

# THE ASIAN AGE

NEW DELHI SUNDAY 27 OCTOBER 2019

TABLOID 19  
Malaika's a pathaka this Diwali



**NATION | Controversy**  
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Ram temple construction will start by Dec. 6, says BJP's Sakshi Maharaj



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Hawaiian heiress Abigail Kawananakoa faces court test to control \$215m trust



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### WINDOWS



Writer and musician Our Lady J. attends the 2019 GLSEN Respect Awards in Beverly Hills, California, on Friday.

### Grenade attack on CRPF convoy in Srinagar, 6 Injured

Srinagar: Six security personnel were injured after terrorists threw a grenade at a CRPF team in Srinagar's Karanagar area on Saturday. The attack occurred while they were inspecting vehicles at a checkpoint. CRPF personnel fired in the air in retaliation. Further information was awaited.

Full report on Page 3

**THE ASIAN AGE**  
wishes its readers **HAPPY DIWALI**

As the offices of this newspaper will be closed today, there will be no edition on Monday

### TN kid falls into borewell, stuck

Chennai: Rescue operations continued on Saturday to pull out a three-year-old boy who fell into an abandoned borewell, even as authorities suffered a setback as child slipped further inside. The child, who fell into the borewell while playing.

Full report on Page 3

### COUNTERPOINT



I got these at throwaway price from a party office that lost polls!

### WEATHER

Max: 32°C  
Min: 18°C  
RH: 43%  
Rainfall: 0%  
Forecast: Sunny

### ASTROGUIDE

**Vikari:** Dakshinayana  
**Tithi:** Ashwayuja Bahula Chaturdasi till 12.24 pm  
**Star:** Chitta till 3.16 am (Monday)  
**Variyam:** 12.58 pm to 2.23 pm  
**Durmuhurtam:** 4.11 pm to 4.57 pm  
**Rahukalam:** 4.30 pm to 6 pm  
SUNSET TODAY 5.40 PM  
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.29 AM  
MOONRISE TOMORROW 6.23 AM  
MOONSET TODAY 5.25 PM

## THE TALE OF TWO THRONES

# No govt till we get in writing CM post will be shared: Sena

AGE CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, OCT. 26

Newly-elected Shiv Sena MLAs on Saturday demanded written assurance from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on sharing the chief minister's post for two-and-a-half years each. The legislators of Uddhav Thackeray-led party also pushed for Aadiya Thackeray as Maharashtra next CM.

Digging its heels in, the party has demanded that the BJP give the written assurance over "equal sharing of power" before any further talks are held on the formation of the next government.

Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray held a meeting with newly-elected party MLAs at his residence, Matoshree, on Saturday where the MLAs reiterated their demand that Aadiya Thackeray be made the chief minister.

"Uddhav Thackeray has taken a tough stand over sharing of power. He has demanded a written assurance from the BJP on the same," said party MLAs. "We want the BJP to give us in writing on how power would be shared. As per earlier discussions, it was decided that chief minister's post for two-and-a-half years each, the later has started preparations for chief minister Devendra Fadnavis' swearing-in ceremony. A senior party leader said on Saturday that Mr Fadnavis is likely to be sworn-in as the chief minister for his second term on November 2 or 3 at Wankhede Stadium.

The senior BJP leader said, "The swearing-in ceremony of the new government is likely to be completed by November 3. Meanwhile, the discussion over sharing of portfolios would be held with

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### WRITING ON THE WALL

The Shiv Sena has said that it has not yet been finalised who will be its CM candidate. However, the party has demanded that the CM's post must be shared for 2.5 years between BJP and Shiv Sena.

On Saturday, a poster appeared outside Matoshree, party chief Uddhav Thackeray's residence, projects Aadiya Thackeray as Maharashtra's next CM.

Uddhavji wants it in writing from the top BJP leadership, be it Amit Shah or Devendra Fadnavis, that BJP will stick to the 50:50 formula and that the CM's seat will be shared equally between the two parties

— Shiv Sena MLA Pratap

### THE 1995 FORMULA

The BJP is considering returning to the 1995 formula when the first Shiv Sena government came to power in Maharashtra.

The Sena had won 73 seats and the BJP 65.

BJP sources said that at that time the BJP was given the deputy CM's post and important portfolios like home.

But there was no 2/12-year split of the chief minister's post.



Uddhav Thackeray held a meeting with party MLAs at his residence, where the MLAs reiterated that Aadiya Thackeray be made CM

# Fadnavis likely to take oath on Nov. 2 or 3 at Wankhede

SONU SHRIVASTAVA MUMBAI, OCT. 26

Even as the Shiv Sena is mounting pressure on the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to share the chief minister's post for two-and-a-half years each, the later has started preparations for chief minister Devendra Fadnavis' swearing-in ceremony.

A senior party leader said on Saturday that Mr Fadnavis is likely to be sworn-in as the chief minister for his second term on November 2 or 3 at Wankhede Stadium.

The senior BJP leader said, "The swearing-in ceremony of the new government is likely to be completed by November 3. Meanwhile, the discussion over sharing of portfolios would be held with

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Shiv Sena president, Uddhav Thackeray." Interestingly, the BJP leader added that the party had earlier planned to hold the swearing ceremony at Mahalakshmi Race Course if it had managed to get a majority on its own.

With the BJP short of 40 seats to form the government on its own, it has to take the Shiv Sena on board. The Amit Shah-led party won 105 seats, while its ally, the Shiv Sena, won 56 seats in the recently-concluded elections.

With the BJP registering a below-par performance, the Sena is reportedly playing hardball and battling for a 50-50 formula (rotational chief ministership and meatier portfolios).

"A team of senior state

BJP leaders, including Sudhir Mungatiwar, Chandrakant Patil, will accompany Amit Shah to meet with the Sena chief after Diwali. However, only Mr Shah will speak with Mr Thackeray," the BJP leader said on the condition of anonymity.

Meanwhile, the BJP has also called for a legislative party meeting at the Vidhan Bhavan on October 30 to elect its leader in the new legislative Assembly.

Mr Fadnavis would be elected the BJP legislative party leader in the meeting before party observers sent by the Delhi leadership.

The BJP leader added that this will be a mere formality since PM Narendra Modi and the

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# Haryana's new govt to be sworn-in today

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, OCT. 26

The Bharatiya Janata Party-Jannayak Janata Party coalition government will take oath on Sunday, a day after BJP president Amit Shah announced his party's alliance in Haryana with the Jat-dominated party. Interim chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar will be sworn-in as the next chief minister of the state, while JJP's Dushyant Chautala will be his deputy.

After facing severe criticism over seeking support of controversial leader Gopal Kanda, the BJP was forced to clarify that it will not take the support of the Haryana Lokhit Party legislator. Mr Kanda is facing two abatement of suicide cases, including that of a former female employee and her mother. A majority section within the BJP's Haryana unit was not in favour of any sort of association with Mr Kanda. Also, former Union minister and party's national vice president Uma Bharti had cautioned the party leadership against taking Mr Kanda's support. "I want to clarify one thing

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Incumbent Haryana chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar being offered sweets by Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad after he was elected as the leader of BJP Legislature party in Chandigarh on Saturday.

# Dushyant's dad granted furlough for two weeks

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, OCT. 26

Immediately after Dushyant Chautala extended support to BJP, not merely he bagged the coveted post of deputy chief minister, Haryana, but his father, Ajay Chautala has been granted furlough for a period of 14 days. He was lodged in Tihar jail after conviction in a teacher recruitment scam along with his father and former

chief minister Om Prakash Chautala. After being expelled from INLD in 2018, Dushyant Chautala along with his father Ajay Chautala founded JJP.

The development comes on a day the BJP staked claim to form the government in Haryana after the JJP offered support to the saffron party.

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# Rahul's silence on Haryana, Maha wins speaks of trouble in Congress

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, OCT. 26

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's silence after the election results in Haryana and Maharashtra were announced has become a topic of hot discussion behind closed doors at the party headquarters. Exceeding all expectations, the Congress did well in the recently-concluded



elections. The electioneering was handled by Congress president Sonia Gandhi's team which ensured that the party comes up with respectable numbers in both the states after the drubbing it got in the Lok Sabha elections

early this year. Interestingly, when Mrs Gandhi took over as the interim chief of the party, the state unit chiefs of both Maharashtra and Haryana were replaced. The leaders who were replaced were chosen by Mr Gandhi and, even though there were several complaints against them, they were neither pulled up nor replaced.

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# Sharif suffers angina pain in hospital

Lahore, Oct. 26: Former Pakistan prime minister Nawaz Sharif on Saturday suffered angina pain while undergoing treatment at a Lahore hospital, according to a media report.

Angina is a type of chest pain caused by reduced blood flow to the heart. Sharif suffered angina pain in the morning while undergoing treatment at the hospital, the Dawn News reported quoting sources.

■ More on Page 10

# Deepotsav in Ayodhya



Devotees light earthen lamps on the bank of Saryu River during Deepotsav celebrations in Ayodhya on Saturday.

# 'Bharat Ratna for Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, Sukhdev'

Tiwari's letter to PM follows BJP's poll promise of giving award to Savarkar

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, OCT. 26

Congress Lok Sabha MP Manish Tewari has urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to accord India's highest civilian award, the Bharat Ratna, to freedom fighters Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev.

In a letter to the Prime Minister, Mr Tewari said Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev inspired an entire generation of patriots by their unrelenting resistance to British imperialism. The letter stated, "If on 26th of January, 2020, all three of them are honoured with the 'Bharat Ratna'... They are formally conferred with the honorific of 'Shaheed-e-Azam'. The Chandigarh airport located in Mohali is named Shaheed-E-Azam Bhagat Singh Airport, Chandigarh (Mohali). This gesture would touch the hearts and souls of 124 crore Indians."

