man found after 21 days

AGE CORRESPONDENT BHUBANESWAR, OCT. 25

A man reportedly travelling to the Andaman and Nicobar islands in a fishing boat lost direction due to strong winds and sea current, only to find himself in Odisha coast.

Identified as Amit Khujur, the ill-fated man was rescued by the locals of Khirisahi village in Krushnaprasad block here after his boat hit the Puri shores early on Friday morning.

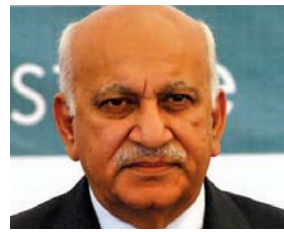


Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu with Iran President Hassan Rouhani at the 18th summit of Non-Aligned Movement in Baku on Friday.

Details of sexual abuse by Akbar 'bizarre': Ramani's friend

New Delhi, Oct 25: Details of the alleged incident of sexual harassment by former Union minister M.J. Akbar, when he was a scribe, against journalist Priya Ramani were "so bizarre" and "inappropriate" that it created a lasting image, the victim's friend in whom she had confided about her experience told a Delhi court Friday.

"After her job interview with Mr Akbar, Ms Ramani called me up late in the evening. She sounded upset and distraught. She had called me up and said the interview had not gone as she had expected.



M.J. Akbar

Mr Akbar, who resigned as Union minister on October 17 last year, filed a private criminal defamation complaint against Ms Ramani after his name cropped up on social media as the #MeToo campaign raged on in India.

duct, a charge denied by him. Akbar had earlier told the court that the allegations made in an article in the 'Vogue' and the subsequent tweets were defamatory on the face of it as the complainant had deposed them to be false and imaginary and "immediate damage" was caused to him due to the "false" allegations by Ramani.

to come sit close to him. Details she described were so bizarre and inappropriate that I have a picture of it in my mind till this day," the witness deposed.

US seeks peace roadmap for Kashmir Valley

Continued from Page 1 for example four million postpaid mobile phone users have had service restored, but SMS and internet is restricted," she said.

Mohammed and Hizbul Mujahideen "obviously are the problem." "In this vein, we welcome (Pakistan) Prime Minister (Imran) Khan's unambiguous statement in September that anyone who crosses from Pakistan to carry out violence in Kashmir are enemies of both Pakistan and the Kashmiri people," she said.



President Ram Nath Kovind during the 50th anniversary of Shanti Stupa in Rajgir city of Nalanda district in Bihar on Friday.

BJP and JJP join hands

Continued from Page 1 poll promises of its ally in the state. However, the BJP, which was busy with meetings over government formation in Haryana, had to face severe criticism over its move to seek support from Lokhit Party's Gopal Kanda, a "rape accused" who is also facing charges of abetment to suicide of a former woman employee and her mother.

Singh, accompanied by BJP Sirsa MP Sunita Duggal, was widely circulated in the social media, the BJP refrained from any comment on Mr Kanda. Mr Kanda, on the other hand, claimed that all the Independents who had won had extended "unconditional support" to the BJP, and he also revealed his family's association with the RSS.

expected to stake claim or government formation on Saturday. The BJP has appointed Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman and party general secretary Arun Singh as observers for the Haryana legislature party meeting. The BJP leadership has already made it clear that Mr Khattar will head the next government.

Indians can soon visit Brazil without visas

Beijing, Oct 25: Chinese and Indian tourists will be exempted from visas to enter Brazil for tourism or business, Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro has announced.



Jair Bolsonaro

Bolsonaro has made it a policy to reduce visa requirements of developed countries. But this announcement is the first he has made expanding that policy to the developing world.

Earlier this year, the Brazilian government ended visa requirements for tourists and businesspeople from the United States, Canada, Japan and Australia. Those countries, however, have not in return dropped their visa requirements for Brazilian citizens.

year and has made it a policy to reduce visa requirements from a number of developed countries. But the announcement, made during an official visit to China, is the first he has made expanding that policy to the developing world.

Railways to convert 200 saloons to 10 luxury trains

New Delhi, Oct. 25: Railways has decided to convert 200 saloons into 10 luxury tourist trains to be run by the IRCTC in a bid to regulate the use of the colonial era-style carriages and generate additional revenue for the national transporter, sources said on Friday.

over to IRCTC and will be operated as tourist trains. Upon conversion, around ten such trains can be put into for public use," the source said.

Terrorists are controlling PoK, says Army Chief

New Delhi, Oct. 25: Army Chief Gen. Bipin Rawat on Friday described Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir as a "terrorist-controlled" part of the neighbouring country and sought to link it with Islamabad's strident criticism of India's decision to scrap Jammu and Kashmir's special status.

Aaditya likely to be state's youngest deputy CM

Continued from Page 1 Shah visited my home. We had decided on a 50-50 formula for the alliance. In the Vidhan Sabha polls, we agreed to contest fewer seats than the BJP, but I cannot accommodate the BJP every time. I should allow my party to grow."

Banners have come up in Worli area of Mumbai congratulating Aaditya Thackeray and hailing him as a future chief minister. The BJP won 105 seats in the 288-member Assembly, while the Sena bagged 56.

Maradu flats demolition: owners to get ₹25 lakh

Continued from Page 1 demolished for breach of the Coastal Regulation Zone guidelines. The three-member committee, however, made the payment on the basis of the amount on the stamp paper of the sale deed.

builders to pay ₹20 crores, the court asked each of them to state on affidavit their assets and bank accounts. The Supreme Court, at the last hearing of the matter on September 27, had said the compensation paid to the affected flat owners from funds allocated by the Kerala government would be recovered from the builders.

No one succeeds without effort... Those who succeed owe their success to perseverance.

A very powerful mechanism to get elected is to play on anger and pick those wedge issues

THE ASIAN AGE

26 OCTOBER 2019

Voters put economics over fear of the other

In the end, the cross-border shelling the night before the voting in these elections — to two state Assemblies, two Lok Sabha seats and 51 Assembly constituencies — was not enough to appeal to the nationalism of two of India's martial communities — Maharashtra's Marathas and Haryana's Jats. One of the Congress' key electoral puzzles involves these dominant intermediate castes. And yet they taught the BJP a lesson, even if the ruling party returns with chief ministers Devendra Fadnavis and Manohar Lal Khattar. (Mr Khattar, a dry party apparatchik, will find his unstable minority government severely tested in the coming months.) For instance, Ajit Pawar won Baramati by over 1,65,000 votes — the kind of margin seen in parliamentary contests, not Assembly fights. In Haryana, the BJP's vote share plummeted from 58 per cent in May to 36.3 per cent now. That the BJP was shaken up was evident from the gloat-free celebratory speeches and rapidly-darting eyes of its top leaders on Thursday evening. Their continuous claptrap on Article 370 left the voters unimpressed; the latter were more concerned about the economic winter ahead. Perhaps the LoC shelling was, in hindsight, evidence of the ruling party's anxiety.

Also worrisome for the party that likes to monopolise the flag were the Block Development Council election results from Jammu and Kashmir. In Jammu, a region that ought to be a BJP bastion now that the Valley has been "put in its place", there were only 40 winning BJP candidates, while there were 87 Independents who won. Though the Congress and the National Conference officially boycotted the BDC poll, make no mistake — those 87 were their people. Even in Jammu, nationalism followed the law of diminishing returns.

Jharkhand was not held this week though BJP CM Raghuraj Das could easily have been told to request an election by his 'high command'. The BJP knows it is badly placed in Jharkhand, while the Congress-JMM alliance has got its act together.

More state elections are around the corner. Jharkhand was not held this week though BJP CM Raghuraj Das could easily have been told to request an election by his "high command". He wasn't; the BJP knows it is badly-placed in Jharkhand, while the Congress-Jharkhand Mukti Morcha alliance has got its act together. The "high command" probably hopes that a pro-Hindu verdict in the Ayodhya dispute (considered by some to be a foregone conclusion) will swing the urban areas back to the BJP. Perhaps. But there's Delhi, with its popular CM Arvind Kejriwal; and then the biggie, Bihar, where CM Nitish Kumar's JD(U) won only one of the five bypolls this week. A loss there will demonstrate that like our banks, the ruling party's political capital has become a non-performing asset.

Some would term last winter's elections, where the BJP lost three states in the North, and this week's elections, where two incumbent BJP CMs are returning, as "normal elections". They might call the 2019 Lok Sabha poll "abnormal", because the results were beyond expectations, unlike in 2014, where everyone clearly read the mood of the nation. We hope that rather than rely on "abnormal elections", the powers that be focus on the economy. Otherwise, as this week's results show, the electorate's anger is a clear and present danger.

Kartarpur pact: Positive step

Even in this hour of very disturbed relations between India and Pakistan, the two countries, after long-winded negotiations filled with not a little suspicion on the Indian side, succeeded in signing the Kartarpur Saheb corridor agreement on Thursday for visa-free entry of pilgrims.

This will be a matter of great spiritual solace particularly for Sikh devotees. They will now be able to walk into Pakistan on November 12 to celebrate the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak, the founder of the Sikh faith, at the famous Darbar Sahib Kartarpur gurdwara, now in Pakistan, where Guru Nanak spent his last days. The shrine is barely 6 km from Dera Baba Nanak in Gurdaspur in India's Punjab.

If bilateral relations were normal, the proposal to construct a walking corridor for Indian pilgrims, and those of Indian origin living in other countries, might have come to fruition long ago. Still, it's just as well that neither the traditional bitterness nor the current stasis in ties between the two nations proved to be an obstacle in the end.

New Delhi's chief worry was that Pakistan, that encourages Sikh secessionist elements from Canada and Britain, some of whom live in Pakistan on a long-term basis, will seek to exploit the thousands of Sikhs visiting the shrine for subversive anti-India propaganda. At the same time, New Delhi had no wish to hurt Sikh religious sentiments by throwing a spanner in the works of the Kartarpur corridor.

The Kartarpur Saheb facility might, ordinarily, have served as a useful confidence-building measure between India and Pakistan. It is uncertain if this can be the case now, when ties are especially bad after India's recent move on Kashmir.

THE ASIAN AGE

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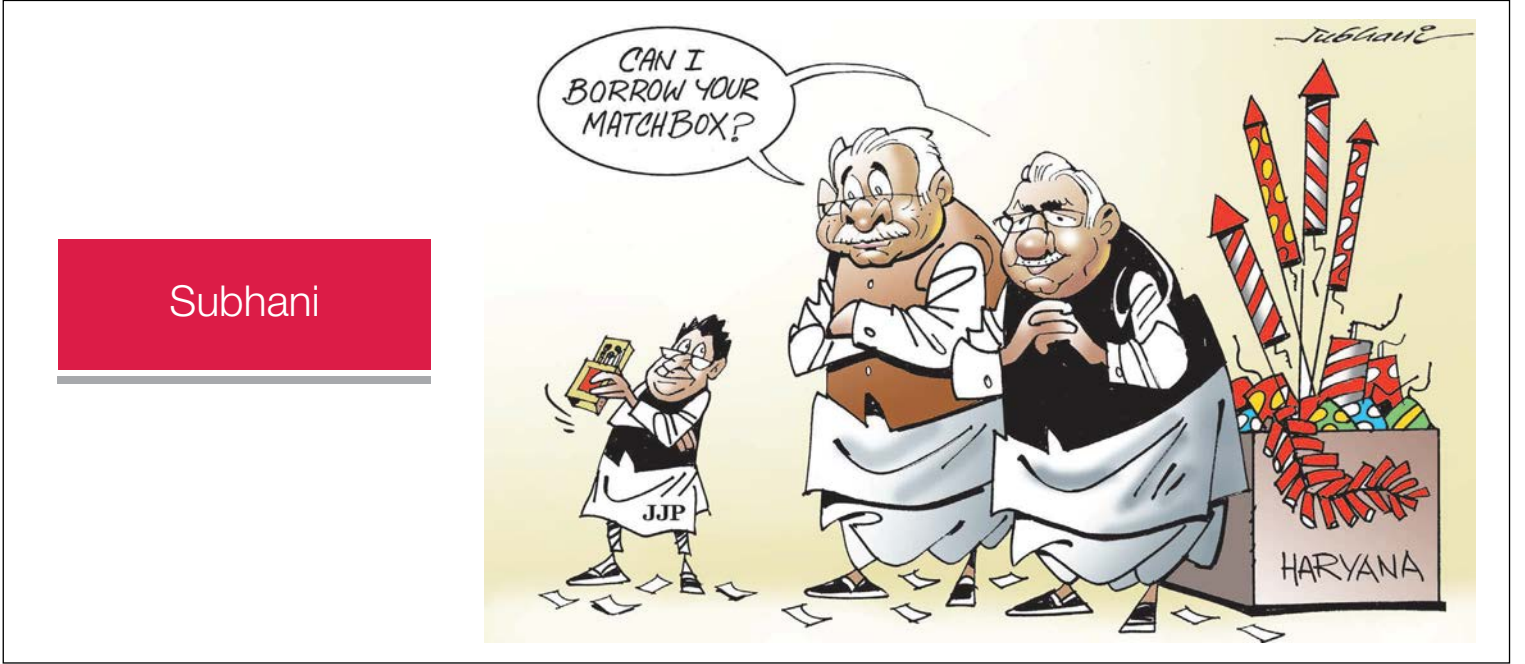
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Subhani

Why Siachen glacier is vital to India's defence



Syed Ata Hasnain

In the recent humdrum of the complexities involving Jammu and Kashmir, one area with territorial dimension attached to it and not drawing sufficient focus is the Siachen glacier. It's rarely discussed these days as its specifics are much less known. Yet, increased tension with Pakistan and the collusive threats arising from China after recent tensions demand a revisit to this crucial area; if for nothing else, at least for better public awareness. With tourist trails having been introduced, from Siachen Base Camp right up to the glacier's central location, a flavour of peace and tranquility appears to be added to Siachen. It's a good decision to have introduced high-altitude hiking in the area; awareness in the public eye about Siachen's existence will increase, as also the challenges of defending it from adversaries, while survival in the glaciated terrain will find some focus. Yet, this may lead to a degree of trivialisation without a full appreciation of why India must continue to occupy the Siachen glacier; the strategic aspects rarely get explained but that knowledge is necessary too, especially if it is better known that India expends Rs 4 crores every day to maintain the Army in the glacier deployment.

The problem of the Siachen glacier arose because the ceasefire line (later termed the Line of Control) was not delineated beyond map point NJ 9842. That is the map coordinate from which the further northward delineation was considered impractical and left vague with the statement "the LoC will thence run north to the glaciers". The last four words came back to haunt India when in 1978 Pakistan commenced patrolling the

area and sending foreign expeditions along with Pakistani troops, thus laying virtual claim to the area west of line NJ 9842 to Karakoram (KK) pass. India responded with an effective counter claim; laying down "north to the borders" as the line along the Saltoero ridge watershed, thus defining the entire Siachen glacier lying to the east, from Indira Col in the north to the glacier snout in the south.

When nothing could be resolved for six years, in April 1984 India proactively flew a helicopter-borne force and occupied crucial locations on the sub-glaciers which flow from the passes on the Saltoero ridge. This allowed its troops to move up to the passes at heights up to 22,000 feet and they have since remained with the Indian tricolour embedded there. Pakistan made desperate bids to evict the Indian troops but failed. This included one attack personally led by Gen. Pervez Musharraf, who was then a brigadier commanding Pakistan's SSG (special forces).

Siachen's first strategic importance is that its frozen icy waste melts into the River Nubra, which drains the Nubra Valley and provides huge resources of water to Pakistan; the River Nubra flows into the River Shyok which in turn flows to River Indus in PoK. Pakistan's water sources lying under Indian control is a strategic psychological blow to it. That is one of the prime reasons for Pakistan often terming the Siachen glacier issue a "low-hanging fruit" in the spectrum of the India-Pakistan border disputes, and advising India that this be resolved amicably by "mutual withdrawal" since there is no strategic significance attached to it. Only few in India have had the opportunity to examine the Siachen glacier both on

the ground and in detail on maps. Even a cursory glance will reveal the extent of Pakistan's ruse. Mutual withdrawal in the context of Pakistan's proposal will only mean one army withdrawing from the crucial tactically dominating heights of the Saltoero ridge; the Indian Army. The reality is that Pakistan cannot even view the Siachen glacier, let alone be in a position to do mutual withdrawal. This fact it has astutely hidden from its public and the media, deceiving them with films and documentaries of an imagined occupation of parts of the Siachen glacier. A major source of water for Pakistan lying in Indian hands is definitely a strategic advantage, especially when Pakistan continues to rave and rant about J&K and refuses to budge from its established strategy of using terror as a weapon against India.

There is an even greater strategic dimension which only those with operational and tactical experience generally tend to understand. It needs a brief explanation. What has to be noted is that the strategic significance has only enhanced over time. Hypothetically, the possibility of full Pakistani occupation of the triangle, NJ 9842-Saltoero Ridge-KK Pass, would bring the Pakistan Army to the edge of the Saltoero Ridge, affording it domination over the crucial Nubra and Shyok Valleys. The latter provide additional depth and broad operating space to the Indian Army for the defence of the Ladakh Range, which in turn provides depth to Leh, the capital of the new Union territory of Ladakh. Pakistan's occupation of Siachen area

With the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, India's northernmost deployment, which retains the psychological and physical means to target the corridor, remains the Siachen area

would do three things for it. First, it would broaden the China-Pakistan link into a larger contact zone to afford operations against Indian deployment in the Nubra and Shyok Valleys. Second, it would make Indian deployment at the KK Range relatively untenable if the valleys were to fall to the China-Pakistan combine. The extreme high-altitude area of the KK Range around Daulat Beg Oldi and stretching into Eastern Ladakh would feel threatened. Third, the potential threat to the valleys would entail the defence of Leh being met through deployment on a single mountain range, the Ladakh Range, not the most prudent operational way of defending the core centre of the new Ladakh UT.

With the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), India's northernmost deployment, which retains the psychological and physical means to target the corridor, remains the Siachen area. What has rarely been spoken about is the fact that for China the ultimate salvation lies in making the CPEC a maze of old-world Silk Route alignments through the Ladakh region into PoK, making Ladakh that much more strategic for India. The degree of difficulty for communications arteries keeps enhancing as you progress north. It's the south of the current deployment of both China and Pakistan which will provide better options for the construction of communications arteries, adding to the worth of CPEC; that terrain all lies in Ladakh. The defence of Ladakh without holding Siachen would make the task of the Indian Army of defending Leh, and hence Ladakh, far more challenging than it already is. That is how the strategic significance of the new UT needs to be viewed.

The writer, a retired lieutenant-general, is a former commander of the Srinagar-based 15 Corps. He is also associated with the Vivekananda International Foundation and the Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies.

LETTERS

LOCAL IS NATIONAL

The abrogation of Article 370 failed to strike a chord with rural voters in the recently-concluded Assembly elections where "local" issues turned out to be of utmost importance and dented all the votebanks of ruling parties. In Maharashtra, the PMC Bank issue and Aarey Milk Colony tree-cutting had a direct impact on the votes polled. In Haryana, Jats proved their mettle and the agrarian crisis that had called for better handling cost the BJP those vital votes. Anyway, the Congress failed to consolidate in Haryana and the BJP is set to wean away Dushyant Chautala's Jannayak Janata Party and set up its government. This is no kick in the pants, but definitely a warning.

Annappurani Shanthi
Ghaziabad

WARNING TO BJP

DESPITE A BOYCOTT by the NC, People's Conference and the PDP, the BJP has lost the block council elections in Kashmir. In fact, Independent candidates have swept the polls across the two Union territories, winning 217 of 307 panchayat blocks in all three regions of Kashmir, Jammu and Ladakh. They were the only Opposition left in the fray against the BJP. This is a warning. Should the BJP roll back its decision to abrogate Article 370 and bifurcate J&K?

Amjadullah Abuzar
Sitamarhi, Bihar

AAP EXAMPLE

THE AAP government is set to widen the ambit of its health scheme, whereby people who are given a waiting time of over 30 days for a surgery or procedure at a Delhi government hospital are eligible for free treatment at an empaneled private hospital. Till June 2019, 4,654 patients received cashless treatment under the scheme. This scheme is really a win-win situation for both private and governmental hospitals. Every state should adopt this scheme. If the Union government imposes it all over India, it will be to the great relief of the people.

M. Hasan
Bengaluru

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



Gaurav Kapoor and Rishabh Jain

Women punish BJP for crimes behind talk of empowerment

India is a country where we worship feminine power in its many forms — from Lakshmi for abundance of wealth to Saraswati for education and Kali for destruction.

The Bharatiya Janata Party has been shouting empty slogans of "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" for far too long now. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's hoardings, splashed across the country, kept saying "Bahut hua naari par atyachaar, abki baar Modi sarkar". It still rings a bell as the NCRB data was released a few days ago.

Uttar Pradesh, which sent the highest number of BJP members to Parliament again in 2019 and has a brute majority in the legislative Assembly, is the No. 1 state in terms of crimes against women. The state has seen a consistent rise in crime in 2015-2017. The crimes registered under the Indian Penal Code and special and local laws in UP rose from 4,74,559 in 2015 to 6,00,082 in 2017.

At 15.6 per cent, crimes against women are the highest in this state, but the rising trends are worrisome. Uttar Pradesh is followed by Maharashtra (8.9 per cent) and West Bengal (8.6 per cent).

The Unnao rape and the BJP's blatant misuse of power to protect MLA Kuldip Sengar for the longest time are relatively recent incidents. In 2017, Uttar Pradesh reports 5,830 sexual harassment crimes — which is one-fourth of the total number of cases in this category that took place in the country. In Haryana, the BJP's sitting chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar had the gumption to call even Congress president Sonia Gandhi all sorts of names during the recently-concluded state elections. It now seems that to hold on to power in Haryana, the PM may take the help of Gopal Kanda, an Independent MLA, who got a jail term for the murder of an airhost-

ess working in his airline company. The result, which included loss of ministers and heavyweights, can also be seen as a wake-up call for the government in Uttar Pradesh. It cannot just count on Mr Modi's image in the state and work on "good governance".

The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), the ideological parent of the BJP, from where many ministers and chief ministers have come, has a long-standing record of disrespecting women with statements regarding their attire and their place in today's India. One can even remember Mr Modi's remarks of "Jersey cow" and "50 crore girlfriend". And who can forget that a BJP minister has labelled our friends in the media "presstitutes"?

In the backdrop of such vile attacks on our women leaders and citizens, the Haryana election where fantasies like "plots in Kashmir" and "Kashmiri brides"

were used liberally by BJP leaders to entice voters during the campaign, led to a result wherein the BJP does not have a simple majority any more and the Congress has resurged. In Haryana, along with former chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda, it was Kumari Selja leading the charge.

The byelections in Uttar Pradesh, too, have shown that Mayawati, whose party BSP rarely contests by-elections, got zero seats while the Congress more than doubled its vote share to 12.80 per cent under the leadership of Priyanka Gandhi Vadra who has been continuously raising the Unnao case and the Ubbha massacre in Sonbhadr district, where 10 members of the Scheduled Tribes were gunned down. Ms Vadra has been visiting the family members of the victims and consoling them in their time of grief. This time, women voters have noticed the dismal

situation across the country and punished the BJP for taking no stringent action in Haryana or Uttar Pradesh against rising crime.

In the backdrop of this, besides the economic woes around the country, rising prices hurting us all, an almost "no demand" economy, with barely any jobs, women voters have silently started to ditch the Modi bandwagon. Maybe, the Prime Minister should start becoming wary of Stree Shakti and start working toward real vikas, after all, for its absence could otherwise be the death knell for the Modi government.

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Church should redeem flock, not chase miracles



John Mary

The Vatican's strategy to make up for shrinking numbers of the faithful in the traditional catchments of Europe and the West has emerged the Catholic Church in India, but the process of canonisation, mandating two miracles, has nevertheless led to a controversy over the archaic practice, centred on medical as well as theological grounds. On October 13, as Pope Francis conferred sainthood on Thrissur-born Mother Mariam Thresia, the founder of the Congregation of the Holy Family, the Kerala chapter of the Indian Medical Association (IMA) sat specially to seek an explanation from Dr V.K. Sreenivasan, a neonatologist at

Amala Hospital commend him as a highly "ethical person". The medical fraternity is divided. Many believe that the IMA has no business to seek an explanation because clinicians encounter many instances of curious cures, albeit medically inexplicable. If the neonatologist has merely stated the inexplicable factor, the IMA has no cause to intervene. But if he had called it a miracle, implying divine intervention, he is on shaky ground. Many dramatic cures belong to the realm of the marvellous and wondrous, defying prognosis. But miracles are not the domain of medicine, so goes the argument. Beyond the propriety or otherwise of the doctor's certification rises the question whether miracles are inevitable in the decision to anoint saints when science opens up new frontiers, explaining what had hitherto remained inexplicable. Traditionalists resent any dilution of the concept of miracles. Bishop Michelle Di Ruberto, once the emeritus secretary of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, is on record saying that a miracle is

Five nuns of the Missionaries of Jesus, who stood up to the alleged predator, Bishop Franco Mulakkal, are on the streets. The official Church is seen to be with the persecutor, leaving victims to wilt under the yoke of no sympathy.

an "event that goes beyond the forces of nature, which is realised by God outside of what is normal in the whole of created nature by the intercession of a servant of God or a blessed one... We can make mistakes, deceive ourselves. Miracles, instead, can only be realised by God, and God does not deceive". That's the argument for a flawless culmination of the process of canonisation. The criticism from within the Church against miracles is centred on the legacy of saints, hailed as iconic examples rather than miracle workers or intercessors. The fullness of heroic lives of virtues, as witnessed by fellow humans, should be sufficient for their veneration as role models. Miracles are merely the interpretation, attributing divinity to causes mortals espouse. Says Fr Paul Thelakat, the chief editor of *Light of Truth*: "I do know that the Church has strict procedures with respect to miracles and relics, but I may suggest a real rethinking from the theological and scientific point of view two items in canonisation, namely the necessity of two miracles and relics. It is time to have a cultural, theological and pastoral re-evaluation of the meaning and the relevance of relics in our times". The Vatican eyes the Third World for its harvest of souls as the craze for saints in the West is on the wane, quite a far cry from the epoch of frenzied demands for saints and their relics in medieval times. India, home to Christianity for centuries, has survived the paradox of being without a saint for nearly 2,000 years. The first Indian saint was Gonzalo Garcia, a martyr, canonised in 1862. Out of a total of six saints in the country, five were canonised after 2000. Kerala may be the cradle, and accounts for four out of the six,

with seven more in the canonisation queue. The saint-less drought in the country is sought to be explained thus: Every society and religion has its own saints and holy men and women. Heroic saints may be few. What is true is that the church in the south of India did not have the money and the wherewithal to fund canonical procedures for getting a few of their own proclaimed as saints. Often, this proclamation of saints becomes an issue of prestige and dignity for the community, diocese or the religious congregation concerned. All saints in Kerala belong to the influential Syro-Malabar rite while the Latin and Syro-Malankara rites are yet to have their own. That is tantamount to the clout wielded by the respective rites. Historically, the Church in the East had remained beholden to the Vatican. It was in 1875 that the clergy, till then governed by Syrian bishops sent by the Eastern Church in Babylon, what is today Iran and Iraq, urged Rome to send a bishop who spoke English. The seven priests who petitioned Rome for an English-speaking

bishop were treated almost as heretics by the Carmelite bishop of the Padravado system and were expelled from their monasteries. The Church in the West was replete with such histories, especially the burning at the stake, branding its critics as heretics. The tradition of intolerance prevails at different levels even as the Vatican imparts redemption in distant lands. One can't escape the paradox. Was it not a committee of bishops, who condemned Joan of Arc as a witch and ordered her execution and nearly four centuries later canonised her? The Church, of late, racked by exposes on its paedophile priests, seeks atonement and undertakes huge payouts. But its professed sense of compassion misses victims. Five nuns of the Missionaries of Jesus, who stood up to the alleged predator, Bishop Franco Mulakkal, are on the streets. The official Church is seen to be with the persecutor, leaving victims to wilt under the yoke of no sympathy. Arguably these are signs for the Church to redeem the flock even as it chases miracles to uphold holiness.

If Boris' Brexit plan collapses, he'll have to call early polls



Farrukh Dhondy

Cabbages & Kings

"A tortoise once ran a race against a hare — One need not ask why or when or where — It occurred in some region of the mind Where the slow inevitably leave the swift behind."

In a real world as you and I well know The race is to the swift and not the slow These parables and fables always lie In vain attempts to preach and rectify." From *Lady Chatterjee's Cover* by Bachchoo

Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson (Bojo) publicly declared that he would rather "die in a ditch" than delay Britain's leaving the European Union by October 31. Since then, the parliamentary spades have emerged from their closets and are digging away, providing Bojo a choice of several ditches. Trying to unravel the complexities of the process and progress of "Brexit" is somewhat more complex than grasping the ins and outs of cosmic string theory — forget "rocket science", which even I, gentle reader, seem to understand. Nevertheless, there are some simple facts and considerations which may assist in understanding what has gone on, though I won't be arrogant enough, gentle reader, to say they will lead to any certainty about the immediate future. Start from the beginning: In 2015, then PM David Cameron

saw that the issue of Britain being in the European Union was once again dividing the ruling Tory Party. In addition, a newish political party led by one Nigel Farage was picking up support for their single policy of leaving the European Union. Mr Cameron and his Cabinet were determined to put the issue to rest once and for all with a people's referendum, which they calculated would decisively vote for remaining in the EU. They were wrong. Two Cabinet ministers, Bojo and a ratty little ex-journalist called Michael Gove, campaigned with Nigel Farage for the Leave side. Before the referendum, Bojo had shown no signs of supporting a Britain-Out sentiment or policy but he read the marginal mood of the country better than Mr Cameron and the rest of his Cabinet. Two factors would influence or even dominate the vote. Bojo seemed, from the rhetoric he used in the Leave campaign, to have calculated that a sense of patriotic, nationalistic superiority to the rest of Europe and to the humans of the rest of the world would trump any arguments or calculations of economic disaster which would follow from leaving the EU. Second, and most importantly for the referendum result, there is a streak of xenophobia which was cultivated and grew through the centuries when the sun never set on the British Empire, which doesn't want foreigners in the country. Of course, this objection is not expressed in openly racist terms, but in unjustified material ones: "They come here and

Boris Johnson's hope of resurrection as a zombie from death in a ditch is to call a general election. Which this column thinks he will do and with the disarray of the Opposition may win. But the wheel is still spinning.

take our jobs, work for less money, and undercut our wages" — or "they come here and take up our limited housing, schools, occupy beds in our hospitals and live here free on welfare payments...". Bojo and friends grasped this mood and translated it into grand and vague, meaningless rhetoric: "Take back control", "Get the undemocratic bureaucracy of Brussels off our backs" ... etc. Their campaign specialised in keeping the economic effects of leaving the EU unspecified. The Leave campaign even promised that millions of pounds of contributions to the European budget would be saved if Britain left. The whole campaign was a lie — plausible to the gullible and attractive to those who wanted to get rid of the regulatory clauses imposed on and by Europe. These, characterised by the leavers as "Brussels' bureaucracy", prevent rampant exploitation of labour, rampant capitalist dog-eat-dog competition through turning the economy into tax-free havens such as Singapore, regulations which protect the environment and scores of other protective measures on human rights. The leavers won by 51-point-something to 48-point-something, Britain had voted for Brexit. Bojo triumphantly stood to replace Mr Cameron, who resigned as PM. His rat of a running mate Michael Gove stabbed him in the back at the last moment of the campaign,

declaring that he thought Bojo unfit as a personality to lead the country. Mr Gove said he was instead offering himself as PM. Even Brutus, having stabbed Caesar, didn't say he wanted to replace him. Theresa May, a staunch remainder during the campaign, now offered herself as the PM who would implement the leave decision. She was duly elected by the Tory Party and over three years worked out a Withdrawal Agreement with the European Union, which was rejected by the British Parliament three times, causing Ms May to resign and making way for an election which Bojo won. (Ironically, he appointed Mr Gove to a Cabinet post, which a bare-faced Mr Gove accepted.) Now Bojo, in negotiations with the 27 EU countries, brought back a deal which Parliament passed. Even though his government is 40 or so seats short of a majority, he relied on the Labour Party members who represent constituencies with strong "keep the foreigners out" tendencies. These Labour MPs shameless-

ly and shamefully voted for a deal which would impoverish their own constituents and probably throw thousands if not millions out of employment. However, there was a second vote, which, demanded by a large majority, that Parliament should have time to scrutinise the detail contained in 110 pages of this "final deal". The Opposition parties say there are very many clauses in it they would radically amend. For instance, Labour and other parties are in favour of staying in the European customs union. These amendments would probably deny Bojo a majority when the bill came back for a vote with these attached. They are, gentle reader, the spades with which the ditches are being dug. Bojo's hope of resurrection as a zombie from this death in a ditch is to call a general election. Which this column thinks he will do and with the disarray of the Opposition may win. But the wheel is still spinning and one may not be talking about roulette without the adjective Russian attached.



'Scotty still hasn't given up on independence.'