He further added, "I would like to draw your kind attention towards the fact that Shaheed



If on 26th of January, 2020, all three of them are honoured with the 'Bharat Ratna'... This gesture would touch the hearts and souls of 124 crore Indians.

— Manish Tewari

Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev inspired an entire generation of patriots by their unrelenting resistance to British imperialism and later their supreme sacrifice on the 23rd of March, 1931."

Mr Tewari shared his letter on Twitter too.

His letter comes in the wake of the Maharashtra

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# Oct. Uprising rattles Lebanon, Iraq

Baghdad, Oct. 26: Tens of thousands of people, many of them young and unemployed men, thronged public squares and blocked main streets Friday in the capitals of Iraq and Lebanon in unprecedented, spontaneous anti-government revolts in two countries scarred by long conflicts.

Demonstrators in Iraq were beaten back by police firing live ammunition and tear gas, and officials said 30 people were killed in a fresh wave of unrest that has left 179 civilians dead



Protesters ride in Iraqi Army armoured vehicle during a demonstration in Basra late on Friday.

this month. In Lebanon, scuffles between rival political groups broke out at a protest camp, threatening to undermine an otherwise united civil disobedience campaign now in its ninth day. The protests are directed at a postwar political system and a class of elite leaders that have kept both countries from relapsing into civil war but achieved little else. The most common rallying cry from the protesters in Iraq and Lebanon is "Thieves! Thieves!"

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# US lawmakers seek answers, assurances on Kashmir

AGE CORRESPONDENT WITH AGENCY INPUTS NEW DELHI, OCT. 26

Days after the US government sought a roadmap from India on political and economic normalcy in Kashmir and asked the Indian government to immediately release all the political detainees, six US Congressmen have written to the Indian ambassador asking some uncomfortable questions.

In a letter to Indian envoy Harsh Vardhan Shringla, the American lawmakers have said that many of their constituents have portrayed a much different picture in Kashmir compared to what the Indian ambassador had told them on October 16, when he briefed members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

The six US Congressmen — David N Cicilline, Dina Titus, Chrissy Houlahan, Andy Levin, James P McGovern and Susan Wild — have asked the Indian government if 100 per cent landlines have been restored in Jammu and Kashmir or there are any remaining outages. They also asked when

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BJP will not take Gopal Kanda's support in Haryana, Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said on Saturday.



## Ajay Chautala gets 2 weeks' furlough

Convict in teacher recruitment scam, Ajay is scheduled to leave the Tihar today

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, OCT. 26

A day after Dushyant Chautala extended support to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), in addition to bagging the coveted post of deputy chief minister of Haryana, his father, Ajay Chautala, has been granted a furlough for a period of 14 days.

Ajay was lodged in Tihar jail after he was convicted in a teacher recruitment scam along with his father

and former chief minister Om Prakash Chautala. After being expelled from the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) in 2018, Dushyant Chautala along with his father Ajay Chautala founded Jannayak Janata Party (JJP).

The development comes a day after the BJP staked claim to form the government in Haryana after Dushyant's JJP offered support to the saffron party, which fell short of a majority in the Assembly



Ajay Chautala

Friday, to decide on supporting the BJP, will take oath as the deputy chief minister of the Manohar Lal Khattar-led government on Sunday.

Ajay is scheduled to leave the Tihar jail on Sunday. According to a prison official, Ajay has been granted a two-week furlough and it will start from the day he steps out of the jail premises.

In 2013, Ajay, his father and 53 others, including two IAS officers, were convicted for corruption in a

teachers' recruitment scam and other charges.

After being expelled from INLD in 2018, Dushyant along with his father Ajay founded JJP. Haryana governor Satyadeo Narain Arya invited the BJP on Saturday to form the government after the saffron party staked a claim with the support of the JJP.

Chief minister-elect Manohar Lal Khattar said Dushyant would take oath as his deputy and the oath-taking ceremony will take place at 2.15 pm on Sunday.

## Rahul's silence on poll result irks Congress leaders

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, OCT. 26

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's silence after the election results in Haryana and Maharashtra were announced has become a topic of hot discussion behind closed doors at the party headquarters.

Exceeding all expectations, the Congress did well in the recently-concluded elections.

The electioneering was handled by Congress president Sonia Gandhi's team which ensured that the party comes up with respectable numbers in both the states after the drubbing it got in the Lok Sabha elections early this year. Interestingly, when Mrs Gandhi took over as the interim chief of the party, the state unit chiefs of both Maharashtra and Haryana were replaced.

The leaders who were replaced were chosen by Mr Gandhi and, even though there were several complaints against them, they were neither pulled up nor replaced.

The former Haryana state unit chief Ashok Tanwar also held a demonstration outside the residence of Congress president before quitting the party. Mr Tanwar is known to be close to Mr Gandhi. In fact, he was handpicked by Mr Gandhi.

After his removal the Congress' tally in Haryana climbed to 31 from 16, thus ensuring that the party will be able to get a Rajya Sabha seat. The same is the case in Maharashtra.

But the complete silence of Mr Gandhi, who has not tweeted congratulations since the results were declared, has irked

## Shivakumar gets hero's welcome

Bengaluru, Oct. 26: Hundreds of Congress workers and supporters of senior party leader D.K. Shivakumar, who was released on bail from a Delhi prison in a money laundering case, gave him a grand welcome as he landed at the city airport on Saturday afternoon.

The 57-year-old Vokkaliga strong man, who has his own support base in parts of old Mysuru region of Bengaluru Rural, Ramanagara, Mandya and neighboring areas was greeted by supporters with flowers, crackers and a mammoth apple garland upon his arrival.

Shivakumar was brought to KPCC office here from the airport in a procession, as he waved and acknowledged supporters from an open car.

Shivakumar was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate on September 3 in the money laundering case and walked out of the Tihar Jail in New Delhi on Wednesday evening, after the Delhi High Court granted him a bail.

several Congress leaders. One of the leaders, speaking on the condition of anonymity, told this newspaper that "presently we in the Congress are fighting for our political space. The adversary is strong and formidable. Such silence from Rahulji will only lower the morale of the workers and set tongues wagging."

PM Modi's claim on turnout in JK BDC election is preposterous.

— Sitaram Yechury, CPI(M) general secretary

### SHORT TAKES

#### Cong men abused me: BJP leader

Jaipur: A BJP leader and former sarpanch has accused supports of newly elected Mandawa Congress MLA Rita Chaudhary of throwing stones at her house in Jhunjhunu on Thursday night. She gave a complaint to the local police, alleging that six persons threw stones at her house when she was alone. "I was alone when supporters of the Congress MLA pelted my house with stones. They were hurling abuses," former sarpanch Saroj Jhajharia said. The alleged incident occurred after the results of the bypolls in the Mandawa and Khinwsar assembly constituencies were announced.

#### Achuthanandan's condition stable

Thiruvananthapuram: The condition of veteran Communist party leader and former Kerala Chief Minister V.S. Achuthanandan, who was admitted to a hospital here on October 25, is stable, hospital sources said on Saturday. Achuthanandan, who turned 96 on October 20, was admitted to the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute of Medical Sciences and Technology on Friday after he complained of uneasiness. The hospital, in a bulletin, said his brain scans had revealed a small bleed, for which he was being treated.

## 'Ram Temple work will begin by Dec. 6'

Unnao (UP), Oct. 26: Controversial BJP MP Sakshi Maharaj on Saturday claimed that the construction of Ram temple in Ayodhya will start by December 6 following the Supreme Court's judgement.

"The construction of Ram temple will commence before December 6. I want to thank the Supreme Court as it has heard non-stop for 40 days the matter that was pending for 150 years and after seriously hearing both the sides has reserved the judgement," he told newsmen here.

"The manner in which the archaeological department has presented its facts...The Shia Board has given in writing that temple should be constructed there. Similarly, the Sunni Board also spoke in favour of the temple by the time hearing came to an end," the BJP MP said. "To a question, he said, 'I feel that soon we will get the verdict by the Supreme Court and it will be in favour of the Ram temple and its construc-



Sakshi Maharaj

tion will start by December 6."

It was on December 6, 1992, that the disputed Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid structure was demolished by kar sevaks.

Asked about the course of action in case the verdict was not in favour of Ram temple, the saffron-clad Lok Sabha member said, "Main Sakshi hoon agar-magar ka koi sthan nahi hai. Kya Nirnay anewala hai mujhe jankari hai. Isliye main kah raha hoon 6 December se pehle mandir nirman shuru ho jayega. (No ifs and buts, I know what will be the verdict, that is why I am saying temple construction will start by December 6)." — PTI

## Sena should come forward for arrangement: Congress

Senior leader says mandate was against BJP

Mumbai, Oct. 26: With the Shiv Sena playing hardball over power sharing with ally BJP in Maharashtra, state Congress leader Vijay Wadettiwar said on Saturday that the Uddhav Thackeray-led party should come forward for an "alternative arrangement".

The Leader of Opposition in the outgoing Assembly also said that though the mandate for the Congress was to sit in opposition, the party needed to join hands with others to stop the BJP from coming to power.

"The mandate for the Congress is to perform the role of Opposition. But to stop the BJP, we need to come together. Shiv Sena has to come forward. The Sena should come forward for an alternative arrangement as the popular mandate was against the BJP," he said.

Mr Wadettiwar, however, added that the Congress had not initiated any dis-



Vijay Wadettiwar

cussion with the Sena.

The Congress leader's statement came on a day when the Sena demanded a written assurance from the BJP to implement "equal formula for sharing of power" before holding talks for forming the next saffron alliance government in the state.

Newly-elected MLAs of the Sena, who met Uddhav Thackeray at his residence in Mumbai, demanded that his son Aaditya Thackeray, 29, be made chief minister.

In the October 21 elections, the BJP won 105 seats and the Sena 56, while the NCP and Congress bagged 54 and 44 seats, respectively. The

halfway mark in the house is 144.

The verdict was disappointing for the BJP which had set itself the target of securing simple majority on its own. With the BJP's tally well below 144, the Sena has more leverage.

There was talk of the Congress and NCP supporting the Sena to keep the BJP away from power. Senior Congress leaders and former chief ministers Ashok Chavan and Prithviraj Chavan had said the party should consider all options.

But NCP chief Sharad Pawar ruled out any such possibility. Union Minister and senior BJP leader Raosaheb Danve said on Saturday that he was not aware of any equal power sharing deal between the Sena and his party.

"After Diwali, chief minister Devendra Fadnis will discuss government formation with Uddhav Thackeray," he said. — PTI

## YOUR SUPPORT IS CRITICAL

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**Report any suspicious activity in your area.**

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### Speaking out

Kashmir Valley on way to development after Art 370 revocation: Amit Shah

## Lankan spy chief sat on Easter bomb attack intel?

VINEETA PANDEY  
NEW DELHI, OCT.26

Director of Sri Lankan intelligence agency (SIS) sat on inputs that kept coming to him from April 4 onwards — 17 days in advance — with regard to terror bombings that shook the island nation on April 21, 2019, a report of Select Committee of Lankan Parliament (PSC) said. The report also blamed the “bitter fight” between President Maithripala Sirisena and his PM Ranil Wickremesinghe that led to a political crisis last year contributed to the security failures on Easter. The PSC said that fissures between President Sirisena and PM Wickremesinghe contributed to the security crisis on April 21 as the President left out his PM, state minister for Defence and others from key meet-

ings and briefings including the National Security Council (NSC).

It was also found that Nilantha Jayawardane, director SIS of Lanka, had received information about a possible terror attack in the country in which churches, Indian high commission (IHC) and hotels with Indian guests were to be target on April 4 but there were delays on his part in sharing the intelligence which eventually saw about 300 deaths and leftover 400 wounded in terror attack. Eight Indians were among those killed.

This paper on April 22, a day after the attack, had reported that a warning by Indian intelligence was sent to the Lankan authorities on April 7 that National Thowheed Jamaat (NTJ) would target churches in Colombo as well as the IHC and possibly, an Indian owned hotel. However, the

### SRI LANKA FLASHBACK

- APRIL 4 2019** Director, SIS Nilantha Jayawardane receives first intelligence report of a potential attackwarfare
- APRIL 8 2019** Jayawardane shares this information with CNI Sisira Mendis who forwards the letter to IGP
- APRIL 9 2019** At the coordination meeting the secretary of defence wanted to take the latest intelligence report but the Director, SIS, informed of following up with a letter.
- APRIL 11 2019** There are reports in media of the SIS having briefed the President on the

intelligence information receivedwarfare

**APRIL 16 2019** Explosion of a motorcycle at a remote location in Kattankudy

**APRIL 18 2019** Reports of possible activity by associates of Zahran, but there were no specific details, and no warning of an imminent attack

**APRIL 19 2019** SIS informs DMI of the intelligence information. This is the first reported instance where SIS briefs DMI of the intelligence

**APRIL 20 2019** (7.30pm) Director, SIS called IGP and said the

following day would be dangerous and something would happen. IGP conveyed that warning to all relevant Senior DIGs.

**APRIL 21 2019** (6.45 am) Director, SIS receives alert and he conveys to IGP and others that “something dangerous” would happen on that day.

**APRIL 21 2019** (8.00am) Chief, SIS, called the former defence secretary and asked him how many Methodist Churches are in Colombo, saying that attackers are likely to target these churches and not the Catholic ones. Within few minutes bomb explosions start taking place

“CNI was unable to meet the defence secretary on 8th morning as the Indian defence secretary was visiting Sri Lanka,” the PSC said in its findings. On April 9, 2019, the Intelligence Coordinating Meeting (ICM) took place for the first time after the intelligence information was received on April 4.

It was found that on 20th April, the director of SIS again received a Whatsapp message from his source saying: “They (Zahran Hashim of NTJ) are likely to carry out their attack in Sri Lanka at any time on or before 21.04.2019.”

On 21st April morning around 8.27 a.m., the director of SIS received another message saying: “They are likely to operate between 0600 hours and 1000 hours today. For your kind information, Sir...One of their targets is a Methodist Church, Colombo.”



As a Union Territory, Jammu and Kashmir will get equitable benefits after Oct. 31

— Jitendra Singh, Union minister

### SHORT TAKES

#### Drunk doc creates ruckus at rail stn

**Bhubaneswar:** A doctor posted in cancer department of the Balangir district headquarters hospital (DHH) here was seen creating public nuisances in inebriated condition in railway station here late on Friday night. However, police detained the doctor identified as Avinash Mishra. As per reporters, at around 3 AM, the doctor barged into a house in the railway station area in inebriated condition and created a ruckus. Soon after, the family members called up the Town police. A police team reached the spot, detained the doctor and took him to custody for interrogation.

#### Jewellery chain owner booked

**Thane:** The owner of a renowned chain of jewellery shops was booked on Saturday for allegedly cheating customers in Maharashtra's Thane district, police said. Several people who had kept gold with the jeweller apart from participating in its fixed deposit and investment schemes found outlets closed during Diwali when they were expecting disbursement of some of the promised returns, Senior Inspector SP Aaher of Dombivali police station said. No arrests have been made so far and further probe was underway. — PTI

## Teenage loves prove costly for Odisha college student

Abducted and beaten up mercilessly by classmates

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO  
BHUBANESWAR, OCT. 26

Teenage love has proved costly for a college student in Odisha's capital city Bhubaneswar. The victim, a 17-year-old boy studying a city college, was allegedly abducted and bashed up mercilessly by his classmates.

The incident occurred near Deba Ray College under Nayapalli police station in Bhubaneswar.

According to reports, the accused and the victim, who were second-year students of Biju Patnaik College, were in love with the same girl. When it came to fore, the first student had threatened his classmate to stay away

from the girl. Sources said that both had a heated argument a week ago over the girl.

As the second student continuously meet the girl despite repeated warnings, the first one plotted to teach him a lesson.

As per his plan, he along with his associates stopped his classmate when the latter was returning to home from college at around 12.00 pm on Friday.

The victim was forced to sit on a scooter. When he disagreed, his classmate forcefully took him to a shanty near Deba Ray College at knife-point. He was allegedly beaten up over his affair with his girlfriend. He reportedly sustained injuries on his

head and back in the attack. On receiving information from a source, the Nayapalli police reached the spot and rescued him from clutches of the abductors.

Later, the victim was handed over to his family members after registering a case in this connection.

The accused were detained at the police station for interrogation.

“The accused are juvenile. They have been served notices under 41-a of the CrPC which provides for appearing before the investigating officer as and when required and cooperate in the probe process,” Arun Kumar Swain, inspector of Nayapalli police station said.

## Hopes of rescue fades, agencies continue rescue ops TN infant slips deeper into borewell

J. V. SIVA PRASANNA KUMAR  
TIRUCHY, OCT. 26

Hopes of rescue receded as two-year-old Sujith Wilson slipped further to about 100 feet depth into the borewell in his father's corn field at Nadukattupatti village near Manapparai near here even as multiple expert agencies and teams continued efforts to retrieve him for the second day on Saturday.

“Despite our best efforts and the hard work of various organisations, the boy could not be retrieved so far and has in fact slipped further to about 100 feet. He has not been responding to our calls and there is no sign of any movement in him since 5.30 this morning. He did respond with feeble ‘hmm’ noises even at 3.30 am, but has

fallen silent since then. Also, mud has slipped from the walls of the narrow borewell walls and fallen on him”, Health Minister Dr C. Vijaya Baskar said. He has been camping at the mishap site since Friday evening, along with ministerial colleague Vellamandi Natarajan and senior officials to oversee the rescue operations.

After the failure of over six different expert teams coming from various parts of the state and elsewhere, along with their machines and innovative gadgets to rescue the kid, a group comprising the ONGC and NLC experts began work late Saturday night to dig a pit parallel to the borewell pipe and a little deeper than Sujith's position at 100 ft. A volunteer from the state fire service

► The child, who fell into the 600 ft borewell while playing near his house at Nadukattupatti on Friday evening, was initially stuck at a depth of 35 feet but drifted further

has been drafted to don special outfit, including focus light and tunneling equipment, to drill a four-inch diameter tunnel to reach the boy.

“We first thought of digging the pit about one metre from the borewell but decided to do it three metres away to prevent caving in of the soft mud or the vibration if we hit a rock which could harm the kid and the borewell. These experts are experi-

enced in doing such deep tunnels, such as the underground Metro Rail works”, said Minister Vijaya Baskar, adding that he hoped the boy would be reached by the brave fireman in about three hours.

But with Sujith already trapped for over 30 hours and has been slipping deeper into the borewell, the worst is feared. Also, earth had slipped on him and the head is believed to be covered with two inches of mud, officials overseeing the operation told this newspaper. “We are continuing to pump in oxygen but it is unlikely he is getting it as he is buried so deep and there is mud covering him,” said an officer. He said it was possible that the borewell could be much deeper and not covered as being claimed by the kid's father.

**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 Gurburab
From 09.00 PM till 10.00 PM	
From 11.55 PM till 12.30 AM	on Christmas Eve & New Year Eve.
- ▶ 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

**DELHI POLICE SHANTI SEWA NYAYA**

# PRAHARI

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Ratna row

C'garh CM Bhupesh Baghel against conferring Bharat Ratna on Savarkar, says he was 'revolutionary' only till 1911



Instead of boycotting corrupt people, we are honouring them

Santosh Hegde, Congress leader

SHORT TAKES

4 escape from Chhattisgarh jail

Mungeli, Chhattisgarh: Four prisoners, including two facing trials in murder and rape cases, escaped from a jail in Chhattisgarh's Mungeli district by breaking the lock of their barrack and using a rope made of bedsheets to scale the high wall, police said on Saturday.