The higher purpose of our existence



Rajgopal Nidamboor

The philosopher Plato proposed the idea that there's a higher, intangible ambit sited above our world. This realm, he advocated, was the true, also better, and the more exquisite opus than anything else we may "perceive". The fact is most of us "see" nothing beyond a mirror image of what exists in the ideal realm of "Platonic forms", or ideas of things that actually exist.

This epitomises what each individual thing is supposed to be like in order to be "that" specific thing. The "form" of human, in the context, relates to qualities that one must have to be human. Likewise, when one thinks of a lotus blooming as beautiful, one is distinguishing in that object the idyllic configuration of beauty in which that object partakes. One could apply a similar exemplar for concepts

such as "good," or "true" — or, anything that appreciates the fact that a thing of beauty, as the poet John Keats said, is a joy forever. The inference in our framework is obvious. It takes time to hone and propel a higher purpose in life, just as much it takes leisure to mature, or mellow. This may not be all too easy to attain in our frenzied, fast-paced world. The whole thing is nothing short of a clued-up précis in our mind's eye too. It holds the power to draw and allure us, like a hypnotic sitting, within and outside the perimeter of our conscious dimension. It gives us, in the process, a new con-

notation to life and living a meaningful existence. In other words, to emerge as winners when we are happy, elated, and buoyant; or, get into a tizzy and be diffident, or gloomy. It is only when things are not loaded in our favour that brings the best in each of us — the difference being of degree. The whole resolve gets amplified when we cast a "spell" on ourselves — to garner the power to break out of the tangle. This is where the sublime forte of mindful meditation, or the strength of self-affirmation, plays a substantial role in augmenting a form of vibrant, divine, also

sparkling energy. This looks simple. In reality, it is profound — a form of kinetic vitality. This is also not just the functional gamut of neuro-peptides, or our molecules of emotions, being "fired" from our brain cells, the infinite reservoirs of conscious energy. It is akin to a million-piece ensemble playing to the pulsating beats of our life, or life experience. It allows us to spend a little time, or what is called as "me time" to grasp, observe, imbibe and embrace our thoughts, feelings, sensitivities, sensibilities, and also idiosyncrasies, without getting swamped by the jaded, negative side of things.

The writer is a wellness physician, independent researcher and author





Director James Cameron was so impressed by Linda Hamilton's acting in *Terminator 2: Judgment Day* that he campaigned for her to be nominated for an Oscar

OUR CRITIC'S RATING Outstanding ★★★★★ | Great ★★★★ | Good ★★★ | Okay ★★ | Poor ★ | Truly Terrible TT

The feminist swag of sharp-shooting dadijis

Saand Ki Aankh (U/A)
130 min

CAST: Bhumi Pednekar, Taapsee Pannu, Prakash Jha, Vineet Kumar Singh, Shaad Randhawa, Kuldeep Sareen, Himanshu Sharma

DIRECTOR: Tushar Hiranandani

RATING: ★★★

SUPARNA SHARMA

The list of things wrong with director Tushar Hiranandani's *Saand Ki Aankh* (Bull's Eye) is long and annoying. For starters, the two stars cast in the roles of Chandro (Bhumi Pednekar) and Prakashi Tomar (Taapsee Pannu) wear such terribly tacky make-up that not for a second can we live with the illusion that we are watching Jat grandmothers in their 60s.

Then there are scenes so clichéd and trite — especially the scenes in stadiums — that they make the film decidedly dumb.

Worse, the film repeats its opening scene in its entirety, revealing not just how inept its storytelling is, but also doubting our ability to retain things.

Yet, despite all its tackiness and flaws, there's a warmth and feminist moxie to *Saand Ki Aankh* that forces you to embrace it.

Of course, the story itself, of two real *dadijis* from UP, who began their shooting career in the late 1990s, is unique and stunning in how many stereotypes it busts.

But the film, decidedly B-grade, or what academics and *padhe-likhe log* derisively call middle brow, has an emotional power unique only to certain films with low IQ.

Though the film's setting, universe is familiarly tawdry where things are exaggerated, it's the film's writing, specifically its dialogue, that create and then define characters by giving them both — a problem and a purpose.

It helps that the main character is played by Bhumi Pednekar. She holds the film

together, often grabbing Taapsee Pannu's arm and taking her along.

Bhumi is a far better, stronger actress and can carry scenes just with her silence, giving her character an interiority. But in one epic scene, where Taapsee goes batshit crazy, spitting on *mardangi* and *moonch*, screaming at men and telling them how they do nothing except produce children, smoke *hooka* and eat *lugaion ki kamaai*, she rocks.

Apart from show-casing these *angootha-chaap* village women as bold and fiercely free in their thinking, *Saand Ki Aankh* also casts the *ghoonghat* as a restrictive, claustrophobic tool of the patriarchy that, just like the burqa, reduces women to sex objects, by turning them into face-less, name-less properties of men.

I loved that.

In Baghat's Johri village, we are in a haveli where in the veranda sit three men smoking *hooka* and commenting on the happenings in the world, while the women around them are busy sending children off to school, cooking, dealing with *gobbar* etc. Yet, it's the men who decide what these women can do apart from taking care of them and their farms.

Prakashi has had a dream which requires a trip to a particular temple to ward off imminent danger threatening her husband, Jai Singh's (Pawan Chopra) life. Eldest brother, Sarpanch Ratan Singh (Prakash Jha), is the one who decides who does what in this world where men sleep outside, and all the women sleep together inside.

Little Sachin, he declares, will go with them.

It's 1999, and Dr Yashpal (Vineet Kumar Singh), the teacher who set up a shooting range in the village, has a

plan. Chandro and Prakashi are to participate in a shooting competition, but before they can do that, upon their entry into the auditorium, there is much derisive laughter.

But when they win, loud clapping and appeals of "sorry *dadiji*" follow.

As Chandro and Prakashi travel one city to another, participating in and winning competitions, there's another operation on — to hide the news of their wins and rising popularity from the men folk at home. This is mainly done by their young ones — Shefali and Seema Tomar — who have also started their shooting training.

In flashback we see how, by chance, these two women began their shooting career with bullets landing straight, in the bull's eye.

There's another flashback, in a montage, that shows how these women got to have so many children and the relief that Emergency and Nasbandi brought — real Chandro and Prakashi have eight kids each and 15 grandkids per head.

Saand Ki Aankh has a heart and a purpose. It makes us think of and thank women we owe so much to. Women who have broken barriers, created paths for us to walk on.

Bhumi and Taapsee, who play similarly disempowered and suffering women, have incredible chemistry and its their bond, strong and supportive, which binds the film.

Though Bhumi is decidedly better than Taapsee, it's their sweet companionship, in the house, *khet* and shooting ranges, that makes the film pulsate.

It's when the film tries to make them cute, by getting them drunk or say the F-word, that it feels filmy and fake.

It's the moments when they point and shoot that gives them and the film power, and swag.

While their make-up is really annoying, the one thing the film gets right is that quintessential bra-less look of Jat women. It has always intrigued me — that thrust of free will and movement under covered head and face.

Vineet Kumar Singh is good, Prakash Jha is delicious.

But it's the film's funny yet feminist and sharp take on the *ghoonghat* that is truly unforgettable. Instead of just harping on how restrictive it is, *Saand Ki Aankh* shows us what the world looks like from behind the *ghoonghat*.

I, for one, always ready to rant about the *ghoonghat* being as regressive as the burqa, had never thought of this.



A road trip with one big battle after another

CHRISTY LEMIRE

The vast majority of sequels are unnecessary, but *Zombieland: Double Tap* feels particularly so, especially coming out a decade after the original.

The first *Zombieland* from 2009 was a lot of fun, with its gleeful balance of gore and snark and a bouncy, self-referential nature. It was a zombie movie that knew it was a zombie movie, and it had a blast in every sense of the word messing with the tropes of the genre. Ten years later, they're all back (along with screenwriter Dave Callahan), but it's hard to find justification in returning to these hardened characters and scorched territory. *Zombieland: Double Tap* is more of the same, but also much less. The cast is larger, the carnage is gnarlier and the comedy is even more meta than before. But while individual moments and action sequences might be amusing, the endeavour as a whole feels like a tepid retreat.

Tallahassee (Harrelson), Columbus (Eisenberg), Wichita (Stone) and Little Rock (Breslin) have settled into a makeshift family dynamic as comfortably as possible, given that they're under near-constant attack. Tallahassee is the cranky, politically incorrect father figure, Columbus and Wichita are the playful lovebirds

and Little Rock is the spunky and rebellious younger sister. Their home is the White House (now surrounded by trash and weeds, as we see in a graphically violent, slo-mo sly fest to the blaring tune of Metallica's *Master of Puppets*), which they've turned into more of a frat house full of sporting equipment, Christmas lights, pop culture paraphernalia and empty beer cans.

Columbus once again explains the milieu and the characters' daily existence with wall-to-wall narration, often spelling out to us what we can obviously surmise or see for ourselves. His rules for survival pop up in text on screen — cardio, never trust bathrooms, enjoy the little things in life, etc — but the device quickly grows tiresome. So do his frequent reminders that he knows we're watching him and his friends in a movie, with jokes about putting down your Milk Duds or experiencing *Zombieland Double Tap* in 4DX.

Eventually, another female character arrives in the form of Zoey Deutch's dippy, blonde Madison, who's stayed alive this whole time by hiding in a Pinkberry freezer at the mall. All these usually appealing actors are stuck in a plot that's episodic and doesn't gain much momentum. It's essentially a road trip with one big battle after another, featuring zombies that have evolved and become harder to kill. Pop culture references and self-referential riffs dot the landscape. Relationships are tested. Eventually, it ends.

Along those lines, though, make sure to stay in your seat during the closing credits: In revisiting elements from the original *Zombieland*, Fleischer and Co. at least had the good sense to bring back the best one of all.

Zombieland: Double Tap (A) 99 min

CAST: Woody Harrelson, Jesse Eisenberg, Emma Stone

DIRECTOR: Ruben Fleischer

RATING: ★★

By arrangement with Asia Features

Neither a comedy nor a satire

Made In China (U/A) 129 min

CAST: Rajkumar Rao, Mouni Roy, Boman Irani, Paresh Rawal, Sumeet Vyas

DIRECTOR: Mikhil Musale

RATING: ★★★

ARNAB BANERJEE

There are films that seem to have clarity of vision as well as execution as far as their principal purpose for making a film goes. Mikhil Musale's debut in Hindi, *Made in China*, looks like a script that has undergone several changes, mainly perhaps since the director looks confused about his offering.

Starting off with a promise, *Made in China* slips into overworked and unsophisticated mediocrity from where it never surfaces.

Raghu (Rajkumar Rao) is ambitious and pulls out many tricks from his overused bag of an anticipative list of possible business ventures to succeed in life. Having failed to strike it rich more than a dozen times, he could have

collapsed. But his determined spirit makes him try out yet another enterprising business idea the nth time — to sell a branded aphrodisiac well bottled to provide the ultimate pleasure for all those for whom marriages or marital love spell doom.

Kicking off with an incident where Chinese general Zhang gets killed after consuming tea at an Indo-China cultural summit in Ahmedabad, it sets a base that has all the makings of a thriller as one waits to see what unravels next. Soon, we are introduced to Raghu (Rajkumar Rao), who has had a most unsuccessful run of luck with abortive attempts at selling emu eggs, water melons, roti makers and Nepali carpets. Why he would be bundled off to China to assist cousin Sumit Vyas to get into yet another business deal is unexplained to us. Nearly every half-hour into the

film, one begins to wonder where the film is directed, as the film consistently fluctuates and alternates between various genres.

There is also a problem with characters not sticking to their balanced graph. With Raghu, the sudden twists may be unexpected but he seems to follow his heart with a res-

olute spirit. For him, what really matters is a way to give his fellow Indians some better sex. But when he does show up to lay his hands on a business deal selling aphrodisiac and great imaginative and inventive backing from sexologist Dr Vardhi (Boman Irani), things begin to fall in place. On the pretext of selling Chinese fans, Raghu hides his real business from all his close associates, including his wife.

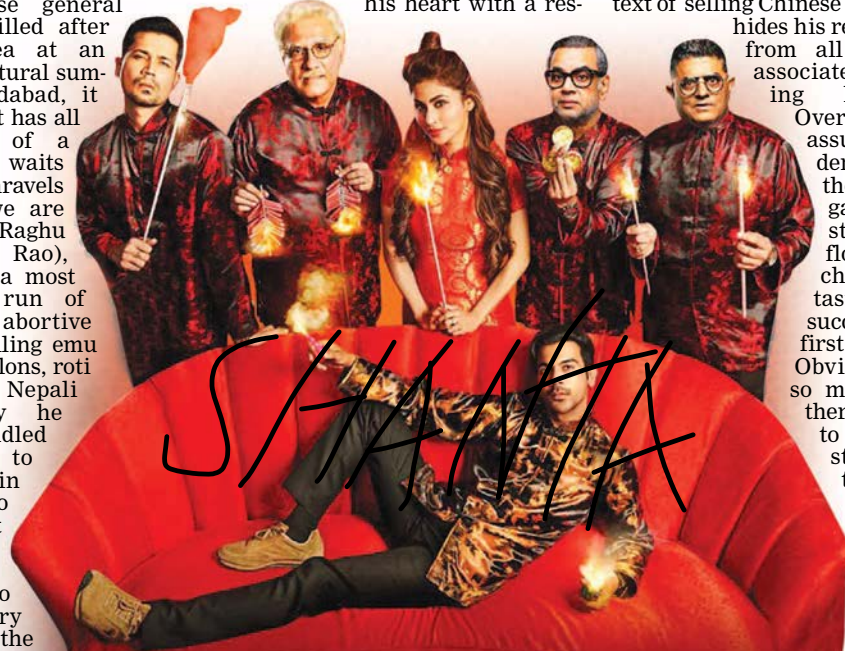
Overnight he assumes confidence to reach the top of the game with a steady overflow of purchasers, and tastes huge success for the first time in life. Obviously, with so much money there is bound to be a steady stream of trouble-makers too, and soon, his wife, Rukmini (Mouni Roy), and

later uncle (Manoj Joshi), not to forget his cousin Vyas get wind of Raghu's immoral way to earn a living. Raghu questions the morality of all those critical of his job. He asks his wife, "When others benefit from it (love potion and stimulant), you get impressed. The moment you get to know that I am the reason for the sudden improvement in their sexual prowess, you begin to doubt and question my intentions?"

Yet again, *Made in China* loses track of its original satire, which I thought was a satire that underlines our semen of two-facedness, being dishonest with one's self, and the hypocritical ways of accepting a hard reality.

In a way, the film's 129 minutes of screen time mimic the lead character Raghu's predicament, or the number of many schemes he starts off with to get rich. Alternating between different genres, it falls flat and never recovers from the corny, clichéd treatment that nearly all Hindi films end up with.

What remains a must watch though is Rajkumar Rao's terrific performance. Even Irani, who nearly always hams, is a trusted aide here. Vyas, who is underutilised, and Paresh Rawal and Gajraj Rao have small roles and do their utmost to leave their mark.



A colossal waste of time!

Housefull 4 (U/A) 145 min

CAST: Akshay Kumar, Bobby Deol, Riteish Deshmukh, Kriti Sanon, Kriti Kharbanda, Pooja Hegde, Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Chunky Pandey

DIRECTOR: Farhad Samji

RATING: TT

ARNAB BANERJEE

Akshay Kumar would like us to believe that anything and everything he does out will get his committed fans' obligatory assurance.

Bobby Deol would like us to believe that the ageing actor still has a few strands of hair left, and so he could jolly well try out a comic act to save his flagging career (did he ever have any?).

And Riteish Deshmukh, who hasn't had a decent release in the last decade, is yet another one of those hopeful Bollywood actors who wants to cling to stardom, come what may. Not that any one them has any chance of improving their unsuccessful stint at acting left

— it's just that all of them have this last ditch effort to hold on to whatever remains of their respective careers.

That leaves us with the producer Sajid Nadiadwala and the director Farhad Samji. What does one say about them? In reality, the less said the better about the duo since they seem completely at sea trying to give a semblance of a film.

That sums up the premise that *Housefull 4* seems to rely on: Let's hang on to our past glory till its last drop and make the feeblest effort to embrace acclaim for all its worth.

The *Housefull* series has had a successful run at the box office earlier. A motley mix of a star cast in three of its earlier franchises, the films starring Akshay Kumar Abhishek Bachchan, Lisa Haydon, Nargis Fakhri, John Abraham, Shreyas Talpade to name a few, have all had fun playing silly characters in the past. And we all have also may be not enjoyed ourselves thoroughly, but have chuckled or giggled at some of the most puerile jokes that scriptwriter Sajid Khan and Tushar Hiranandani have tortured us with.

Housefull 4 has none of the *chutpah* or a madcap assortment of scenes to sit through for



its runtime of 145 minutes. In fact, *Housefull 4* is not even a film. At best, it could be called a hodgepodge mix of characters with a few lines thrown in for good measure.

What do you make of the following?

A set of three brothers are due to marry a set of three sisters, until one of the brothers starts to realise that they are all reincarnations from 600 years earlier and the wrong couples are

about to get married. You got it right! 600 years, it is. When a bald and debauched prince fantasized about a pretty princess and play-acted enough to woo her. In essence, he is only making all out efforts to appropriate his neighbouring kingdom, which belongs to her. Now this princess has two other sisters who get besotted by a gurujji dance teacher and a bodyguard. Their hopes come crumbling down when a devious calculat-

ing mind of a man plays killjoy, resulting in the marriages not taking place and everybody getting killed in a bizarre accident.

When three middle-aged male brothers (Akshay, Bobby, Riteish)—one of them is nearly 60 — begin to pass off as young loveable happy-go-lucky souls all out to have fun with nubile sisters (Kriti Sanon, Kriti Kharbanda, Pooja Hegde), you do a double take at the grey stubble that one of the actors

sports. Thankfully, guessing where the audience might be headed, the girls' father (Ranjeet) admonishes quite early in the film with a "*Tumhe sharm nahin aati? Apne se adhi umr ki ladiyon se shadi ki बात sochne huye?*" But that's about it. Doing away with the beard and donning trendy outfits, they continue to act, behave and utter nonsensical one liners. That too, desperately. The girls, who are all smart and perfect shaped, also get fooled by their asinine behaviour.

It would still have been passable if the back and forth treatment of an apology of a script had given us some laughs, and a few moments to chew on. Going back in time, the story doesn't even give us some complete scenes to a logical conclusion as the narrative itself loses sight of some of the drama and the mindless track that it succumbs to.

That is really sad about a film that is lavishly mounted, and has some other great actors in the supporting cast too, such as Nawazuddin and Johnny Lever, who try and infuse some sense into the most inane plot.

But the coveted position of The Most Moronic and Daft Character has to be the one who is all agog with excitement to

hog all the limelight. Obviously, it is Akshay Kumar and his machismo at work here. He being the lead, goes about his performing role most enthusiastically, and delivers mumbo jumbo in the name of dialogues, and still expects us to comprehend them too.

Deol, returning from dead-wood, has even forgotten how to face the camera, and Deshmukh attempts at encasing some of the laughs he had generated in many of the double entendre lines he had mouthed in many of the potboilers in his career.

The women are all pretty and make the best use of their sexy but brainless roles. All three look their best, though at times, look uninterested and indifferent, and even make us believe that they'd rather be paired opposite some younger lot of heroes to achieve what they obviously have set out to — celebrity, stardom and precious little else.

If you have nothing better to do, and must watch a film, go watch a repeat of your favourite television show, no matter how taxing it may be. Wasting your time, money and energy on a film like *Housefull 4* will possibly make you swear to be off cinema for some time at least!

Infosys: US SEC to seek Sebi's help

Deeper global slowdown seen despite rate cuts

Overleaf



quick BITES

Table with 3 columns: INDICATORS, %, and values. Includes Sensx, Nifty 50, S&P 500, Dollar, Pound Sterling, Euro, Gold, Brent crude, IN 10-Yr bond yield, and US 10-Yr T-bill yield.

Sundaram-Clayton to have non-working days

Sundaram-Clayton, a leading supplier of aluminium die-cast products, said it has declared five 'non-working' days a week in its plants across Tamil Nadu, following the slowdown in automobile sector.

Forex reserves cross \$440 bn, up by \$1.04 bn



India's forex kitty has swelled by \$1.039 billion to a new lifetime high of \$440.751 billion for the week ended October 18, the Reserve Bank of India said.

13.08 lakh jobs created in Aug: ESIC data

As many as 13.08 lakh jobs were created in August, lower than 14.49 lakh in July, according to the payroll data of the Employees' State Insurance Corp.

Piramal Enterprises to raise ₹5,400 cr

Piramal Enterprises said its board has approved raising Rs 5,400 crore through a rights issue and preferential allotment of compulsory convertible debentures (CCDs).

Gen. Insurance IPO shelved, Cards IPO by year end SBI surprises with robust Q2 earnings

FALAKNAAZ SYED MUMBAI, OCT. 25

The country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) on Friday posted a three-fold rise in Q2 FY20 standalone net profit to Rs 3,012 crore aided by partial stake sale in its life insurance subsidiary.

"Exceptional items represent net profit of ₹3,190.97 crore on sale of partial investments in SBI Life Insurance Company Ltd. Consequently, the holding of SBI in the subsidiary reduced to 75.9 per cent from 62.1 per cent," SBI said.



"Exceptional items represent net profit of ₹3,190.97 crore on sale of partial investments in SBI Life Insurance Company" and "Gross NPAs as a percentage of gross advances was ₹1.61 lakh crore, which fell 34 bps sequentially to 7.19 per cent"

done only when its valuation rises as the "non-life insurer is still young." "However we would be coming out with IPO of SBI Cards subsidiary by year end," said Kumar.

The non-interest income increased to Rs 12,023 crore in Q2FY20 from Rs 9,375 crore in Q2FY19, an increase of 28.24 per cent year-on-year (YoY). The domestic net interest margin (NIM) improved 21 basis points quarter-on-quarter (QoQ) to 3.22 per cent, registering an increase of 42 basis points YoY and 21 basis

points sequentially. Fresh slippages halved to Rs 8805 crore during Q2FY20 from Rs 16,212 crore during Q1FY20. "The gross slippages will not exceed even 2 per cent during the year even in the worst case scenario," added Kumar.

Tata Motors net loss narrows to ₹217 cr

MICHAEL GONSALVES PUNE, OCT. 25

Tata Motors, India's biggest automaker by revenues, on Friday reported a 79 per cent year-on-year fall in its net loss at Rs 216.56 crore for the September quarter.

The Mumbai-headquartered firm had reported a net loss of Rs 1,048.80 crore in the same quarter of the last financial year. The profit before tax of its British luxury arm Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) stood at 156 million pounds.



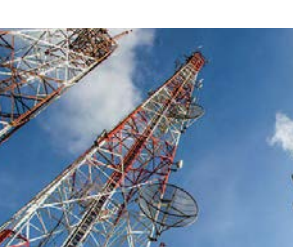
improved during Q2FY20 as the revenue of this segment improved 8 per cent to 6 billion pounds. "Jaguar Land Rover has returned to profitability and revenue growth. This is a testament to the fundamental strength of our business, our award-winning products, new technologies and operating efficiencies. We will continue our product offensive, broadening our range of electrified vehicles on the journey towards our destination zero future," Ralf Speth, CEO at JLR said.

After SC jolt, telecom majors plead with Centre for relief

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, OCT. 25

Stocks of telecom operators and service providers were at the receiving end for the second day in a row after the Supreme Court judgment on the adjusted gross revenue (AGR) case.

Left with no option, telecom operators have started lobbying with the government for some succour from the huge financial implications the judgement entailed. They urged the government to review the impact of the Supreme Court judgement on the existing and defunct telecom operators.



Earlier in the day, Bharti Airtel's African arm, Airtel Africa, reported a 78 per cent jump in net profit to \$96 million for the September quarter, driven by growth in customer base. The company provides telecom services in 14 African countries.

Dhanteras off to a slow start over late muhurat

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, OCT. 25

Delay in the start of auspicious time saw tepid consumer response for Dhanteras on Friday. However, jewellers are hoping the sales to get better by tomorrow.

Unlike Dhanteras in previous years, auspicious timing or 'muhurat' started in the evening by around 6.30 pm on Friday and was supposed to last till 3.30 pm on Saturday. This saw lower footfalls during the day.



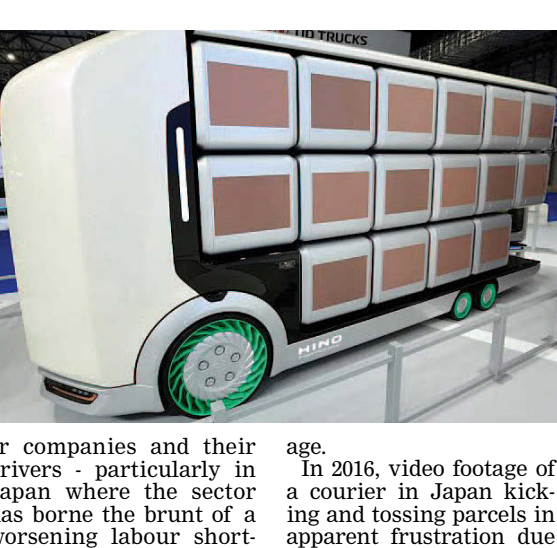
"The order has huge impact on two private operators while most of the other impacted operators have exited the sector. We urgently request that the government engage on this matter in order to find ways to mitigate the financial stress for the industry," Vodafone Idea said.

Future delivery: Multi-use trucks with no cabin

NAOMI TAJITSU TOKYO, OCT. 25

In Japan, trucks are being designed for a driverless future with no cabin and interchangeable container areas that would allow vehicles to be highly customised for parcel delivery or even serve as mini-hotels or beauty salons.

On display was a concept battery-electric model with a cargo hold divided up into stacked storage boxes that would help parcel delivery companies to sort, load and deliver goods more efficiently.



to overwork went viral, sparking widespread public criticism. Toyota's minivehicle brand Daihatsu also showed off its 'Tsumu Tsumu' model with a removable cargo hold - one that can be adapted to suit the needs of farmers transporting vegetable harvests, or as a food truck, or for businesses that need to deliver food to restaurants.

country ages rapidly. "The needs of people who use minitrucks are changing, so we need to start thinking about products beyond what we've been offering and which enable multi-functionality," said Daihatsu designer Osamu Iwanami.

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OPENING BELL
PROJECTION FOR TODAY

Double-top pattern favours bears

Markets closed almost flat on the last trading session of Samvat 2075 amid high volatility seen through the week. The Sensex closed with a gain of 37.67 points or 0.10 per cent at 39058.06 while the Nifty-50 closed at 11583.90, up just 1.30 point or 0.01 per cent. The Sensex gained 11.6 per cent in Samvat 2075. The broader market indices too closed flat. In Samvat 2075, BSE Mid Cap and Small Cap indices lost 7 and 10 per cent, respectively. Bank stocks rallied after SBI announced robust second quarter earnings. Among the sectoral indices the BSE Bankex gained 1.07 per cent, Realty and Oil & Gas indices gained 0.43 and 0.41 per cent, respectively. The major laggards were the BSE Consumer Durable (-1.78 per cent), Telecom (-1.67 per cent) and Power (-0.86 per cent).

Technical View

Mustafa Nadeem, CEO, Epic Research, said, "Nifty witnessed extreme volatility for the week amid mixed cues and also due to some crucial earnings results this week. SBI posted decent numbers. So was Bajaj Auto, which saw a jump in net profit while Hero MotoCorp also maintained its Ebitda margin. With that, we have seen Nifty in a very tight range oscillating in 200 points range; lower levels were seen intact due to buying post-decent numbers from these blue-chips." "Technically, we have seen a double-top pattern on the daily chart which is a very reliable pattern for bears and that has its resistance at 11,740. Secondly, we have seen some consolidation near that top which implies that bulls are still trying to take it out. This is a very small range of 200 points which is very decisive. There is a divergence between Nifty and other indices such as Nifty Bank, which is underperforming and hence we are not seeing the breadth that needs to breach resistance such as this at 11,740. With Diwali ahead, and a shortened next week, we expect a range breakout as traders come back from a festive season," Nadeem said.

Market View

Sanjeev Zarbade, Vice President-PCG Research, Kotak Securities, said, "While most major global markets are seeing an end to the positive on better earnings numbers, Indian equities ended slightly in the red, possibly as a consolidation move after the strong gains in the earlier week."

—RAVI RANJAN PRASAD

Record govt borrowing puts heat on bonds

KARTIK GOYAL & GARFIELD REYNOLDS
OCT. 25

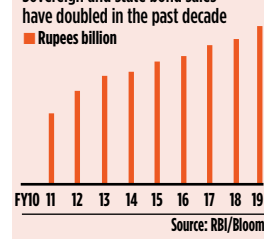
The Indian government's record debt sales this year are part of a new normal for the country, and that's going to keep long-tenor bonds under pressure despite Asia's most aggressive easing cycle, says a market veteran.

"One possibility is that the size of borrowings year-on-year will remain high and there is unlikely to be a reduction in supply," Ashish Parthasarthy, Treasurer at HDFC Bank, said in an interview. "You'll continue to see a reasonably steep government bond curve."

Last month's surprise \$20 billion tax break for companies and the sluggish growth in tax revenue have sparked concerns about the government missing budget deficit targets. Bonds have struggled in recent weeks despite the central bank cutting interest rates for the fifth time this year in early October.

"Investors are scared of higher borrowings and are staying away," said Parthasarthy, who has been in the markets for more than two decades. "Till that clarity comes, market sentiment will remain edgy and fragile."

Borrowing binge



Further reduction in borrowing costs signaled by the central bank may not spur demand for longer-dated notes as the easing cycle is likely winding down, Parthasarthy said, echoing a view from lenders, including Kotak Mahindra Bank.

"I expect another 25 basis-point cut, and at best 50 basis point cut this fiscal year," he said.

The yield on the most-traded bonds due in January 2029 fell one basis point to 6.68 per cent on Friday. Yields climbed by 33 points in the two months following September.

—Bloomberg

Deeper global slowdown seen despite rate cuts

SHRUTEE SARKAR & RAHUL KARUNAKAR
BENGALURU, OCT. 25

A steeper decline in global economic growth still more likely than a synchronised recovery, even as multiple central banks dole out rounds of monetary easing, according to economists polled by Reuters in recent weeks.

While a reprieve from escalating US-China trade tensions has pushed stocks back near record highs, a record \$17 trillion of bonds have negative yields and a key market signal of US recession is still flashing red.

After the European Central Bank cut its deposit rate further into negative territory and announced it would resume its asset purchases, the Bank of Japan - which has essentially been running easy policy for two decades - and the Federal Reserve are due to cut rates again as early as next week.

"More central banks around the world, led by the Fed and the ECB, are cutting rates. Fiscal stimulus is imminent, too, but yield curves still seem to be signaling recession," wrote Janet Henry, global chief economist at HSBC, in a note to clients.

Growth and inflation forecasts for most major economies appear to be on the wane or at best holding at historically modest rates, according to Reuters polls of over 500 forecasters from around the world taken this month.

—PTI



While almost all major central banks surveyed are forecast to ease policy next year, 71 per cent of 177 economists said in response to an additional question a deeper global economic downturn was more likely than a synchronised rebound.

That view has turned dramatically from just six months ago when economists were almost evenly split on what was more likely. Optimism shared among many analysts that U.S.-China trade tensions would cool off appears to have evaporated.

Analysis of Reuters polls taken this month covering 46 economies showed the growth and inflation outlook over the next two years for around 90 per cent of them was either downgraded from the previous poll or left unchanged.

And Britain's exit from the European Union, set for yet another delay, remains a concern for sentiment more broadly should it become disorderly.

"Most of the plausible risks we see are to the downside, including a possible no-deal Brexit in Q1 2020, another breakdown in U.S.-China trade negotiations," noted Ajay Rajadhyaksha, head of macro research at Barclays, adding: "by contrast, we do not see upside risks."

Referring to the policy response to that slowdown, he said: "The ingredients should be clear—more central bank rate cuts and a come-back of unconventional policy measures. The unconventional has become conventional, after all."

—Reuters

Bezos set to lose top slot to Gates

TOM METCALF
OCT. 25

Jeff Bezos is at risk of losing the title of world's richest person to Bill Gates, as Amazon.com Inc. stock slid Friday.

Shares of the biggest online retailer fell 4 per cent to \$1,712 at 9:45 a.m. in New York, a day after reporting its first profit decline in two years. At that price, Bezos has a net worth of \$107.1 billion, about \$300 million less than Gates, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. Bezos took the top spot from the Microsoft Corp. Co-founder in October 2017.

Microsoft, the world's most valuable company, has surged 38 per cent this year, boosting the value of Gates's 1 per cent stake and bringing his fortune to \$107.4 billion. The rest of his wealth is derived from share sales and investments made over the years by his family office, Cascade Gates, 63, remains an aggressive stock investor, with more than 60 per cent of his portfolio in equities.

Bezos, 55, would have had no trouble retaining the top ranking if he and MacKenzie Bezos hadn't divorced. MacKenzie, 49, received a quarter of their Amazon holdings in July.

Gates, on the other hand, may have never relinquished the top spot were it not for his philanthropy. He has donated more than \$35 billion to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation since 1994.