Coast Guard saves 19 k'taka fishermen

New Delhi: Indian Coast Guard has so far rescued 19 fishermen and escorted more than 2100 fishing boats to safety at various ports in the west coast in the wake of Cyclone Kyarr.

After Nitish, Sushil drives in e-car

Patna: After Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar, his deputy Sushil Kumar Modi on Saturday drove in an electric car to participate in the launch of schemes of the state government's 'Jal-Jeevan-Hariyali' campaign.

'25K MUSLIMS, CHRISTIANS RECONVERTED'

Nagpur: A senior Vishwa Hindu Parishad leader claimed here on Saturday that the right-wing organisation "reconverted" 25,000 Muslims and Christians to Hinduism in 2018.

6 CRPF men hurt in grenade hit

Srinagar, Oct. 26: A head constable of CRPF sustained serious injuries and at least five personnel of the paramilitary force were injured after suspected terrorists lobbed a grenade at the Karan Nagar police station in Srinagar on Saturday.



A security person stands guard outside the Civil Secretariat during Darbar move or shifting of government offices from Srinagar to Jammu at the Civil Secretariat in Srinagar on Saturday.

DG: Killing of J&K truckers an attack on livelihood

Srinagar, Oct. 26: Terming the killing of truckers as an attack on the economy and livelihood of the people, Jammu and Kashmir Police chief Dilbag Singh on Saturday said the investigation into such cases was underway.

'Terror infiltration into J&K in 2018 highest in 5 years'

New Delhi, Oct. 26: Pakistan-based terrorist groups made 328 bids to sneak into Jammu and Kashmir from across the border in 2018 and were successful in 143 of these attempts, the highest in the last five years, according to the Home Ministry's annual report.

The report said 257 terrorists and 91 security personnel were killed in J&K last year, the highest number of casualties in the last 5 years

2018, as per the report. The casualties of both security personnel and the terrorists and the number of terror incidents in 2018 were highest in the last five years in Jammu and Kashmir, it said.

WB: Will continue with \$6bn lending target for India

New Delhi, Oct. 26: World Bank President David Malpass on Saturday said the multi-lateral funding agency will continue with \$6 billion annual lending target for India to support infrastructure development and alleviate poverty.

Modi may spend Diwali with troops

New Delhi/Jammu, Oct. 26: In keeping with his practice of interacting with troops serving in tough areas on Diwali, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to visit a forward area on Sunday, sources said.

With regard to the ease of doing business ranking, Malpass said India has been among top 10 countries in the last three years and it has moved from 140th place to 63rd. India jumped 14 places to the 63rd position on the World Bank's ease of doing business ranking riding high on the government's flagship "Make in India" scheme and other reforms attracting foreign investment.

enforcing contracts (163rd) and registering a property (154th). "Looking forward one area that could be improved ensuring the commercial courts are adequately resourced at district level so that they can deliver judgments faster...Establishment fast track dispute resolution mechanism. Some countries have small claims courts. This helps people enter into contracts when they know that the contract can be enforced," he said.



Border Security Force soldiers light candles during Diwali celebrations near the international border fence in Agartala on Saturday.

Farmers being forced to observe black Diwali: Sonia slams govt over farm crisis

New Delhi, Oct. 26: Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Saturday attacked the BJP-led Central government, saying farmers were being forced to observe "black Deepawali" as the kharif crops were being sold at an average 22.5 per cent below the minimum support price (MSP) and demanded that "double exploitation" of farmers should stop.

She said the way the kharif crops are being sold "below MSP" it will result in ₹50,000 crore loss to farmers and the Rajdharm of the government was to prevent the exploitation of farmers.



Sonia Gandhi

their crops? What is their fault?" she asked. Mrs Gandhi named several kharif crops including pulses, sunflower, sorghum and pearl millet. She said even the farmer who had sown paddy is getting ₹200 per quintal less than the MSP in the "garb of the presence of moisture" in the crop.

during Kkharif 2019-20. "The way crops are being sold at an average 22.5 per cent below MSP, it alone will result in ₹50,000 crore loss to farmers. Who will pay for it?" she asked. The Congress leader also expressed concern over the MSP declared by the government for 2020-21 Rabi crops and said it had been raised by "four to seven per cent" as compared to the previous year.



President Ramnath Kovind interacts with rehabilitated divyang children at Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya National Institute for Persons with Physical Disabilities in New Delhi on Saturday.

Fadnavis' oath Nov. 2?

Continued from Page 1 party president had declared Mr Fadnavis as the BJP's chief ministerial face during the polls. Sources said that the BJP has been holding internal discussions to deter the Sena from being allocated the home, revenue and finance portfolios.

Haryana govt

Continued from Page 1 Arya and staked claim to form the government in the state. Mr Chautala accompanied him. Apart from Mr Prasad, and the BJP's national general secretary Arun Singh also attended the legislative party meet in Chandigarh.

Uprising rattles Lebanon, Iraq

Continued from Page 1 reference to officials they accuse of stealing their money and amassing wealth for decades. The leaderless uprisings are unprecedented in uniting people against political leaders from their own religious communities. But the revolutionary change they are calling for would dismantle power-sharing governments that have largely contained sectarian animosities and force out leaders who are close to Iran and its heavily armed local allies.

Bharat Ratna for Bhagat..

Continued from Page 1 BJP triggering a row earlier this month when it suggested in its election manifesto that Veer Savarkar be conferred the Bharat Ratna. The Congress, which believes that Mahatma Gandhi's assassin Nathuram Godse was influenced by the Hindutva ideologue's philosophy, reacted sharply to the development.

US lawmakers seek answer

Continued from Page 1 mobile networks, including Internet, will be restored. The lawmakers also asked about the number of people detained under the Public Safety Act and other legal provisions since August 5 and asked Mr Shringla for some specific details: "Of those, how many are minors? What is the standard judicial procedure for someone detained under the Public Safety Act?"

Sena's ultimatum to Centre

Continued from Page 1 attend a party meeting. The Congress and NCP leaders have also started making overtures to the Sena, though both the parties do not want to take an initiative in holding talks with the party.

US lawmakers seek answer

Continued from Page 1 mobile networks, including Internet, will be restored. The lawmakers also asked about the number of people detained under the Public Safety Act and other legal provisions since August 5 and asked Mr Shringla for some specific details: "Of those, how many are minors? What is the standard judicial procedure for someone detained under the Public Safety Act?"

US lawmakers seek answer

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FREDERICK THE GREAT

MAX BORN

Diplomacy without armaments is like music without instruments

I am now convinced that theoretical physics is actually philosophy

LETTERS

PILGRIM TAX

The signing of Kartarpur corridor agreement has paved the way for Indian pilgrims to visit the holy site of gurdwara Darbar Sahib without a visa. However, the Indian government has shown concern that the corridor might be used by Pakistan to undermine India's security. But Sikhs have a desire to access the site. The main issue that has been a point of discussion is the insistence of Pakistan to levy \$20 as service charge per pilgrim. India has consistently urged Pakistan to not levy any fee on the pilgrims, but Pakistan has refused to waive the fee. Still, in the interest of the pilgrims, India has agreed to sign the agreement.

Adish Bohra

Via email

SLOW DHANTERAS

All the hopes of Dhanteras bringing a twist to the present market conditions have been washed out. The economic slowdown seems to be in no mood to leave India. According to the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT), this Dhanteras was the most disappointing in 10 years. And still the government seems to not make the economy their topmost priority.

Kavya Shah

Ujjain

BEWARE OF SENNA

Even if the BJP succeeds in getting the Shiv Sena to accept its own terms, the organisation is bound to vent its anger by launching an even more caustic non-stop tirade against the BJP, thereby playing the role of an "effective" Opposition while still enjoying the fruits of power. In that event, the Sena will be seen in a strange situation where it will be criticising the same government of which it is part and parcel. It would, therefore, be better for the BJP to watch the unfolding drama from the sidelines, when the Congress and NCP will pull the strings with the Sena being the puppet.

Arun Malankar

Mumbai

DAYS NUMBERED

The BJP has emerged the single-largest party in both Maharashtra and Haryana but has fallen short of the halfway mark in both states, which is a clear message that the party can't always ride on the emotive issues of nationalism and reap rich dividends forever. The poll results show that the BJP may not be able to last much longer in the coming days. It seems that the eyes of the public are now open.

Seraj Ali

Bengaluru

JUDICIAL INJUSTICES

It is the dream of almost every person who joins judicial service to become a High Court judge one day. A good remuneration is provided to every officer of the subordinate judiciary nowadays. But monetary remuneration is not what motivates them to join judicial service. Even if an officer gets elevated as a High Court judge for only two years it's a big recognition. But the sad reality is that in the past despite there being vacancies sincere and hardworking officers have retired without knowing whether their name was recommended and if recommended why it was rejected. There must be a forum where such issues can be raised.

Krishna Deka

Guwahati

SOUR GRAPES

This refers to the Congress Party's jibe that the JJP will remain the BJP's B Team. There is nothing wrong in branding JJP as the B team of BJP as Dushyant Chautala will after all not be chief minister. On the other hand, did not the Congress play second fiddle to JD(U) in Karnataka, offering the CM's post to them? Having failed to get the support of JJP to form the government in Haryana, the Congress is raging.

N. Mahadevan

Chennai

Every Monday the best letter of the week wins ₹500. Email: letters@asianage.com Else, send to Jawaharlal Nehru National Youth Centre, 219 Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi 110002



Krishna Shastri Devulapalli  
Off the beaten track

No humour please, we're Indians using Facebook

Who doesn't love food. Or who doesn't have clueless friends, for that matter. A well-meaning buddy of mine, not a particularly bright one, though, recently included me on this Facebook group, 'WineDineMine', dedicated to all things food, liquor and, I guess, wine. Only thing, it was meant exclusively for those who live north of the Vindhyas. And I live in a quaint little town called Madras, which is 50km or so north of the historic Chinese city of Mahabalipuram, India's hub for plogging.