India needs more than tax breaks to become factory for the world

VRISHTI BENIVALI & ATUL PRAKASH
OCT. 25

India needs to remove trade barriers and improve infrastructure if it wants to benefit from movement of supply chains from China, a former European trade commissioner said.

"India is still driving along with its hand break on," Peter Mandelson, Chairman of strategic advisory firm Global Counsel, said in an interview in New Delhi on Thursday. "If it doesn't do enough, other countries such as Malaysia, Indonesia and Vietnam will take advantage of this switch,



leaving India behind." A shortage of skilled workers, bureaucracy and lack of adequate road and port infrastructure are key impediments investors face in India, he added. India needs to liberalise its trade, particularly on e-commerce, and "exploit the export

potential" being offered by China-led Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership.

India has so far lost out to the Southeast Asian economies in attracting investments as companies look for new manufacturing destinations to skirt tariffs

in the trade war between China and the U.S.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has reduced corporate tax rates to one of the lowest in the region with an aim to make India a manufacturing hub. That's a "smart move", Mandelson said, but "insufficient" to attract investors as rivals are offering a "better base for production".

Modi's overhaul of archaic bankruptcy laws improved India's position in the World Bank's latest rankings for doing business, but it still lags behind competitors in starting a business, registering property, and enforcing contracts.

—Bloomberg

Most countries unprepared for disease outbreak

New Delhi, Oct. 25: India has been ranked 57th among 195 countries in a global health security index, which also shows that most of the countries are unprepared for any major infectious disease outbreak.

Only 13 countries in the list, which is topped by the US, have a high score. The Global Health Security Index is the first comprehensive assessment of epidemic and pandemic threats globally. It is a project of the Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI) and the Johns Hopkins University Center for Health Security, with research by The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).

The US topped the list with a score of 83.5, followed by the UK (77.9) and the Netherlands (75.6) in the second and third positions, respectively.

Other countries in the top

10 are Australia at the 4th place with an index score of 75.5 followed by Canada (75.3), Thailand (73.2), Sweden (72.1), Denmark (70.4), South Korea (70.2) and Finland (68.7).

India with a score of 46.5 was ranked 57th.

The index assesses each country's capacity to prevent, detect and respond to health emergencies. The conclusions are based on responses to a set of 140 questions.

It also assesses the effectiveness of countries' health systems, their commitment to global norms, and the political, socioeconomic and environmental risk factors that can limit response.

As per the study, the average overall index score was just over 40 out of a possible score of 100, pointing to sub-

stantial weaknesses in preparedness. Even among the 60 high-income countries assessed, the average score was barely over 50.

Scores were normalised (0-100), where a score of 100 denotes most favourable.

"Without a way of identifying gaps in the system, we are much more vulnerable than we need to be," said Leo Abruzzese, Senior Global Advisor for Public Policy at the EIU.

Stronger health security conditions are not dependent on whether a country is wealthy, but are driven by a multitude of factors, including effective governance and a strong disease surveillance system.

Even when emergency plans are in place, there is little evidence that countries have tested these capa-

bilities to show they would be functional in a crisis.

Besides, more than half of countries face major political and security risks that could undermine national capability to counter biological threats.

"In light of challenges in responding to the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, political and security risks are clear barriers to effective response," the study said adding that only 23 per cent of countries score in the top tier for indicators related to their political system and government effectiveness.

Epidemics have been occurring with greater frequency. The 2014-16 Western Africa Ebola epidemic claimed more than 11,000 lives, and the latest outbreak of the disease, in Congo, has killed another 2,100 in 2018-19, according to the WHO.

—PTI

THIS \$12 BILLION RESCUE IS A BOLLYWOOD FANTASY

ANDY MUKHERJEE

Suspend your disbelief, and like the protagonist of the popular Bollywood movie *3 Idiots* keep muttering: "All is well, all is well."

If it isn't yet, it will be. That seems to be the whole approach behind the ongoing efforts to restructure an Indian financier, Dewan Housing Finance Corp., which some months back started defaulting on its outstanding debt of \$12 billion.

Trouble is, the rescue is entirely fictional. The only reason it's even being attempted is to delay — as long as possible — the collapse of this large shadow lender. Such an event, as S&P Global said in a rare show of plain speak by a credit appraiser, could be

powerful enough to deliver a "solvent shock" to India's troubled banks. Neither the lenders, nor the Indian government, wants to contemplate this grim prospect. Hence, the make-believe restructuring.

On a spreadsheet, resolution for Dewan appears simple enough. As of March, it had assets of \$14 billion, spread over mortgages, loans against property and other credit to small businesses, as well as advances to builders. Sell the shaky wholesale book to Oaktree Capital Group as planned, and let banks, mutual funds and other creditors try to recover what they can from the well-performing retail loans. A 30 per cent to 40 per cent haircut may be as happy an ending as the lenders could have ever hoped. That's where the plot thickens.



Twist #1: The Bombay High Court is scratching its head and wondering if Dewan securitised — that is, sold to a separate entity — assets that it had pledged to another set of investors to obtain loans. Now, the court wants the beleaguered firm to produce, under oath, a list of assets it repackaged and sold within the last year. This imbroglgio has the

potential to bring India's securitisation market to a standstill.

Twist #2: A special review of Dewan by KPMG is still in a draft form. But the parts leaked to the media Wednesday raise damaging questions. The auditor says that \$2 billion was lent to 25 borrowers with little real business or assets, and that "such entities may be working closely" with Dewan without qualifying as related parties. No state-run bank, answerable to anti-corruption authorities, is going to knowingly risk a loss on taxpayers' money before it gets satisfactory answers to KPMG's concerns.

Twist #3: The above obstacles are already enough to sink Dewan's debt recast. However, a

decent Bollywood potboiler needs a dash of the Mumbai underworld. Sleuths at India's Enforcement Directorate, an agency tasked to fight economic crime, are probing a loan from Dewan to a late Dubai-based gangster's real-estate firm, according to local media reports. This makes an out-of-court rescue nearly impossible.

S&P analysts are right. The Dewan defaults haven't bred the kind of panic that Indian credit markets witnessed last September after IL&FS Group, a large infrastructure financier, went belly up unexpectedly. What seemed like a liquidity shortage at first was later revealed to be a gaping hole in the balance sheet.

But then, probably because of

the example set back then, the market can guess the end game of the Dewan saga. India has no law to deal with a large financial bankruptcy. When defaults accelerate, New Delhi will have to step in and stop the farce of private restructuring negotiations. That's what happened with IL&FS, where a government-appointed new board arranged for blanket protection from creditors, and then began a never-ending wait for buyers of assets. In Dewan, a search for the funds KPMG's audit couldn't find will also get under way. After a while, people will get bored by the mind-numbing minutiae of a story going nowhere, and attention will shift to a new scandal.

All will be well.

—Bloomberg

Infosys: US SEC to seek Sebi's help

New Delhi, Oct. 25: US market regulator SEC will be seeking cooperation from its Indian counterpart Sebi in its probe into Infosys, which has been rocked by whistleblower complaints of alleged irregularities, sources said on Friday.

They said the Sebi will provide all possible help to the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

Infosys is listed in India as well as in the US, where a class action suit has also been filed against the Indian IT major to recover what has been termed by the litigants as losses suffered by investors there.

When asked about cooperation sought from Sebi into Infosys matter, a spokesperson for the SEC Office of Public Affairs declined to comment.

The SEC has initiated a probe on whistleblower complaints that alleged "unethical practices" by top management of Infosys and the IT major has said it will cooperate with the investigation.

—PTI

McD case: Bakshi gives up travel plan

FC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, OCT. 25

In a twist to the ongoing McDonald's case, estranged partner of McDonald's India Vikram Bakshi on Friday withdrew his plea before the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT), seeking permission to travel abroad. However, the appellate tribunal allowed his wife Madhurima Bakshi to travel abroad for a stipulated time period.

Earlier on Wednesday, the appellate tribunal had come down on Bakshi heavily observing that he had committed a fraud by not following the Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRT) orders and had put a condition to deposit Rs 5 crore each for him and his wife as security for flying abroad.

In an order on Friday, a two-member NCLAT bench headed by Chairperson Justice SJ Mukhopadhyaya permitted his wife Madhurima to travel to Thailand to attend a family function and return by November 9.

Bajaj Pulsar 125 finds 40K buyers

MICHAEL GONSALVES
PUNE, OCT. 25

At a time when motorcycles sales have plummeted over 15 per cent in the first half of this fiscal in the prolonged slowing economy and a challenging business environment, Bajaj Auto's Pulsar 125 Neon in the Pulsar series has emerged a winner.

The Pune-headquartered auto maker sold over 40,000 units of Pulsar 125 bike within two months of its launch in August, the company said in a statement.

Bajaj's idea of introducing the Pulsar brand in the 125cc category seems to have worked well, going by what the numbers suggest.

Bajaj Pulsar 125 priced at competes with the likes of Hero Glamour FI and Honda CB Shine SP.

The Pulsar 125, the entry-level bike in the Pulsar range, was launched in August with a starting price tag of Rs 64,000 for the drum brake variant and the disc brake variant at Rs 66,586 at Delhi showroom.



Triumph and honour
Queen Elizabeth honours Booker Prize winner Margaret Atwood for her services in Literature



I am delighted that I was a part of *War* which created history in Indian cinema.

— Vaani Kapoor, Actress

IN BRIEF

Lovesick teen scales prison wall to see ex

London: A lovesick German teenager outdid Shakespeare's Romeo by scaling a 4m (13ft) prison wall and climbing up to his ex-girlfriend's barred window. But the 18-year-old refused to come down and the fire brigade in northern Germany used a ladder to rescue him, the BBC reported. The ex-girlfriend, also 18, had broken up with him shortly before his jail break-in. He was half-naked, apparently to avoid snagging clothes on the barbed wire. He could face prosecution for trespass. — Agencies

Doc suspended after baby born sans face

London: A Portuguese obstetrician has been suspended after a baby was born without a nose, eyes or part of his skull, the BBC reported. The parents were not aware of their son's severe physical abnormalities until he was born earlier this month. Medical council officials have voted to suspend Dr Artur Carvalho. It emerged that other complaints, dating back over a decade, have been made involving other babies. Reports of those cases have provoked widespread outrage. — Agencies



Jill Soloway to helm Sally Ride biopic

Los Angeles: Jill Soloway, the creator of award-winning Amazon show *Transparent*, is set to direct the biographical drama film on the life of Sally Ride, the first American woman to journey to space. Soloway will direct the project from Cassie Pappas' screenplay, based on an original spec script by Krystin Ver Linden, according to the *Hollywood Reporter*. At the age of 32, Ride became the first American woman to travel to space in 1983. She remains the youngest US astronaut. Soloway will also produce the project with Andrea Sperling through their banner Topple, alongside Kristin Burr. — PTI

WILL 1 DAY BE US PRESIDENT: KANYE WEST

New York: Rapper Kanye West on Thursday said he one day would helm the Oval Office, a left-field suggestion made during a lengthy interview that touched on subjects from porn to Donald Trump. Hours before the long-anticipated release of his purported gospel album, the 42-year-old artist told Zane Lowe of Apple Music's Beats 1 show that his support for the current US President was a way to razz Democrats. "For the greatest artist in human existence to put a red hat on was God's practical joke to all liberals. Like, 'No! Not Kanye!'" said the performer, who has made a very public turn to Christianity. West also said he would one day be commander-in-chief: "There will be a time when I will be the President, and I will remember... Any founder that didn't have the capacity to understand culturally what we were doing." It was unclear to whom he was referring. West said he asked his collaborators on his album *Jesus Is King* to abstain from premarital sex. — AFP



Russian Czar palace to reopen in summer

1st 8 rooms to reopen after makeover next June

Saint Petersburg: Russia's Alexander Palace, the last home of Emperor Nicholas II before he and his family were executed by the Bolsheviks, will reopen to the public next summer after million-dollar renovations, officials said Friday.

The palace, considered one of the best works of the Italian architect Giacomo Quarenghi, was built in the late 18th century for the future Emperor Alexander I and became the permanent residence of the last Russian tsar in 1905.

The palace, located on the outskirts of the former imperial capital Saint Petersburg, has been under renovation since 2012 and was completely closed to the public three years later.

The first eight rooms will reopen after the makeover next June or July, a spokeswoman for the Tsarskoe Selo State Museum, which oversees the vast neo-Classical edifice, told AFP.

The renovations have so far cost some \$31 million, she added.

The works were mainly done on the floors, tapestries and ceilings.

The first premises to open to visitors include the emperor and empress's rooms includ-



Restoration works ongoing at the Alexander Palace at Tsarskoye Selo palace museum in Pushkin outside Saint Petersburg, Russia. — AFP

ing the Mauve Boudoir, Alexandra Feodorovna's favourite room, and the tsar's bathing chamber designed in the Moorish style.

"The Alexander Palace is a special place," Olga Taratynova, director of the Tsarskoye Selo Museum, told reporters during a presentation on Thursday.

"It was built for the imperial family's private life which was pretty closely guarded."

Unlike other palaces, the Alexander Palace was not

destroyed by Nazi Germany during World War II and housed the military command and a prison. The courtyard was used as a cemetery for SS soldiers.

It was from the Alexander Palace that the tsar and his family were sent into exile to Tobolsk in Siberia in August, 1917.

Afterwards, the family was moved to Yekaterinburg where they had been tragically executed, along with their servants and the doctor, in July 1918. — AFP

Trump cancels subscription of Washington Post and NYT

Washington: US President Donald Trump has cancelled the subscription of leading American dailies the *Washington Post* and the *New York Times*, calling them "fake" and asked other federal agencies to do the same, according to a media report.

Trump's unusual move came days after he hinted of the same in an interview with the Fox News.

Trump on Monday termed the *New York Times* "a fake newspaper," saying that "we don't even want it in the White House anymore."

"We're going to probably terminate that (the *Times*) and the *Washington Post*," he said.

"They're fake," the *New York Times* quoted him saying in the interview.



Donald Trump

Officials in the West Wing on Thursday announced that copies of the two newspapers would no longer be delivered to the White House and the administration is moving to force other federal agencies to end their subscriptions to the papers, as well, the *NYT* report said.

According to a report, Trump called members of the press "enemies of the people," deemed critical

3 women confront Weinstein at NY event

New York: Harvey Weinstein is in the news again after three women claimed that they were thrown out of a bar for confronting the disgraced Hollywood producer, who had unexpectedly turned up at the place.

Weinstein, who has been accused of sexual harassment and abuse by countless women, showed up at the Downtime Bar in Lower Manhattan to watch *Actor's Hour* artist event, a showcase meant

to support emerging talent. In a video, which has since gone viral on social media, comedian Kelly Bachman is seen addressing Weinstein's presence



Harvey Weinstein



Actress Rakul Preet Singh at an event in Mumbai on Thursday. — PTI



Industrialist Mukesh Ambani's son Akash Ambani with wife Shloka at their family's Diwali party in Mumbai on Thursday. — PTI



The Guitar Hotel is lit up for the first time during the Grand Opening of the Guitar Hotel expansion at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood in Florida on Thursday. — AFP



A staff member (right) looks at 2 gold and gem set Horse Head sculptures, 'Lakshmi' and 'Indra' by Herbert Haseltine, 1949, in London on Friday. — AP

Invest in Artemis to get a ride to Moon: US

Washington: Several countries want their astronauts to hitch a ride with the United States on its next set of lunar missions, but the second nation to have moon boots on the ground will depend on how much they contribute, Nasa's chief said Thursday.

The United States plans to return to the Moon under the Artemis program in order to set up a long-term colony and test technologies for a crewed mission to Mars; it is inviting international partners to take part.

"You can imagine there are going to be a lot of countries to step up to the plate at a level that would say, 'OK, that warrants having an astronaut on the surface of the Moon,'" Jim Bridenstine said.

The European Space Agency and Japan's space agency have publicly announced they'd like their astronauts to participate in Artemis.

It foresees the next set of astronauts on the moon by 2024 with further missions to follow. — AFP

Rare painting found in French kitchen on sale

Paris: An early Renaissance painting by the Italian master Cimabue goes under the hammer Sunday, a few weeks after the rare artwork was found hanging in an unsuspecting elderly Frenchwoman's kitchen.

Christ Mocked, by the 13th-century artist also known as Cenni di Pepo, has been valued at four to \$4.4 to \$6.7 million for what could be France's biggest art sale of the year. Art experts at Turquin in Paris used infrared reflectology to confirm that the tiny unsigned work, just 26 by 20 cms is

part of a larger diptych from 1280, when Cimabue painted eight scenes of the passion and crucifixion of Christ. Only two other elements of the diptych are known to exist: *The Flagellation of Christ* at the Frick in New York, and *The Virgin and Child with Two Angels* at the National Gallery in London.