Well, anyway, every day, I got into checking out things like "Can you recommend a good place for baba ganoush in Gurgaon?" to "I need a caterer for 50 people asap to serve authentic Indian-Chinese food for Japanese tourists". It was an active, buzzing site. Made my day a bit lighter. And hungrier.

Recently there was this post: "Hi, Friends... wanted master cook who can prepare Mughlai dishes for my restaurant in Patna. Anyone interested, please respond."

Two days later, when I checked out of curiosity, there was not a single response. I felt bad for the gentleman, one Mr A. Gupta, and decided to respond. I had been part of this group for a year and hadn't engaged even once. I thought maybe it was time for me to step up to the plate. (You saw what I did there? I said 'plate' and this is a food-related group. LOL!)

"I am interested," I said.

"Please give details," he said.

Me: What details?

AG: Your bio, etc.

Me: I write non-best-selling books, like R.D. Burman songs and long walks on the beach when the Velankanni festival is over and done with. I have good hair but I dye it. What about you?

AG: Thanks for those details. But could you please tell me about your catering/cooking experience?

Me: Sure. I could do that. I don't want to have any secrets from you.

AG: Okay... er... I'm waiting.

Me: Well, I cater to middlebrow readers. The Bengali and Malu bigwigs of Delhi publishing won't give me time of day. As for cooking, I'm quite good at chopping onions really fine. I do it whenever our cook doesn't turn up.

AG: You own a restaurant?

Me: Why would you think that?

AG: You just said your cook...

Me: I'm talking of Devaki, the lady who makes our grub at home...

AG: Can she cook Mughlai?

Me: No. She is from the deep south. She can make a killer Gobi Manchurian, though.

AG: Which part of Patna are you from?

Me: I'm from Besant Nagar, Chennai. I just told you about the Velankanni festival. ROFL! Why would you think I'm from Patna?

AG: Then why are you talking to me at all? I don't see how any of this has to do with my requirements...

Me: But you said "Anyone interested, please respond".

AG: So you ARE interested?

Me: Of course I am. Why would I respond otherwise? I'm not mad or jobless, you know.

AG: Sorry... I am confused. Are you a Mughlai cook? Or is this Devaki person one? And you don't mind moving here?

Me: Neither. I just told you I'm a writer. And why would Devaki move to Patna? Don't get ideas, okay?

AG: Then why the @#&k are you having this conversation, you moron?

Me: Hey, listen, Mr Gupta. No need to be rude, okay. I was interested. So I contacted you.

AG: Saalaa ... what the @%&k are you interested in? Tell me, man!

Me: I'm interested that you are in Patna and want a Mughlai cook. I want the backstory. What happened to your previous cook? Did you have a previous cook at all? Or is this your first brush with Mughlai? When did you start your business? What are the challenges of making Mughlai food in Patna? Do you think you are better off setting up a Chinese restaurant? Are you lonely? Are you a dog person or a cat person? Who do you think suited Dev Anand better? Kishore Kumar or Rafi? That kind of thing.

AG: Give me your phone number. I'll call and explain in detail, you \$#% ...

Me: Bfn. Someone is at the door.

I tell you, people can be so rude.

Krishna Shastri Devulapalli is a humour writer, novelist, columnist and screenwriter

Editor's Note — On Sundays the *Asian Age* will no longer carry its two editors. Instead, we will carry a regular feature by selected contributors. This will relate to issues of the day, or just slices of life. Hope it enriches your Sunday reading experience.

Exit Nadda, enter Baluni?

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to opt for a Cabinet reshuffle soon. The BJP is set to have J.P. Nadda as its full-time party chief before the year-end. In the process some leaders from the party are set to join the government while there is a possibility of few leaving the government and opting for party work. Mr Nadda, for instance, is himself a Union minister. Anil Baluni, a young Rajya Sabha member and BJP functionary from Uttarakhand, is likely to join the government as he is seen as a challenger to Uttarakhand chief minister Trivendra Singh Rawat.

INC under I-T scanner

The Congress recently survived a major scare. It so happened that income tax department officials reportedly came knocking asking some 24 Akbar Road staffers some

Priyanka to power Udaipur awakening

searching questions regarding financial transactions. While everyone in the party is tightlipped about it, some see the income tax department investigations as "routine" and a part of the ongoing investigation against the chief accountant of the party.

Congress regrouping

Buoyed by good performances in BHaryana and Maharashtra, the Congress leadership is toying with the idea of holding an All India Congress Committee session in Udaipur in Rajasthan. Congress chief Sonia Gandhi has recently constituted a group to sharpen the party's ideological stance on key socio-economic and political issues. Priyanka Gandhi Vadra is part of the panel and reportedly giving out some substantial and



By WAQYANAWIS

practical suggestions. Party insiders say January 2020 may see the

Rajasthan unit of the party hosting the jamboree.

Kanda is in luck!

Forty seems to be a lucky number for Gopal Goyal Kanda, a controversial Independent MLA from Haryana, accused of rape leading to the death of an airhostess. In 2009, Mr Kanda had teamed up with the Congress when the Bhopender Singh Hooda-led Congress had hurriedly merged Haryana Janhit Congress to have another term in office. Mr Kanda was made minister till controversy had him arrested and removed from the ministerial chamber.

Interestingly, the Congress tally in 2009 had come down from 67 seats while the INLD had jumped from nine seats to 31 in 2009. The mandate was

clearly against the Congress, but they still managed to form government with the support of Independents and the Haryana Janhit Congress.

'Protectionist' Pawar

Would Sharad Pawar contemplate a merger of his Nationalist Congress Party with the Congress Party? Apparently, Rahul Gandhi and Mr Pawar are serious about coming together and Sushil Kumar Shinde is working out the details. But there is a catch. Mr Pawar and the NCP are willing to consider a political reunion but are unwilling to transfer assets such as buildings, properties and so on that are carefully guarded by a variety of trusts. This hiccup is leading to a yawning trust deficit...

The writer is a keen observer of the goings-on in backrooms of power

SUNDAY INTERVIEW

# 'The BJP lost the plot as they kept asking for votes in the name of NRC, Article 370'

*The Congress finds itself in a resurgent mode after its performance in the Assembly elections in Maharashtra and Haryana. The Haryana Congress chief KUMARI SELJA speaks with ASHHAR KHAN on the party's performance in the polls.*

**The results are out and the Congress has done much better than expected. Your comments?**

One thing that is evident is that people of Haryana have totally and absolutely rejected the BJP government. It is another matter that in their lust for power they are trying to cling on to it. They tried to get Independent candidates by lifting them forcibly and resorting to every trick. This is horse trading.

**On the performance of the Congress: Are you satisfied or do you think the party could have done much better?**

Obviously, when you come so near you feel that, maybe, we could have done a little better. One thing of course is that we could have achieved much more in terms of seats, but you can see that when the counting was going on the BJP tried every trick in the book to ensure that Congress candidates lost. Regarding recounting of votes, where the margin was very slim, many of our candidates have told us that the BJP tried to intimidate them, misusing their power. The fact is that they are in government, but still they tried to do all that. Obviously, they did not see the writing on the wall.

**Many of your candidates have lost with wafer-thin margins. Do you suspect any foul play?**

I can name several constituencies, including Hathin, and even in Rewari

they tried, but Captain Ajay Yadav and his son and the Congress workers all stood their ground. But in some places, yes, there was some foul play. I also got a call from some of our candidates, then our workers reached there. The BJP has tried this at several places and at some places we have lost with very slim margins. Of course, now we will have to see what we can do about that. But the BJP is so unscrupulous that they will resort to anything.

**Was there any talk of your party joining with the JJP or Independents to keep the BJP out of power in the state?**

Everybody knows the verdict of the people — it is anti-BJP. Otherwise the people of the state would have voted for them conclusively. Just a few months ago, in the Lok Sabha elections, the BJP was leading in 79 of the 90 Assembly segments. Today, they are reduced to 40, which is virtually half. It shows that the people of Haryana did not want them to form the government. Else they would have easily had a simple majority and formed the government. But the people of Haryana thought otherwise, and then let's not forget that the majority of votes are anti-BJP. Whether they were Independents or smaller parties, everybody got votes that were against the BJP. All these parties went against the ideology of the BJP. So the people have voted against the BJP's ideology and its government. It is because of this that the others should have got together and kept the BJP out of power as per the will of the people.

**What were the real issues in this election? Before the polls your party said that the BJP is talking about the abrogation of Article 370 instead of real issues. What went wrong for the BJP?**

**Just a few months ago, in the Lok Sabha elections, the BJP was leading in 79 of the 90 Assembly segments. Today, they are reduced to 40, which is virtually half. It shows people did not want them to form the government.**

The BJP lost the plot as they kept asking for votes in the name of the NRC, the abrogation of Article 370, etc. They did not even touch upon the issues that relate to the people of Haryana, such as huge unemployment amongst the youth — which happens to be the highest in the country. Also, there was rise in crime in the state, the plight of women, farmers' distress, employees were unhappy. And, the poorer sections of the society, for five years they weren't given any ration cards or BPL cards and the government kept telling them to go and register so that you get a house. Now for five years you kept asking poor people to keep registering — for how long? When will these dwellings be delivered? So people actually had no faith in the BJP. The BJP realised this and tried to use diversionary tactics of referring to the NRC and the abrogation of Article 370. They were things that people could not relate to.

**The Congress did not do well in urban centres like Gurugram or Faridabad. Do you think the Congress could not connect in the urban centres?**

I wouldn't say that but there are a host of other factors that were responsible. In some places it could be that there were rebels and the candidates could not campaign



Congress leader Kumari Selja — SONDEEP SHANKAR

well, for example. So there are always many factors that contribute to winning or not winning. It can't be one specific issue.

**There was infighting within the Congress. Some rebel candidates were put up. Did this impact the party?**

The former state unit chief Ashok Tanwar was already out of the Congress. He had already resigned. We in the Congress put up a united front and everybody went into the polls in the right spirit.

**Your former state unit chief Ashok Tanwar accused you all of selling tickets and protested outside the residence of the Congress president. Do you think all that diminished the party's chances?**

All this was uncalled for. A process is always in place in

the Congress in every election. That is the way ticket distribution is done in our party. So that kind of demonstration outside the residence of Sonia Gandhi's house was completely uncalled for. But then, ultimately, Congress workers went into the field and fought the elections extremely well.

**What's next for the party in Haryana? It seems that the BJP will form a government in the state.**

It's extremely unethical and immoral the way BJP is going about in terms of government formation. The way they are lifting MLAs — on one hand, they preach about high moral ground and then on the other hand, even without getting a clear mandate, they say it's a historic win. What is so historic about this win? The fact is that people did not vote for you, people did not want you to form the government. Yet

you are going ahead, and that too with horse trading to form the government. This is nothing but lust for power. We say that like-minded people and MLAs should come together. Else we will play the role of a constructive Opposition. While we are constructive as far as the development of the state is concerned, we will never ever fail on any forum, whether it is getting down to the streets or the Vidhan Sabha. We will never fail in raising issues that matter to the people of Haryana. The Congress on one hand wants overall development of the state but if we find that the government is not doing its job we will raise our voice.

**The Congress also objected to Gopal Kanda, who is an accused in a criminal case and intends to give support to the BJP. What is your take?**

The BJP has double standards. Earlier, he was untouchable for them but now that he got elected, they are wooing him. It is a typical characteristic of the BJP. They preach one thing and practice something completely opposite to that.

**The results in Haryana and Maharashtra have brought cheer to the Congress after the drubbing it got in the Lok Sabha elections. Your comments?**

Definitely it has bolstered the Congress and the Opposition. It has brought immense joy to the cadres, especially the fact that the party is fighting back and raising issues. That is resonating with the people. There is now faith returning to the people that the Congress is a solid alternative. We always try and do our best in elections and it's always satisfying when the results are good.



**CALL FOR SEPARATE ARUNACHAL CADRE**

Arunachal Pradesh chief minister Pema Khandu has made a strong pitch for separate IAS, IPS and IFS cadres for better development of the state. It's not just the CM, but apparently, the state BJP too favours separate cadres for bureaucrats in the state. Compounded by the fact that many IAS officers are reluctant to serve in the Northeast, the chief minister's concern about the quality of administration requires attention.

Mr Khandu's main gripe is that officials sent from Delhi to serve in Arunachal Pradesh come for a short duration. By the time they come to grips with the system, they are transferred, causing a drain of knowledge and slowing down the working of the state administration. A separate state civil service cadre, they believe, at the top, would create a sense of ownership and responsibility and make the administration more responsive to the needs of the state.

It's not clear whether the Centre will be receptive to the chief minister's demand. Yet, in the recent months, there have been attempts by the government to liberalise service rules to make the Northeast more attractive to UT cadre officials who get posted to Arunachal Pradesh and other Northeastern states.

**WEEDING OUT THE CORRUPT**

In June and then in August, the Modi sarkar compulsorily retired 64 tax officials, including commissioner-rank officials, on various charges, including corruption. But the Centre's drive against corruption in badudom is not limited to tax officials, as reported in this column earlier. The government is believed to be examining and reviewing the annual confidential reports of all employees, particularly those facing criminal or corruption charges.

Sources say that the Centre has directed all cadre-controlling authorities to establish a procedure to identify such officials and compulsorily retire them. The states too have been asked to prepare lists of officials facing serious charges. Similarly, the ministry of personnel, which controls the IAS cadre, is believed to be preparing a list of "tainted" babus for their removal from service, in a phased manner. The central investigative agencies such as the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), National Investigation Agency (NIA) and Enforcement Directorate (ED) are reportedly identifying corrupt officials for action against them.

The Centre's determined war against corruption has sent jitters down the babu corridors but will win kudos from the public if the deadwood is indeed weeded out of the system.

**A NOBEL CONNECTION**

As the nation celebrates the announcement of this year's Nobel Prize for Economics to Abhijit Banerjee as one of the three recipients, senior IPS officer Neena Singh is being feted for authoring two research papers with the Nobel Laureate.

Neena Singh is a 1989-batch IPS officer of the Rajasthan cadre. Her joint work with the Nobel Laureates Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo is titled "The Efficient Deployment of Police Resources: Theory and New Evidence from a Randomised Drunk Driving Crackdown in India" was published last month. It calls for the dispersed model of police deployment rather than the intense "hot spot" model. It advocates that rotating police checkpoints reduces night accidents by 17 per cent and night deaths by 25 per cent. Fixed checkpoints have no significant effect, the paper says.

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By arrangement with Dawn

# Patriotic Trump: To impeach or not?



Aakar Patel

Samuel Johnson, who compiled the English dictionary, once said: "Patriotism is the last refuge of the scoundrel." Meaning that any crime and any misbehaviour was tolerated as long as it was committed by one who kept shouting that he loved his country. And on the other hand, the individual who questioned the behaviour of the country or government was a traitor, no matter how noble the person was. In our time and in our country this is true also. I will come to that later, but first let us look at what is happening in the United States. President Donald Trump is about to be impeached by the House of Representatives. The US Senate will then decide whether to acquit or convict him.

Presidents are immune from crimes committed while they are in office but they can be removed through the process of impeach-

ment. Bill Clinton was impeached by a Republican majority House but acquitted by the Senate a couple of decades ago, and such things are determined more by party politics than by actual guilt. Mr Trump has been accused since being elected of being in collusion with Vladimir Putin. It is indisputable now that Russia has maliciously interfered with, influenced and obstructed the democratic process in America. Using the social media and fake news, it helped ensure that Hillary Clinton lost the 2016 election and Mr Trump won. Both the CIA and the FBI under Mr Trump have said this.

Following the various revelations, it was decided to set up an independent investigation under the former FBI director Robert Mueller to look at Russian interference. After the Mueller report, a number of Trump associates were convicted for wrongdoing. The list included Michael Flynn, Mr Trump's national security adviser, who was jailed for lying to the FBI. Rick Gates, Mr Trump's deputy campaign manager, who was guilty of conspiracy against the United States and making false statements to FBI agents. George Papadopoulos, a Trump foreign policy adviser, was jailed for making false statements to the FBI about his contacts with Russians

**The newspapers which tend to be more fact-based, Trump has declared war against. This week, Trump ordered the banning of the New York Times and the Washington Post from all federal offices. This is the level of pettiness one descends to through bogus nationalism.**

during the campaign. Michael Cohen, Mr Trump's lawyer and fixer, pleaded guilty to lying to Congress about the 2016 presidential campaign. Paul Manafort, Mr Trump's campaign chairman, who pleaded guilty to conspiracy against the US and conspiracy to obstruct justice, is also in jail.

Mr Trump's son and son-in-law have been in meetings with Russian operatives. Some of the Russians in the meetings have also been convicted of spying, showing this was endemic. But the illegal activity does not end there. Mr Trump has used campaign money to pay off women that he had slept with, and that is illegal. Now it has become clear that he was blackmailing Ukraine to taking action against his rival Joe

Biden by withholding a military aid package passed by the US Congress. In every way, he has undermined the democratic process and acted against the interests of his nation.

But through all of this drama, it is Mr Trump who is pretending to be the nationalist and the patriot. It is his slogan that says "Make America Great Again", though he is clearly acting against his nation's interests. After whistleblowers in his administration alerted Congress to the Ukraine call, Mr Trump turned around and accused them of acting against the nation's interests. He calls them the "deep state", alleging that they want to take control and undermine democracy. The facts are clear about who is doing the illegal activity, but the facts do not seem to stop the side backing Mr Trump from saying that it is they who are acting against the anti-nationals. They use the hatred of immigrants and Muslims as the primary weapon to mobilise their base and any illegal action that they take is forgiven because they take this extreme position.

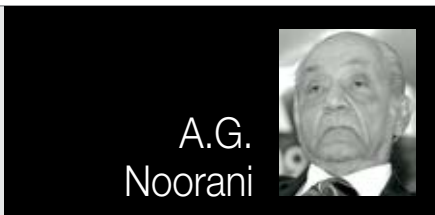
Because Mr Trump is still popular with certain parts of American society, especially white working class men and women, his party is doing the cowardly thing. Most of them are either running away or enabling

and defending his behaviour. There should be no defence against the false patriot who peddles slogans.

This is a cautionary tale. It is what happens to countries where the mad and rabid narrative of nationalism takes over, as it has also done in India. The facts have become unimportant and useless. What is important is the constant shouting of patriotism, even as one undermines the interests of the people. And the abusing of rivals as being traitors. Just like in India, the media is also a participant. Mr Trump has strong backing through all of his wrongdoing from particular news channels. The newspapers which tend to be more fact-based, he has declared war against. This week, Mr Trump ordered the banning of the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post* from all federal offices. This is the level of pettiness one descends to through the defence of bogus nationalism.

It has become an acceptable substitute for actual patriotism, which means a love of the people and not a hatred of something. And it is very difficult to remove from the system once it is inserted, as America is finding out.

Aakar Patel is a writer, columnist and executive director of Amnesty International (India)



A.G. Noorani

# The Uncle Toms among Indian Muslims over Kashmir

The issue of the silence of the Muslims of India on the travails of Kashmiri Muslims has been simmering ever since the Instrument of Accession of October 26, 1947. The Narendra Modi government's assault on the very existence of Kashmir's autonomy on August 5 has brought the issue to the fore. Silence in the crime is not only inexplicable but condemnable.

Reputed Kashmiri journalist Yusuf Jameel reported: "Kashmiri Muslims acknowledge the constraints on Indian Muslim leaders and that in the current political environs the latter have to watch their statements and actions, particularly in Kashmir. They can't afford to go against the tide. They also realise that Indian Muslims are as responsible Indians as any other and, therefore, should not be expected to deviate from the national position on Kashmir."