The *Virgin* was valued at \$8.3m when it was given to the museum in 2000 in lieu of inheritance taxes by a British aristocrat who found it while cleaning his ancestral seat in Suffolk. — AFP

UK museum names beetle after Greta

London: Britain's Natural History Museum on Friday named a tiny, blind and wingless beetle after climate activist Greta Thunberg.

The honey-coloured insect, measuring less than one millimetre, was discovered in the Kenyan capital Nairobi in the 1960s.

But it apparently remained nameless until the venerable London museum's scientific associate Michael Darby stepped in.

"I am immensely impressed with the work of this young campaigner and wanted to acknowledge her outstanding contribution in raising awareness of environmental issues," Darby said. Sweden's Thunberg, still only 16, has injected a



Nelloptodes Greta — AFP

Tourists flock to Australia's Uluru for last ever climb

Uluru, Australia: Hundreds of tourists flocked to Uluru Friday for one last chance to scale the sacred red monolith ahead of a climbing ban long-sought by Aboriginal Australians.

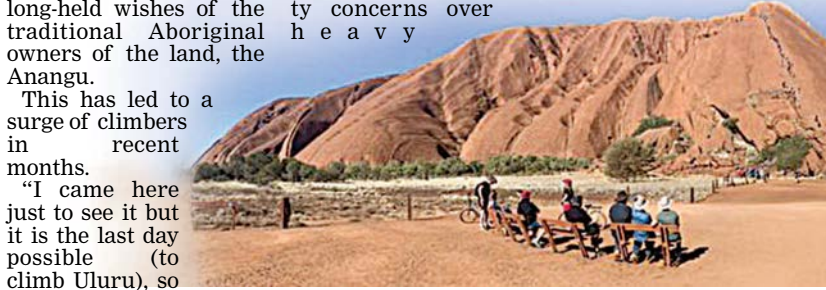
A permanent ban on scaling Uluru — also known as Ayers Rock — comes into place Saturday in line with the long-held wishes of the traditional Aboriginal owners of the land, the Anangu.

This has led to a surge of climbers in recent months.

"I came here just to see it but it is the last day possible (to climb Uluru), so

I have decided to try it," Polish tourist Matt Oswiecimki told AFP. The 29-year-old said it was "fair to stop it" tomorrow out of respect for the Anangu people, but said the one time opportunity meant he would still climb it given he was allowed on Friday. Hundreds were left waiting for hours early Friday due to safety concerns over heavy

winds, before rangers allowed climbers to head up the rock at 10:00 am local time. Parks Australia said they would reassess the weather conditions throughout day to determine if climbers could continue to mount the rock. — AFP



“WISHING YOU AND YOUR FAMILY
A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS DIWALI
LET’S CELEBRATE TOGETHER A POLLUTION FREE DIWALI”

- ARVIND KEJRIWAL
CHIEF MINISTER, DELHI

दिल्ली सरकार
आप की सरकार



Dip/shabdarth/d/0207/19-20

हर
मुमकिन
प्रयास,
ताकि दिल्ली को
मिले हवा साफ

Dilli ki Diwali

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

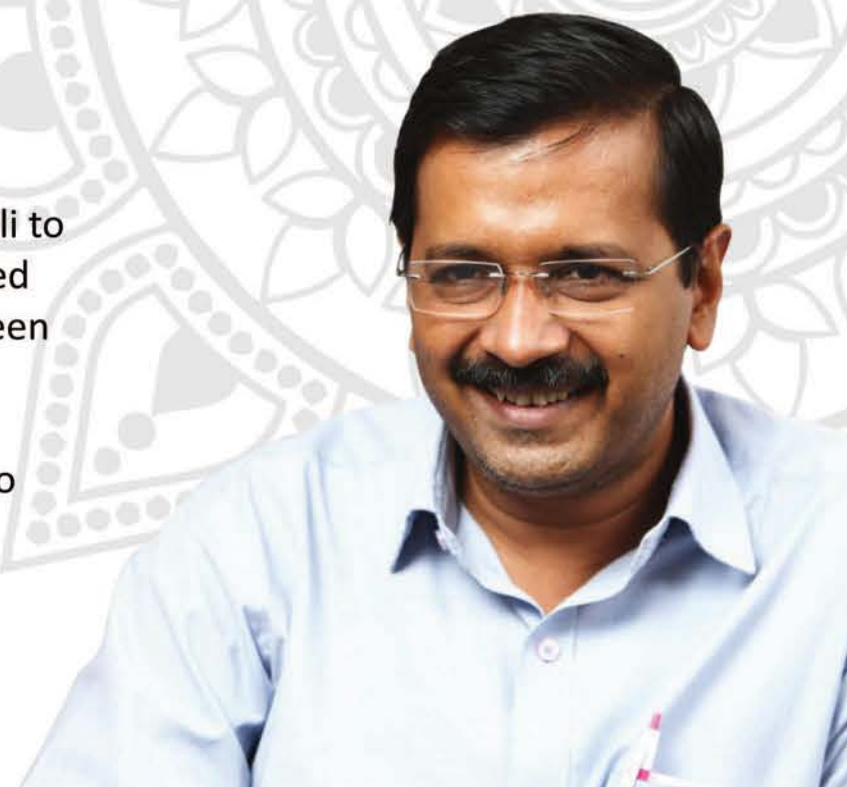
ENTRY FREE

Diwali always brings joy into our lives! This festive season, celebrate a cracker-less Diwali to ensure that it is joyous for everyone and especially for our Delhi! You are cordially invited with your family to enjoy the Grand Laser Show at Central Park, Connaught Place between 26th October-29th October, 6 pm onwards. Entry is free for all.

Lets celebrate Diwali together with a grand laser show and make every possible effort to curb pollution!



दिल्ली कर दिखाएगी





Setback

Kane Williamson will miss New Zealand's T20I series against England with a hip injury, with Tim Southee named as captain in his absence



Every tour is tough and Australia is always a challenging place because of the extra bounce.

— Babar Azam, newly-installed Pakistan captain

SHORT TAKES



Jasprit Bumrah

Wisden honour for Bumrah

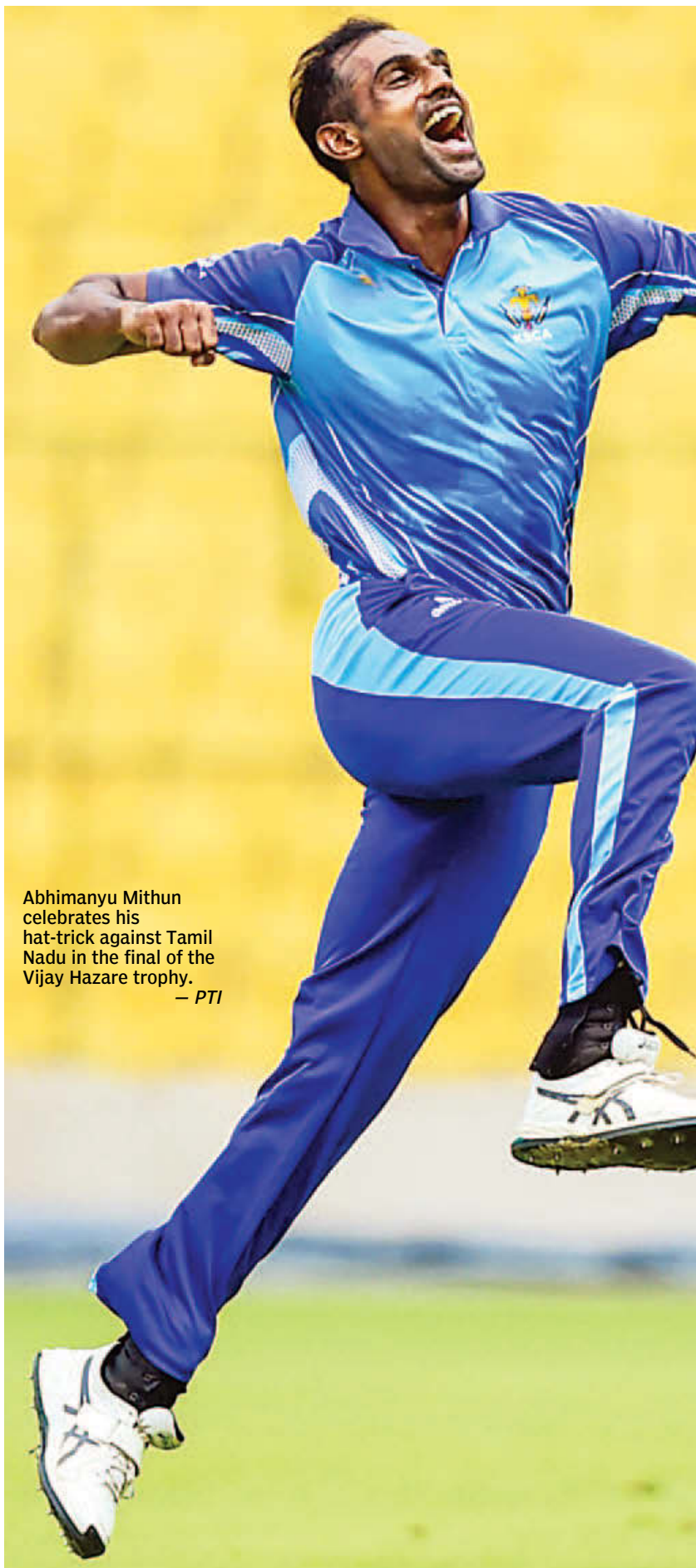
Bengaluru: Premier speedster Jasprit Bumrah and batswoman Smriti Mandhana are the two Indian names among the five winners of the prestigious Wisden India Almanack Cricketer of the Year award which was announced on Friday. The other winners from Asia are Pakistan's Fakhar Zaman, Sri Lanka's Dimuth Karunaratne and Afghanistan Rashid Khan. The seventh edition of the annual cricket publication for 2019 and 2020 also features Mayank Agarwal for his stellar domestic run leading to a successful Test call-up. Mandhana is the third woman to be named 'Cricketer of the Year', after Mithali Raj and Deepti Sharma. Stalwarts Gundappa Viswanath and Lara Amarnath are inducted into the Wisden India Hall of Fame. Cricket Country: The Untold History of the First All India Team by Prashant Kidambi has been adjudged the Wisden India Book of the Year. The Almanack reviewer described it as "a tribute to the game's Indianness" that "superbly describes and analyses the tour (Indians in England 1911) and the politics that led up to it."

Dutch, Canada lose unbeaten run

Dubai: Netherlands and Canada saw their unbeaten runs at the 2020 T20 World Cup qualifier come to an end on Thursday as they were beaten by Papua New Guinea and Hong Kong respectively. PNG stunned the Dutch with a five-wicket victory. A half-century from Kinchit Shah (59 not out) and a three-wicket haul by Nasrulla Rana helped Hong Kong to a 32-run victory over Canada. Elsewhere, UAE beat Nigeria by five wickets. In the final game of the day, Scotland put on 204 for four against Bermuda who in reply fell 46 runs short as they finished on 158 for eight. Ireland got their campaign back on track with a convincing win over Jersey in their penultimate group stage match in Abu Dhabi. Chasing 106 for victory, the Ireland batsmen were in no mood to let Jersey in with a sniff. — AFP

BANGLA START TRAINING FOR INDIA TOUR

Dhaka: Members of the Bangladesh cricket team joined a training camp for next month's tour of India on Friday, formally ending their strike for better pay and benefits. The players called off their strike late on Wednesday as the Bangladesh Cricket Board accepted most of their demands, including a 50 per cent pay hike for first-class players, expansion of national pay contracts and a share in BCB's revenue. Announced by national Test and Twenty20 captain Shakib Al Hasan, the strike had cast doubt on Bangladesh's tour of India featuring three Twenty20 internationals and two Tests. Shakib had to skip the opening training session due to illness but other players joined the session, attended by South African head coach Russell Domingo. Former New Zealand captain Daniel Vettori also joined as Bangladesh's spin bowling coach on Friday, replacing India's Sunil Joshi. Vettori, the Black Caps' record wicket-taker who retired in 2015, will work for 100 days leading up to next year's World Twenty20 in Australia. — AFP



Abhimanyu Mithun celebrates his hat-trick against Tamil Nadu in the final of the Vijay Hazare trophy.

— PTI

Domestic heroes

Mithun takes hat-trick as Karnataka reign

Manish Pandey led Karnataka side clinched the Vijay Hazare Trophy defeating Tamil Nadu by 60 runs through the VJD method in a rain-affected final at the M.Chinnaswamy Stadium on Friday. When rain halted proceedings after 23 overs, the hosts were 146/1 chasing a target of 252 with the par score being 86 runs at that stage with KL Rahul and Mayank Agarwal batting on 52 and 69. The victory though was set up by the Karnataka bowlers with birthday boy Abhimanyu Mithun who did the major damage with the ball after Manish Pandey won the toss and opted to field. A hat-trick and a five-for (5/34) on his 30th birthday restricted Tamil Nadu to 252 after being 148/2 at one stage. Chasing a below-par target of 252, both the spinners leaked runs with the new ball and made the task easier for the Karnataka openers. Devdutt Padikkal, leading run-scorer in the tournament was undone by a peach of a delivery from Sundar for 11.

Mayank, who is having a purple patch with the bat looked fluent from the beginning as he hoisted Vijay Shankar for a six towards the cover region in the second over of his spell. Left-arm seamer T Natarajan was driven twice by Mayank in the same over signalling intent from the Karnataka batsmen. Captain Dinesh Karthik tried all his resources but couldn't mitigate the quick run flow by Karnataka batsmen. Mayank reached his 30th List-A fifty with a cracking whip towards the offside as Karnataka got past 100 in the 16th over. Tamil Nadu got a few opportunities to break the partnership but luck favoured the hosts as Rahul was nearly run out at the non-striker's end when a straight hit from Mayank ricocheted on to the stumps after coming in contact with Ashwin Murugan's hand. Rahul's fifty came off 72 balls with five boundaries when rain stopped play. Earlier, Tamil Nadu could not capitalise on the 124 run partnership for the third wicket between Baba Aparajith and Abhinav Mukund as they lost wickets at regular intervals. The ploy to send R Ashwin up the order failed to

SCORECARD
Tamil Nadu: A Mukund c Agarwal b Jain 85, M. Vijay c Rahul b Mithun 0, R. Ashwin c Rahul b Koushik 8, B. Aparajith run out (Pandey/Rahul) 66, V. Shankar c Nair b Mithun 38, KD Karthik (c) c Rahul b Gowtham 11, M Shahrulk Khan c Pandey b Mithun 27, Washington Sundar c Pandey b Koushik 2, M Mohammed c Padikkal b Mithun 10, M Ashwin c Gowtham b Mithun 0, T Natarajan (not out) 0. Extras (b 1, lb 1, w 3) 5. Total (In 49.5 overs) 252.
FoW: 1-1, 2-24, 3-148, 4-178, 5-193, 6-224, 7-230, 8-252, 9-252.
Bowling: Mithun 9.5-0-34-5; Koushik 9-0-39-2; Jain 9-0-55-1; Gowtham 10-0-48-1; Dubey 6-0-47-0; Nair 6-0-27-0.
Karnataka: KL Rahul (not out) 52, D Padikkal b Washington Sundar 11, MA Agarwal (not out) 69. Extras (lb 3, nb 3, w 8) 14. Total (for one wicket in 23 overs) 146.
FoW: 1-34
Bowling: Sundar 6-0-51-1; R Ashwin 2-0-11-0; Natarajan 3-0-17-0; Shankar 2-0-8-0; M Ashwin 6-0-34-0; Mohammed 4-0-22-0



Karnataka players celebrate after beating Tamil Nadu in the Vijay Hazare final on Friday.

— PTI

Virat agreed to play D/N Tests: Dada

Kolkata, Oct. 25: The BCCI president Sourav Ganguly on Friday said that Indian skipper Virat Kohli is open to the idea of playing day-night Tests and it could be a reality in near future.

He had a meeting with Kohli in Mumbai on Thursday where the idea was floated.

"I must say that Virat Kohli is agreeable to it. There are reports that he does not want to play day-night Tests which is not the fact. So once the captain of India is agreeable to it, life becomes a lot easier. We will see how we can push it. The game needs to forward," Ganguly said during the sidelines of his felicitation by the CAB at the Eden Gardens.

The former India captain had been a vocal advocate of pink ball Test in order to bring back the spectators to the stadium. "We all are thinking about this and we will do something about it. I am a firm believer in Day Night Tests. I don't know when will that happen. But till the time I am around, I will be pushing for it," Ganguly said. However it must be mentioned that if Ganguly's tenure is not extended



VVS Laxman, Sourav Ganguly and Mohammad Azharuddin at a felicitation function organised at the Eden Gardens.