He noticed the empathy of Indian Muslims but is concerned about the silence and worse of some of them. The time has come to trace this atti-

tude to its roots. They go back to January 6, 1948, when India's deputy prime minister Vallabhbhai Patel addressed a meeting shortly after his colleague Maulana Abul Kalam Azad had addressed the Indian Union Muslim Conference on December 28, 1947, both in Lucknow. Patel said: "I want to ask the Indian Muslims only one question. In the recent All-India Muslim Conference why did you not open your mouth on the Kashmir issue? Why did you not condemn the action of Pakistan? These things create doubt in the minds of the people."

Nehru did not emulate Patel's McCarthyite test of loyalty. But as events picked up, he became increasingly intolerant of dissent on his foreign policies, particularly on Kashmir. He had his friend Mridula Sarabhai thrown out of the Constitution Club because she disagreed with his Kashmir policy. She supported Sheikh Abdullah till her last breath.

The Nawab of Chhatari referred to the special stakes of Kashmir's

Muslim majority to Indian Muslims: "They feel that the progress and prosperity of Kashmir is a visible symbol of secular democracy..."

This echoed the new line Nehru propounded — Kashmir's continuance in the Indian Union was necessary to protect India's secularism and Indian Muslims. This hostage theory was propagated belatedly. Why then was plebiscite espoused by Nehru from 1947 to 1953? The publications division of the external affairs ministry published a brochure on Indian Muslims on Kashmir. It was distributed all over the place like a wedding invitation card. This disgraceful play worked. Muslims withdrew into a shell whenever the word Kashmir was uttered.

Soon this intolerance was extended to espousal of redress for the mounting grievances of Muslims; or education, employment, even basic physical safety, and police outrages. Muslims of riot-torn Sambaipur met, not to demand protection, but to send a telegram to

the UN Security Council to claim to its members that "Kashmir's accession to India is irrevocable". Muslims who met to voice their grievances were communalists; if they met to support India's case on Kashmir, they were nationalists.

It saw the rise and financial prosperity of Uncle Toms among Muslims. In 2019, this craven policy must end. First, Muslims of India must provide help and succour to the Kashmiris; especially the students who face hardships. Next, they must voice their views freely. In 1947, both Jinnah and Nehru said that the future of minorities depended on the state of relations between Pakistan and India. Muslims should urge a settlement of the Kashmir problem and thus improvement in Pakistan-India relations. Finally, they must voice their support, in company with hosts of civil libertarians, against human rights violations in Kashmir.



## Dementia risk

Eating lots of trans fats found in fried food, cakes and biscuits 'could put you at greater risk of getting dementia'

### IN BRIEF



## Asteroid caused extinction during last ice-age

**Washington:** Researchers have found further evidence supporting the theory that an extraterrestrial body such as an asteroid or a comet may have crashed into the Earth almost 13,000 years ago, and caused the extinction of many large animals, and a likely decline in early human population. The study, published in the journal *Scientific Reports*, noted that an asteroid or a comet hit the Earth, or blew up in the atmosphere 12,800 years ago, causing a period of extreme cooling that may have led to the extinction of more than 35 species including giant sloths, sabre-tooth cats, and mammoths in what is called the Younger Dryas climate event. The researchers, including those from the University of South Carolina (UofSC) in the US, found further evidence of a cosmic impact based on research done at White Pond near Elgin in the US. The new study adds to the discovery of platinum spikes — an element associated with cosmic objects like asteroids or comets — in multiple places across the world, including North America, Europe, western Asia, and recently in Chile and South Africa. "First, we thought it was a North American event, and then there was evidence in Europe and elsewhere that it was a Northern Hemisphere event. And now with the research in Chile and South Africa, it looks like it was probably a global event," said study co-author Christopher Moore from UofSC. Archeologists continue to find evidence of an asteroid or comet impact pertaining to this time period, the study noted. "There have been numerous papers that have come out in the past couple of years with similar data from other sites". — PTI



## Researchers discover blindness gene

**Washington:** Researchers have found a promising way to develop gene and cell therapies, capable of treating blindness-causing syndrome. A genetic mutation that leads to a rare, but devastating blindness-causing syndrome has been discovered in monkeys for the first time. The finding offers a promising way to develop gene and cell therapies that could treat the condition in people. Three species of monkeys (rhesus macaques) with a mutated gene that's associated with Bardet-Biedl Syndrome have been discovered, according to a study published in the journal *Experimental Eye Research*. It is the first known naturally occurring nonhuman primate model of the syndrome, which is also called BBS. BBS leads to vision loss, kidney dysfunction, extra fingers or toes, and other symptoms. It occurs in 1 of 140,000 to 160,000 North American births. "There is no cure for Bardet-Biedl Syndrome today, but having a naturally occurring animal model for the condition could help us find one in the future," said the paper's corresponding author, Martha Neuringer, Ph.D., a professor of neuroscience at the Oregon National Primate Research Center at Oregon Health & Science University. He is also a research associate professor of ophthalmology in the OHSU School of Medicine and OHSU Casey Eye Institute. The discovery is timely, as gene therapy is already a reality. — ANI

# Parents influence 'bonding hormone'

Maternal involvement during play sessions may boost oxytocin system in children

**Washington, Oct. 26:** The behaviour of parents may influence their children's developing system of oxytocin — a hormone involved in social interaction and bonding in mammals — according to a study that highlights the importance of parenting in infant health. The researchers, including those from the Max Planck Institute for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences in Germany, observed a free play interaction between 101 mothers and their five-month-old children. They collected saliva samples from both the mother and the infant, and then a year later, when the child was 18 months old to quantify the oxytocin levels. The study, published in the journal *Science Advances*, noted that greater involvement by mothers during the play interaction may have the potential to upregulate the oxytocin system in their kids. The hormone oxytocin is actively involved in early social, perceptual, and cognitive processes, and it influences complex social behaviours, the study noted.

## Kin's key role in saving kids from being bullied

**Washington, Oct. 26:** Children who have faced childhood trauma known as adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are more likely to be bullied by others but their families can help in reducing the risk, says a recent study. The new research was presented at the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) 2019 National Conference & Exhibition. "Bullying is a widespread problem, especially among children experiencing other forms of trauma," said the abstract's presenting author and principal investigator Elizabeth Li, a researcher in the Department of Pediatrics at Steven & Alexandra Cohen Children's Medical Center of New York. "It can lead to mental health problems later on, affecting those who are bullied, those who do the bullying, and those witnessing it," added principal investigator Elizabeth Li. — ANI

## 'Kids must be at least 12 before they're left alone'

**Washington, Oct. 26:** Children should be at least twelve years old before they are left home alone for four hours or longer, most social workers believe. Scientists asked for the opinions of 500 workers in the US — and found half thought it should be illegal for a 12-year-old to be on their own for long periods. Researchers called for laws to specify the age at which a child should be left home alone in order to clarify boundaries. The University of Iowa team said it would help social workers spot cases of neglect and protect children from potential harm. Children should be at least 12 years old before they are left home alone for four hours or longer, most social workers from the US believe in a survey. — Agencies

## Potatoes boost athlete's performance

**New Delhi, Oct. 26:** A new research reveals that consuming potato puree instead of commercial carbohydrate gel gives the same result to athletes for sustaining blood glucose levels during long workout sessions. Nicholas Burd, professor of kinesiology and community health at the University of Illinois, US, said: "Our study's aim was to expand and diversify race-fuelling options for athletes and offset flavour fatigue." "Potatoes are a promising alternative for athletes because they represent a cost-effective, nutrient-dense and whole-food source of carbohydrates," added Burd, who led the study. "Furthermore, they serve as a savoury race fuel option when compared with the high sweetness of (carbohydrate) gels," said Burd in the study. — ANI



The scientists recruited 12 participants, who were healthy and devoted to their sport, averaging 165 miles (267 kilometres) per week on their bicycles. All had been training for years. To qualify for the trials, the cyclists had to reach a specific threshold for aerobic fitness and complete a 120-minute cycling challenge followed by a time trial. — ANI

# Exercise helps heart failure patients

Exercise helps heart failure patients

**Washington, Oct. 26:** A new study has found that exercise results in improved health of blood vessels in heart, even for those who had experienced heart failure. The research from the University of Missouri has found exercise can improve the health of blood vessels in those who experienced heart failure. The finding is based on a study looking at swines, which have very similar blood vessels and heart muscles as humans. Craig Emter, associate professor in the College of Veterinary Medicine, studied three different groups of swine with heart failure: one group was inactive; a second group exercised using intervals with a higher level of intensity for short periods of time. — ANI

## RESEARCHERS MAY DEVELOP QUAKE FORECAST SYSTEM

**Washington:** A recent discovery by researchers can help them develop short-term earthquake forecast so that people can be evacuated from the seismic impact zone quickly. An international team of researchers, which includes physicists from HSE University and the RAS Space Research Institute (IKI), have discovered that with an impending earthquake, the parameters of internal gravity waves (IGWs) can change five days before a seismic event. This data can help experts develop short-term earthquake forecast methods. The results of the study have been published in the journal — *Doklady Earth Sciences*. Today, scientists can predict seismic disasters ranging from tens of years to months. However, it is still impossible to determine the precise timing of the event. More accurate and reliable short-term forecasts are necessary so that people can be evacuated from the seismic impact zone. To do this, the researchers record various anomalies and manifestations of geophysical processes in seismically active regions. The list of precursors is constantly updated. — ANI