— AFP

Beyond July, the Day-Night Test might not be reality as India next play five-day games at home only in December 2020 - January, 2021. The home Tests against Bangladesh are last for this season. Ganguly reiterated the need to have a rethink at the Conflict of Interest clause which is making it very difficult for him to get quality cricketers on board. "It definitely needs a rethink. We lose a lot of quality cricketers because they are involved in a lot of other things. Conflict has to be sensible. Nothing is a conflict if

you hold an administrator's role in the BCCI. "We need to keep that simple and take it forward. We don't want to lose the likes of VVS Laxman, Azharuddin, Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, Kapil Dev or Sunil Gavaskar helping the Indian cricket. Realistic look needs to be taken." Asked whether he now is training his sights on the ICC chairman's post, Ganguly said: "It's just two days since I was appointed, let's not look that far ahead." But he was ready to make it clear that he is his

own man contrary to popular belief that some people in the old guard are trying to influence him. "I have been a difficult person to handle as at times I am my own man and I do what I feel is right. But with time I learned how to do things. Hopefully, we can work together. I've got a very young team and very rarely you have seen BCCI president and his team in the age of 30-40s."

"One thing I'm absolutely sure is that whatever time I'm here I will try and make a difference. I'm not going to sit and spend my time for people to say that "I was the BCCI president". I want to be a "BCCI president who made a difference", so I'll try and do that."

Ganguly also highlighted that India have not won a world tournament for a long time. "A cricket nation is known by the number of Tests and world tournaments won. It's pretty simple as sometimes we complicate the game too much. We try to do things which don't exist."

"The team has played well over the last three years as you can see we have not a world tournament for last seven-eight seasons." — PTI

Du Plessis calls for clarity on coaching staff

Johannesburg, Oct. 25: South Africa captain Faf du Plessis said on Friday that full-time appointments concerning the national team's coaching staff and selectors needed to be made urgently.

Speaking on the team's return from a three-Test trouncing in India, Du Plessis said uncertainty over key positions was "a massive red flag". Cricket South Africa fired coach Ottis Gibson, his back-up staff and the selectors after a poor World Cup campaign.

Du Plessis said he was committed to continuing as captain despite going through what he described as "the toughest period in my cricket journey".

But he said his own position and those of the other key posts "needs to be resolved as soon as possible". "The most important thing right now is clarity," he said. "Someone needs to make decisions, the director of cricket first and then filter down so everyone else can make decisions," he added. — AFP

Gauti thumbs up for Sanju selection

New Delhi, Oct. 25: Cricketer-turned-politician Gautam Gambhir is a happy man after Sanju Samson was selected in the Indian T20 team for the three-match series against Bangladesh, saying it was "long overdue".

Gambhir has been advocating for the talented Kerala cricketer's inclusion in the Indian team for a long time. The series against Bangladesh starts November 3. "This is well & truly through the gap by @IamSanjuSamson!!! Congratulations on being picked in the T20 squad. Soft hands, nimble feet and hopefully a sane head...go Sanju grab ur moment, long overdue," Gambhir tweeted.

Samson played his sole match for India — a T20 — in July 2015 when a second-string team toured Zimbabwe. He was 19 then. Since that high, it has been a roller-coaster ride for the



Gautam Gambhir

wicketkeeper-batsman, who has been dropped from the Kerala team on disciplinary grounds. He has not been consistent enough, has had fitness issues but every now and then, he came up with innings befitting his rich batting talent. One such knock happened earlier this month — an unbeaten 212 — the highest individual score in the history of Vijay Hazare Trophy, which eventually paved the way for his return in the national side. — PTI

I got rejected in my first trials: Sachin

Mumbai, Oct. 25: Batting legend Sachin Tendulkar on Friday revealed that he was not selected when he appeared for his first selection trials and the rejection spurred him to work even harder on his game.

"When I was a student, the only thing in my mind was to play for India. My journey started at the age of eleven," Tendulkar said in Marathi while interacting with the students of Late Laxmanrao Dure school in western Maharashtra.

S I even remember when I went for my first selection trials, I was not selected by the selectors. They had said that he will need to work hard and improve game. At that time I was disappointed because I thought I had batted well. — SACHIN TENDULKAR

"I even remember when I went for my first selection trials, I was not selected by the selectors. They had said that he will need to work hard and improve his game. "At that time I was disappointed because I thought I had batted well,

but the result was not as per expectation and I was not selected. But after that my focus, commitment and capacity to work hard increased further. If you want to realise your dreams, then short-cuts won't help," he added.

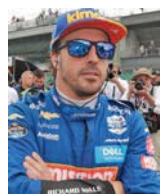
Three classrooms and a stage for cultural activities have been built in the school from the MPLAD funds given by Tendulkar when he was a Rajya Sabha member. Tendulkar, who has a staggering 15,921 Test runs and 18,426 ODI runs, credited his family and coach Ramakant Achrekar for supporting him in his journey.

"For my success in cricket, I owe it to my family — all the members. I will start with my parents, my brother Ajit and elder

brother Nitin, who does not usually come forward, supported me," he said. "My elder sister, who now resides in Pune after marriage, she supported me. In fact, my sister had presented the first cricket bat to me in my life. "After marriage (wife) Anjali and (kids) Sara and Arjun and Anjali's parents supported me. My uncle and aunt, many people were there. And of course last but not the least (Ramakant) Achrekar Sir," he signed off. — PTI



Rishabh Pant spent time with M.S. Dhoni at his Ranchi residence after the third Test against South Africa. — Twitter



Ready to rally

Fernando Alonso confirmed he will drive for Toyota in the 2020 Dakar Rally being staged in Saudi Arabia. The Spaniard retired from Formula One last year

TENNIS | WORLD

Back pain forces Wawrinka's exit

Basel (Switzerland), Oct. 25: Stan Wawrinka was forced to withdraw from Friday's Basel quarter-final showdown against best friend Roger Federer with a back injury, just an hour after struggling past America's Frances Tiafoe in a gruelling second round clash.

"The bad news is that I will have to retire," the 34-year-old three-time Grand Slam winner said after his 6-3, 3-6, 7-5 win. "I had some trouble with my back in the last game. I'm sure I cannot make it for tomorrow (Friday). I will pull out." Top seed Federer, chasing a 10th title at his hometown event, will receive a walkover into Saturday's semi-finals. It would have been the 27th meeting between the two Swiss teammates and Federer would have been the comfortable favourite boasting a 23-3 record over their 14-year rivalry. Wawrinka stands in provisional 14th place in the points race to the year-end ATP Finals and his chances of qualifying now look slim with just next week's Paris Masters to play on the regular schedule. The struggle against Tiafoe, which lasted for two and a half hours and

was decided by an 11-minute concluding game, had put Wawrinka into his fifth quarter-final at the Swiss tournament. "I was fighting well, I expected a tough match," Wawrinka said. Wawrinka hammered 14 aces — his last two in the penultimate game. Tiafoe saved a Wawrinka match point with an ace of his own in the final game before the home favourite got the crowd on its feet with a backhand winner down the line to seal the success. Both players hugged at the net, with Tiafoe receiving a standing ovation from the 9,000-strong crowd.



Stan Wawrinka reacts after winning his second round match against Frances Tiafoe on Thursday. — AP

Novak hails new ATP chairman

Paris, Oct. 25: Novak Djokovic hailed the appointment of Andrea Gaudenzi as the new chairman of the ATP on Thursday in succession to Chris Kermode whose controversial exit led to a rift between the world number one and fellow heavyweights, Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal.

Gaudenzi, 46, who reached 18 in the world rankings in his playing career and won three titles before retiring in 2003, has penned a four-year deal. "On behalf of the players, I'd like to welcome Andrea as the next chairman of the ATP," said Djokovic. "As a former player, he has walked in our shoes, and has also become a successful entrepreneur following his playing career. He has all the qualities to lead the Tour and we look forward to working together for the benefit of the players and the sport more generally." Kermode had been in charge since 2014 but the player representatives decided at Indian Wells in March not to renew his contract. The 54-year-old Briton was pushed towards the exit by representatives who, at the time, included the American Justin Gimelstob, a close associate of Djokovic. Gimelstob was then forced to resign from the Players Council following a conviction for assault. The exit of the popular Kermode was opposed by Federer and Nadal, both of whom have since returned to the Players Council chaired by Djokovic. Gaudenzi, an Italian, had been involved in the ATP's media division. — AFP

Giannis Bucks up

Antetokounmpo triple-double fuels Milwaukee's win

Los Angeles, Oct. 25: Milwaukee's Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 30 points to propel the Bucks to a 117-111 victory in Houston on Thursday, spoiling the debut of newly formed Rockets star duo James Harden and Russell Westbrook.



Milwaukee Bucks forward Giannis Antetokounmpo dunks during the second half of the team's NBA game against the Houston Rockets on Thursday. — AP

In a battle featuring the last three NBA Most Valuable Players it was reigning MVP Antetokounmpo who emerged the winner, notching the first triple-double of the season before he fouled out with just over five minutes remaining.

By then, the Greek superstar had achieved triple digits in three key statistical categories: 30 points, 13 rebounds and 11 assists. His 20 second-half points helped the Bucks rally from a 16-point third-quarter deficit.

Antetokounmpo became the first player since Oscar Robertson in 1966 to post a 30-plus point triple-double in his opening game of a season.

But he said team effort was the key to the comeback win.

"We stayed together," Antetokounmpo said. "Even though we faced adversity and we weren't playing our best basketball in the first quarter and second quarter we came out, we were focused. We were able to move the ball and execute. My team without me did a great job," added Antetokounmpo, whose departure with his sixth foul at 5:18 remaining — and the Bucks up by six — appeared to open the door to the Rockets.

Houston scored the next five points. Russell Westbrook adding four with a three-pointer and a free throw to trim the deficit to 101-100. But the Rockets, who brought in 2017 MVP Westbrook in the offseason to play alongside their 2018 MVP James Harden, couldn't get ahead. Houston had dominated early, taking a quick 12-2 lead and going into half-

time with a 66-50 advantage. Westbrook finished with 24 points, 16 rebounds and 7 assists. Harden's 19 points owed more to his perfect 14-of-14 finish at the free-throw

line than his two-of-13 shooting. He added seven rebounds and 14 assists. Bucks looked a team perfectly capable of repeating their 60-win campaign of last season. — AP

FOOTBALL | ROUND-UP

Galaxy out due to Vela double

Los Angeles, Oct. 25: Carlos Vela scored twice as Los Angeles FC dumped Zlatan Ibrahimovic and the LA Galaxy out of the MLS Cup playoffs with a 5-3 derby victory on Thursday.

Mexico international striker Vela took his season goal tally to 36 with two first half strikes at the Banc of California Stadium.

Ibrahimovic led a rousing Galaxy fight-back, setting up a Cristian Pavon goal before grabbing an opportunistic second-half equaliser to make it 2-2.

But LAFC hit back with goals from Diego Rossi and substitute Adama Diomande to surge into a 4-2 lead.

A headed goal from Galaxy substitute Rolf Feltscher raised hopes of another comeback, but Diomande's second of the night made the game safe.

It was a first ever win for LAFC over the Galaxy, a burgeoning Major League Soccer rivalry that has been dubbed "El Trafico" in a reference to the Californian city's notorious traffic.

LAFC will now face the Seattle Sounders in the Western Conference Championship final next Tuesday for a place in the MLS Cup final. It was a sweet victory for manager Bob Bradley, whose team lost to Galaxy 4-3 in 2018. — AP

Defensive woes for Kovac as Bayern welcome Union

Berlin, Oct. 25: Pressure is mounting on head coach Niko Kovac as injury-hit Bayern Munich look to beat minnows Union Berlin Saturday with just two points separating the top nine Bundesliga teams.

Third-placed Bayern are only a point behind leaders Borussia Dortmund, having been knocked off the top three weeks ago when Hoffenheim grabbed a shock 2-1 win at the Allianz Arena.

Union Berlin, in 14th place, have already beaten top-six clubs Dortmund and Freiburg in their first Bundesliga season and hope to deny Bayern a first win in three league games. Club chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge branded Bayern "careless" in Tuesday's 3-2 Champions

Live on TV

BUNDESLIGA

Bayern v Union from 7.00 pm (Saturday) Star Sports Select 2 & HD

Wolfsburg v Augsburg from 10.00 pm (Sunday) Star Sports Select 2 & HD

League win at Olympiakos and called on the team to beat Union at home to "meet the standard FC Bayern has set" by regaining first place in the league.

However, a worry for Kovac is Bayern's trend of conceding exactly two goals in each of their last five games, on top of their defensive woes with first-choice centre-backs Niklas Sule and Lucas Hernandez out long term.

Sule could miss the next six months after tearing his cruciate ligament in Saturday's 2-2 draw at Augsburg, while Hernandez underwent surgery on Thursday for ankle ligaments torn in Greece. Sport Bild is tipping Ralf Rangnick, sports director at rivals RB Leipzig, to step in if Kovac is fired.

The magazine claims time is running out for Kovac, 48, as Uli Hoeness, his chief supporter among the club's senior figures, stands down as club president next month.

However, Union's head coach Urs Fischer refuses to perceive star-studded Bayern as vulnerable. "We can try to force mistakes from them and if you make it easy for them, you are going to have problems," he said. — AP



He has all the qualities to lead the Tour and we look forward to working together.

— Novak Djokovic on Andrea Gaudenzi as new ATP chairman

SHORT TAKES

Rain delays Rd 2 as Woods leads

Inza (Japan): The second round of the US PGA Tour's inaugural ZoZo Championship in Japan was postponed on Friday because of heavy rain with Tiger Woods and Gary Woodland leading the 78-player event. Officials made the decision half an hour before the scheduled 7am start after overnight showers turned heavy with forecasts of up to five inches rain falling over the next 24 hours at Accordia Golf Narashino Country Club. The second round will now be played on Saturday, followed by the third round. "The golf course has already taken on four-tenths of an inch of rain, so it has actually reached the point of saturation and it's become unplayable," said US PGA Tour VP of rules and competitions, Gary Young. — AFP

Woodland shows his credentials

Inza (Japan): Gary Woodland has made a huge claim for a Presidents Cup wildcard after stringing together rounds of 65, 66 and 64 in Asia, but the US Open champion is taking nothing for granted. On Thursday he matched US team captain Tiger Woods's superb six-under par opening-round to share the lead at the inaugural ZoZo Championship in Japan. That came straight after a stunning weekend at the CJ Cup in South Korea where Woodland backed up a third-round seven-under par 65 with Sunday's 66 to grab a share of third place. Woods will decide his four captain's picks after next week's event in Shanghai. — AFP

Berlin referees to go on strike

Berlin: Soccer referees in Berlin are going on strike because of ongoing violence at games. The Berlin soccer federation, known as the BFV, said Friday it has been informed by its referee committee that the officials are withdrawing their services this weekend from all games in the sixth division, the highest level in the German capital. "Violence on Berlin's soccer fields has gone up this season compared to last season," the referees said in a statement. "After just a few match-days we have already recorded 109 incidents of violence and discrimination in Berlin soccer fields. In 53 cases the referee was the victim." it added. — AP

ENG AIM TO 'KNOCK OFF' ALL BLACKS

Yokohama (Japan): England coach Eddie Jones heads into a World Cup semi-final against New Zealand taking inspiration from legendary football manager Alex Ferguson. Saturday's fixture in Yokohama will be the key fixture of Jones's four-year reign, with the veteran Australian making no secret of his desire to lead England to World Cup glory following their embarrassing first-round exit on home soil in 2015. But they face the toughest challenge possible this weekend, with reigning champions New Zealand having not lost a World Cup match since a 2007 quarters defeat by France. The All Blacks are now bidding for a third successive global crown and fourth in total. England have won just seven out of 41 Tests against New Zealand, with their last victory back in 2012. However, in their only previous match against the All Blacks under Jones, in November last year, England pushed them close before losing 16-15, with flanker Sam Underhill having a try disallowed for offside by Courtney Lawes. "The country you want to knock off is New Zealand because they've been the best," Jones said. — AFP

Atletico hope Simeone has answers to react

Madrid, Oct. 25: Atletico Madrid may need time to adjust after a summer of change but even this early in the season old problems are casting doubts over their Spanish title challenge.

After 77 attritional minutes at the Wanda Metropolitan on Tuesday, Alvaro Morata darted to the near post and headed in Renan Lodi's cross for a 1-0 win over Bayern Leverkusen in the Champions League that all but secured qualification.

After the game, Morata delivered a firm response to those criticising the team and their coach, Diego Simeone. "People on the outside say we are going through a bad time," said Morata, who arrived on loan in the summer.

● Atletico team is only three points behind Barcelona in La Liga

● But Simeone knows it is more due to the bumpy form of their rivals

"But in La Liga we are three points off the top and in the Champions League we have seven points from three games. If this is a bad time, I wish all the bad times were like this."

Yet there was enough in Morata's celebration, a raging run down the sideline to the bench, where he hugged Koke, who had just been whistled by the frustrated home fans, to suggest

this was a win the players needed too.

Simeone is almost beyond reproach at Atletico, a club he led to the title in 2014 and where he has performed miracles on a budget roughly half that of Barcelona and Real Madrid.

When Koke was jeered as he trudged off, Simeone flapped his arms in disgust, demanding the fans applaud instead. Most dully did. Before kick-off when the names of the players and their coach were read out to AC/DC's booming anthem 'Thunderstruck', Simeone's name, as always, received the loudest cheer.

Eight goals in nine matches is not title winning form. — AFP

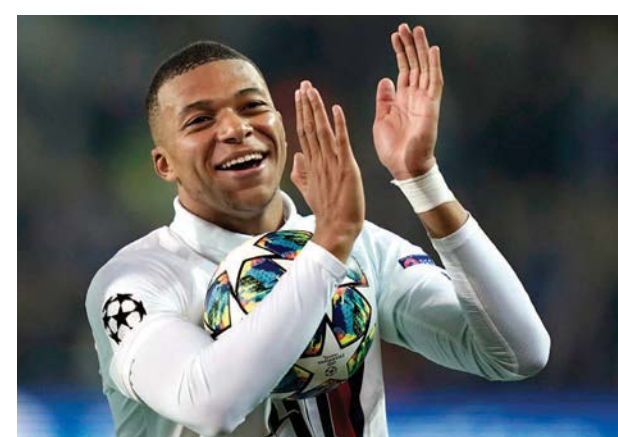
PSG get ready for grudge match

Paris, Oct. 25: An impatient Kylian Mbappe is set to make his first start for Paris Saint-Germain in two months this weekend after a blistering return to form off the bench in the Champions League.

The French champions host Marseille at the Parc des Princes on Sunday night in what is no longer much of a rivalry on the field but remains one of the great grudge matches in European football.

How Marseille would love to claim a first win over their bitter foes in almost a decade, but they will not look forward to the prospect of facing a fit-again Mbappe.

The 20-year-old World Cup winner came on as a substitute and scored a rapid blistering hat-trick in PSG's 5-0 demolition of Club Brugge in Belgium on Tuesday. He doubled his goals tally for the season in the process and showed why he felt he deserved to start for



PSG's French forward Kylian Mbappe celebrates at the end of the Champions League match against Brugge. — AFP

the first time since pulling up with a hamstring injury in a game against Toulouse in late August.

"I wanted to start. The coach made his decision and you have to accept it," Mbappe said.

"I just wanted to come on and show that it is difficult to leave me out of the side."

knows it," said Tuchel. "But he could only play for as long as we gave him." The only doubt surrounds who will play alongside Mbappe in the PSG attack, although it certainly won't be Neymar — he is out until mid-November.

Angel Di Maria will be there after setting up four of his team's five goals in midweek, while Mauro Icardi could again be preferred to Edinson Cavani after notching five goals in four games.

'Le Classique' took top billing in France in the 1990s when pay TV giant Canal Plus bought PSG and turned them into a competitor to the era's dominant Marseille whose stars included Chris Waddle and Jean-Pierre Papin.

That helped boost viewing figures in a league which Canal Plus broadcast. These days Ligue 1 is utterly dominated by the now Qatar-owned club from the capital. — AFP



Sidelined

Injured Neymar has been left out of the Brazilian squad for their friendlies against Argentina and South Korea next month



It's important for Pepe. When he scores it's good for him and the team.

— Unai Emery, Arsenal coach on Nicolas Pepe scoring against Vitoria Guimaraes in their Europa league match

SHORT TAKES

2020 marathon time change final

Tokyo: The decision to move the Tokyo 2020 marathon and race-walking events to northern Japan is "final", the International Olympic Committee's John Coates said Friday despite opposition from local officials. Coates, chairman of the IOC's Coordination Commission, said the decision was made after the world championships in Doha, which saw dozens of athletes receive medical attention. "The IOC was shocked by what we saw in Doha in very similar conditions in terms of temperature and humidity to what's expected here in Tokyo," he said, adding that the IOC had the "health and welfare of the athletes" in mind. Coates on Friday met with Tokyo's Governor Yuriko Koike, who earlier in the day said she was opposed to the plan to move the events to the city of Sapporo and described it as a "bolt from the blue". — AFP

Juventus look to add big money

Milan: Juventus president Andrea Agnelli on Thursday got the overwhelming backing of the club's shareholders for a 300 million euro (\$333 million) capital increase to help boost the Italian club's global ambitions. Despite losses of 39.9 million euros (\$44m) last season, Agnelli asked shareholders for a major investment as part of a five-year plan to keep pace with European rivals such as Real Madrid, Barcelona and Manchester United. The request was approved by 99.97 per cent of the shareholders. "The objective of this capital increase is the future development in a wide-ranging horizon," Agnelli told shareholders at the club's Allianz Stadium in Turin. "We must imagine this season as a new year zero, with the desire and determination to think big. We must be extremely proud of our development and our growth rates, but we must keep with the pace. These numbers seem enormous when compared to the Italian reality," he said. — AFP

DEEPAK CUTS DEEP, MAKES TITLE CLASH

Wuhan: Indian boxer Deepak entered the men's light fly-weight final but Olympian K.T. Irfan missed out on a bronze medal after finishing fourth in the 20km race walk event at the 7th CISM World Military Games here on Friday. Deepak outboxed Azerbaijan's Alizada Salman 5-0 in the semi-final bout in an unanimous decision. He will face Kazakhstan's Zhussupov Temirtas in the 49kg final on Saturday. In men's bantam weight, Chirag (56kg), however, lost 1-4 to Mongolia's Kharkhuu Enkh Amar in the semifinals. Indian sprinter Jinson Johnson qualified for the men's 1500m final with a timing of 3:56.17 in heat two of the preliminary round. Earlier, Irfan clocked 1:25:09s to finish the race in fourth spot. China's Xu Hao clinched the gold with a timing of 1:22:18s, while the silver and bronze medals went to Ukraine's Shumik Victor (1:23:18s) and Slovakia's Uradnik Miroslav (1:24:16s) respectively. Irfan, who has a personal best as well as national record of 1:20:21s which he registered during his 10th place finish in 2012 London Olympics, has already qualified for next year's Tokyo Summer Games by finishing fourth in the 20 km event of the Asian Race Walking Championships in March. The 29-year-old Irfan had clocked 1 hour 20 minutes and 57 seconds to better the Tokyo Olympics qualification standard of 1 hour 21 minutes. — PTI



Arsenal's Gabriel Martinelli (left) heads the ball past Vitoria Guimaraes' goalkeeper Miguel Silva (right) to score the equalising goal during their UEFA Europa league Group 'F' match at the Emirates stadium in London on Thursday. Arsenal won 3-2. — AFP

GUNNERS LOAD & SHOOT

Super Sub Pepe comes off the bench to lead Arsenal to win at home

Paris, Oct. 25: Nicolas Pepe came off the bench to rescue Arsenal at home against Vitoria Guimaraes with two late free kicks in the Europa League on Thursday. Arsenal came from behind to win 3-2 and stay perfect in Group 'F'. They are one of only two teams on nine points from three games, along with Sevilla, who beat Dudelange of Luxembourg 3-0 in Group 'A'. Manchester United are one of the teams on seven points and need just one more win to ensure they qualify from Group 'L' after eking out a 1-0 win against Partizan on an emotional day in Belgrade. Celtic came from a goal down to beat Lazio 2-1 in Glasgow and remain top of Group 'E'. PSV Eindhoven were held 0-0 at home by Linz but still lead Group 'D' Rangers drew 1-1 in Porto in Group 'G'. At the Emirates, Arsenal made 10 changes from the team that lost at Sheffield United on Monday in the Premier League. For much of the match, they looked even worse. Arsenal dominated possession but were outshot 14-11. They made the worst possible start, falling behind after nine minutes to a goal by a former Tottenham player. In the ninth minute, Marcus Edwards, once compared by Spurs manager Mauricio Pochettino to a young Lionel Messi, fired a shot under

THE RESULTS

Arsenal (Gabriel Martinelli 32, Nicolas Pepe 80, 90+2)	3
Vitoria Guimaraes (Marcus Edwards 8, Bruno Duarte 36)	2
Sevilla (Vazquez 49, 75, Munir 78)	3
Dudelange	0
Eintracht Frankfurt (Abraham 28, Hinteregger 73)	2
Standard Liege (Amallah 82)	1
Celtic (Christie 67, Jullien 89)	2
Lazio (Lazzari 40)	1
FC Porto (Diaz 36)	1
Rangers (Morelos 44)	1



FK Partizan's Sadiq Umar (in black and white stripes) vies with Manchester United's Scott McTominay during their Europa league Group 'L' match at the Partizan stadium in Belgrade on Thursday. United won 1-0. — AFP

Emiliano Martinez. Brazilian teenager Gabriel Martinelli replied with a header but Vitoria regained the lead before half time with a goal from Bruno Duarte. With Arsenal's young strikers struggling, Pepe, who had not yet scored a goal from open play for the Gunners, came on in the 64th minute. After 80 minutes he curled a free kick inside the far post. He repeated the trick three minutes into added time to secure the victory for Unai Emery's men. — AFP

City look to cut gap on the Reds

London, Oct. 25: Manchester City have the chance to exert some short-term pressure on runaway Premier League leaders Liverpool this weekend as Manchester United look to end their away day blues. Jurgen Klopp's side saw their long winning streak ended by a hungry United in a draw at Old Trafford last week but still have a comfortable six-point lead

over second-placed City. Guardiola's defending champions can cut that gap to just three points, at least temporarily, if they beat Aston Villa at home on Saturday. Frank Lampard's young Chelsea side travel to Burnley on the back of a six-match winning run in all competitions while third-placed Leicester visit Southampton on Friday. — AFP

RACE FOR NUMERO UNO IN SERIE 'A' HEATS UP

Milan, Oct. 25: Champions Juventus turn their focus back to maintaining their Serie 'A' supremacy ahead of nearest challengers Inter Milan with both Italian teams riding high after their European successes this week. Juventus are just one point ahead of Inter Milan in the Italian league after eight games. Maurizio Sarri's side head to promoted Lecce, while Antonio Conte's Inter are at home against Parma. Third-placed Atalanta return to the comforts of home against Udinese licking their wounds after a bruising 5-1 defeat to Manchester City. Carlo Ancelotti's Napoli, one point behind the Bergamo side in fourth and six adrift of Juventus, need a result at relegation-threatened SPAL to keep pace with the leaders. New Genoa coach Thiago Motta's first game in charge of the club where his playing career took off a decade ago will be against Brescia. "In 2008, Genoa changed my situation. Now I really want to coach the squad and change our fortunes," said Motta. Former Italy international Motta's only previous coaching experience is with PSG's U19 team, which he managed until July. — AFP

Live on TV
ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Man City vs Aston Villa	from 5 pm
Brighton vs Everton	from 7.30 pm
Burnley FC vs Chelsea	from 10 pm

All matches on Star Sports

FORMULA ONE

FERRARI SET SIGHTS ON MEXICO POLE

Mexico City, Oct. 25: Across the Formula One paddock, Ferrari is seen as the front-row favorite in the Mexican Grand Prix. The challenge will be turning that into a win while avoiding another drivers' duel. Ferrari has been the team to beat since the summer break with three victories. Its cars have started from the pole position the last five races. The issue isn't whether Ferrari has finally out-muscled Mercedes on the track, but whether the team can manage the relationship between drivers Sebastian Vettel and Charles Leclerc through the stretch run of the season while keeping an eye on 2020. There has been some friction. Leclerc, a 22-year-old rising star, has upset the team balance. He earned his first two career victories at consecutive races in Belgium and Italy and maybe should have more. The two clashed in Russia when Vettel got an early jump into the lead by riding Leclerc's slipstream at the start, as was part of a team strategy. But Vettel then ignored team orders to give back the position. That caused a shuffling of pit stop strategies and Hamilton ended up taking the victory after Vettel had engine failure. Leclerc faced several questions this week about the team dynamic within the Ferrari garage and his relationship with Vettel. "Of course I respect him," Leclerc said. — AFP

KEEP LECLERC, VETTEL IN CHECK: PROST

Mexico City, Oct. 25: Alain Prost has warned Ferrari that they must control their embattled drivers or risk handing another world title double to Mercedes next season. The four-time world champion, who was embroiled in one of Formula One's fiercest in-team rivalries when he and Ayrton Senna were teammates at McLaren in the late 1980s, said Ferrari faced a "complicated situation of management". The Frenchman said he could foresee the battles between four-time champion and team leader Sebastian Vettel and young pretender Charles Leclerc costing them the title and handing it to Mercedes again. "With his experience, Vettel was considered the number one in the team, so it's hard to manage that," he said. "I think it's going to be difficult. I think Ferrari will be strong next year and they will have to deal with the fight between Charles and Sebastian. If the car is good and they are both fighting over the title," he added. — AFP

Chermi takes Mumbai past Blasters with ease

Kochi, Oct. 25: A late goal from Amine Chermi saw Mumbai City FC stun Kerala Blasters FC 1-0 in a closely-fought Hero Indian Super League clash at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium here on Thursday. The teams had several half chances to break the deadlock but lacked an end product for most of the game until Chermi's smart 82nd-minute finish settled the contest. While the result meant Mumbai start their season with a win, it was also their first-ever victory over Kerala Blasters in Kochi. Kerala Blasters struggled to test Amrinder Singh early on while

Mumbai resorted to aerial balls and floating crosses into the box at the other end. A Diego Carlos cross into the box from the right flank in the 10th minute had the home defence under pressure but Mohamed Larbi's weak header fell straight into the hands of goalkeeper Bilal Khan. Mumbai continued to threaten and Carlos outpaced Jessel Carneiro on the right flank again in the 19th minute. This time around, the former FC Pune City player attempted a powerful strike from a tight angle, forcing Bilal Khan to come up with a reflex save at his near post. At the other end, a foul by Souvik Chakrabarti

allowed Sergio Cidoncha to swing a free-kick into the box from the left a few minutes later. Bartholomew Ogbeche got to the end of it at the far post but headed wide from close. The hosts had another chance at the stroke of half-time when Cidoncha whipped another one in from a similar position, but Jairo's powerful header was saved by Amrinder Singh. Mumbai started on the front foot after the change of ends and went close in the 53rd minute. Larbi's cross from the left found Modou Sougou unmarked in the centre of the box but the Senegalese striker's first-time shot flew wide. — PTI

CHENNAI SORE WITH REF FOR RACIST TALK

New Delhi, Oct. 25: Chennai City FC says a Japanese player on the team was racially abused by a Sri Lankan referee during an International Club Cup match against the Bashundhara Kings in Chittagong. The incident occurred in the 23rd minute when Bashundhara Kings Emon Mahmud fouled Charles Anandaraj near the box. Chennai City FC's Katsumi Yusa rushed to the Sri Lankan referee Lakmal Weerakkody and sought a yellow card for Mahmud. "Targeted derogatory and racist remarks are extremely impudent and harmful for the person at the receiving end," the club said on Twitter. — PTI

Saina goes down fighting in French Open quarters

Paris, Oct. 25: A fighting Saina Nehwal was knocked out of the \$700,000 French Open after going down in straight games to Korea's AN se Young in the women's singles quarterfinal here on Friday. The 29-year-old Indian, who had claimed the Indonesia Masters in January this year, lost 20-22, 21-23 to World No.16 Young after a 49-minute thrilling contest. It was her first quarterfinal appearance since making it to the final eight at the Badminton Asia Championship in April this year. Saina had lost in the first round in the last three tournaments at China, Korea and Denmark. Saina fell back early in the opening game with Young opening up a 7-2

● **Playing her first quarterfinal since making it to the last eight at the Badminton Asia Championship, Hyderabad shuttler Saina Nehwal went down in two tough games to Korea's An se Young 20-22, 21-23 in a 49-minute last eight match.** lead. The Indian slowly narrowed the gap to 7-8 and had grabbed a slender 15-12 lead for a brief period at one stage but the Korean soon clawed her way back. Young reached 18-15 but a fighting Saina was the first to grab a game point at 20-

19 but the Korean eventually pocketed the game with three straight points. In the second game, Young again surged to a 5-2 lead before Saina turned the tables, moving to 7-5 but the Korean soon stepped on the gas and jumped to a 16-11 lead. The experienced Saina once again drew parity at 18-18 but Young managed to grab two match points. The Indian then reeled off three straight points to make it 21-20 but once again it was Young who held her nerves to move ahead and shut the door on her fancied rival. Saina, who had reached the final of the French Open in 2012, will next play at the Saarlorlux Open starting October 29. — PTI