## NEW FRENCH RULES TO RESTORE 'TRAFFIC TRANQUILITY'

**Paris:** France is bringing in new rules for the use of electric scooters following hundreds of incidents involving the vehicles, including several deaths. Riders will be required to be at least 12 and will not be able to ride their scooter on the pavement. The two-wheeled vehicles' top speed will also be capped by next year. E-scooters, which can travel at more than 50km/h (30mph), are growing in popularity, in part because of their low environmental impact. Junior transport minister Jean-Baptiste Djebbari said in a statement the new rules would encourage "more responsible use... and restore a sense of tranquillity for pedestrians, in particular the most vulnerable: the elderly, children and handicapped people". Other rules coming into force include: Riding on the pavement will be prohibited unless in designated areas, and then at walking speed only. Only one rider will be allowed per device, and no mobile phone use will be allowed. Users cannot go against the traffic flow and must use cycle paths where available. Riders will not be allowed to wear headphones while on their scooter. — Agencies



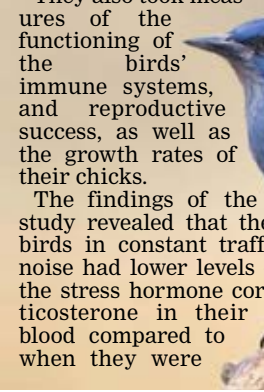
# PLANTS CAN REMAIN GREEN THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

**Washington, Oct. 26:** A new chemical may help plants to hold onto water and prevent crop loss during drought, says a recent study. "Drought is the No. 1 cause, closely tied with flooding, of annual crop failures worldwide," said Sean Cutler, a plant cell biology professor at UC Riverside, who led the research. "This chemical is an exciting new tool that could help farmers better manage crop performance when water levels are low." Details of the team's work on the newer, more effective anti-water-loss chemical are described in a paper published in *Science*. This chemical, Opabactin, is also known as "OP", which is gamer slang for "overpowered", referring to the best character or weapon in a game. "The name is also a shoutout to my 10-year-old at home," Cutler said. An earlier version of OP developed by Cutler's team in 2013, called Quinabactin, was the first of its kind. It mimics abscisic acid, or ABA, the natural hormone produced by plants in response to drought stress. ABA slows a plant's growth, so it doesn't consume more water than is available and doesn't wilt. "Scientists have known that spraying plants with ABA can improve their drought tolerance," Cutler said. "However, it is too unstable and expensive to be useful to most farmers." — ANI

**London, Oct. 26:** Birds may undergo a change in physiology and reproductive health when living in environments with constant vehicular traffic noise, compared to when they are breeding in a quiet habitat, according to a study which shows light on how disturbances in urban landscapes affects birds. The study, published in the journal *Conservation Biology*, noted that the chicks of noise-exposed birds were smaller than the young ones from quiet nests. The researchers, including those from The Max Planck Society for the Advancement of Science in Germany (MPG), studied the effect of traffic noise on stress hormone levels, health, and reproductive success in breeding zebra finches — birds native to the arid areas of Central Australia. They observed a total of 88 birds split into two groups bred in both noise and no-noise conditions. The noise groups, were exposed to traffic noise recorded at several busy intersections in and around the city of Munich in Germany during the whole breeding period. The study noted that the traffic noise used by the researchers varied throughout the day, with the sounds of heavier traffic during the day, and lighter traffic during the night. After the first breeding period, the researchers said that the noise conditions changed for both groups, and the same bird pairs bred again. The research team recorded the level of stress hormones before, during, and after the breeding period. They also took measures of the functioning of the birds' immune systems, and reproductive success, as well as the growth rates of their chicks. The findings of the study revealed that the birds in constant traffic noise had lower levels of the stress hormone corticosterone in their blood compared to when they were breeding in a quiet environment. The researchers said that this was surprising since stress often resulted in higher levels of the hormone. "In the birds breeding in quiet environments, their baseline corticosterone remained low throughout the breeding season," said Sue Anne Zollinger, lead author of the study from MPG. According to the researchers, the low level of the hormone found in the birds may have been a natural defence mechanism to ensure that chronically increased corticosterone levels did not affect their immune systems. "This suggests that the birds didn't habituate to, or get used to the noise, since their hormone levels did not track the normal ups and downs that occur during the normal breeding cycle in non-noise exposed birds. Instead the suppression of corticosterone levels may be a way to protect from the negative consequences of chronically elevated stress on the immune system," said Zollinger. — PTI

# Traffic noise affects bird physiology, reproductive health

**London, Oct. 26:** Birds may undergo a change in physiology and reproductive health when living in environments with constant vehicular traffic noise, compared to when they are breeding in a quiet habitat, according to a study which shows light on how disturbances in urban landscapes affects birds. The study, published in the journal *Conservation Biology*, noted that the chicks of noise-exposed birds were smaller than the young ones from quiet nests. The researchers, including those from The Max Planck Society for the Advancement of Science in Germany (MPG), studied the effect of traffic noise on stress hormone levels, health, and reproductive success in breeding zebra finches — birds native to the arid areas of Central Australia. They observed a total of 88 birds split into two groups bred in both noise and no-noise conditions. The noise groups, were exposed to traffic noise recorded at several busy intersections in and around the city of Munich in Germany during the whole breeding period. The study noted that the traffic noise used by the researchers varied throughout the day, with the sounds of heavier traffic during the day, and lighter traffic during the night. After the first breeding period, the researchers said that the noise conditions changed for both groups, and the same bird pairs bred again. The research team recorded the level of stress hormones before, during, and after the breeding period. They also took measures of the functioning of the birds' immune systems, and reproductive success, as well as the growth rates of their chicks. The findings of the study revealed that the birds in constant traffic noise had lower levels of the stress hormone corticosterone in their blood compared to when they were breeding in a quiet environment. The researchers said that this was surprising since stress often resulted in higher levels of the hormone. "In the birds breeding in quiet environments, their baseline corticosterone remained low throughout the breeding season," said Sue Anne Zollinger, lead author of the study from MPG. According to the researchers, the low level of the hormone found in the birds may have been a natural defence mechanism to ensure that chronically increased corticosterone levels did not affect their immune systems. "This suggests that the birds didn't habituate to, or get used to the noise, since their hormone levels did not track the normal ups and downs that occur during the normal breeding cycle in non-noise exposed birds. Instead the suppression of corticosterone levels may be a way to protect from the negative consequences of chronically elevated stress on the immune system," said Zollinger. — PTI



# Healthy ways to control diabetes Type 2

Diabetes is an expensive disease not only in terms of medication, but the amount of damage and disability that it brings along. Generally people feel that they can control this disease with a pill or two, but they fail to realise the damage diabetes causes to their kidneys, eyes, heart, arteries, nerves and other organs of the body. Diabetes does not come overnight, it takes time to develop. Our body gives us signs to recognise it, but we tend to ignore them.



Taranjeet Kaur  
Risk factors

Let's understand how it actually happens. Insulin, a hormone produced by the pancreas, helps the body use glucose for energy. Due to some genetic and lifestyle risk factors, our body develops insulin resistance due to which it cannot use the produced insulin efficiently. When muscles, fat and liver cells do not respond properly to insulin, the pancreas tries to keep up with the demand by producing more insulin, but eventually it cannot. Excess glucose builds up in the blood, setting the stage for pre-diabetes or diabetes. The most common way to recognise the insulin resistance risk is to measure your waist circumference. For Indians, a waistline of 35.5 inches or more for men and 31.5 inches or more for women places us at a risk of developing insulin resistance. Besides, if we have any of the following three, we are at a risk of insulin resistance:

- A way to recognise insulin resistance is to measure waist
- A waistline of 35.5 inches or more for men and 31.5 inches or more for women leads to insulin resistance

1. High triglyceride (more than 150mg/dl)
  2. Low HDL cholesterol (less than 50 mg/dl in women & 40 mg/dl in men)
  3. High blood pressure (more than 130/85 mg/dl or on medication for hypertension)
  4. Fasting blood sugar more than 100mg/dl. Let's understand how to reverse insulin resistance and prevent ourselves from getting diabetes as most of it is related to lifestyle.
    1. EAT THREE MEALS A DAY: Have three balanced meals with a gap of 5 hours between breakfast & lunch and then lunch & dinner.
    2. DRINK WATER: Make sure to drink adequate water and try to avoid sugary and artificially sweetened drinks.
    3. AVOID PROCESSED FOODS: Most packaged foods contain refined flours and high sugars, which may lead to insulin resistance.
    4. LIMIT ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION: High intake of alcohol can lead to weight gain and may increase the blood pressure and triglyceride values, setting the stage for insulin resistance.
    5. QUIT SMOKING: Smoking doubles the risk of getting diabetes compared to non-smokers.
    6. EXERCISE: Regular physical activity helps manage blood sugar levels.
    7. Sleep well: Late nights, regular sleep deprivation and disturbed sleep increase the risk of insulin resistance, diabetes and obesity.
    8. BE STRESS FREE: Deep breathing, yoga, gardening, exercise, meditation etc have helped lower stress levels.
- The writer is Metabolic Balance® coach & head nutritionist, AktivHealth

# Bamboo tapping helps in warding off body pain

**London, Oct. 26:** There is good news for people suffering from body pain. Bamboo tapping, an ancient Chinese therapy has in recent times become an extremely popular technique to relieve pain. "Tapping with bamboo is an ancient Chinese therapy called Pai Sha. Forms of tapping such as EFT have become extremely popular over the last few years — and these have their roots in this Chinese technique," said Katie Brindle, a Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) practitioner and founder of the Hayo'u Method—an online body shop that suggests Chinese medicines for beauty and health care. Bamboo tapping involves using a tightly bound bundle of thin rods of bamboo that resembles the end of a narrow old-fashioned broom, to tap areas of the body. Brindle was quoted as saying that bamboo has historically been used for its flexibility and in Chinese medicine, it is considered cooling and calming. Tapping can help to boost blood circulation and "qi" or "chi" (translated as live force or energy), which can become disrupted or stagnant due to factors like living a more sedentary lifestyle. — ANI

## More pain on humid days

People with long-term health problems such as arthritis are more likely to feel pain on humid days, a study has suggested. Folklore suggests the cold makes pain worse, but there is little research into the weather's effects. And this University of Manchester study found symptoms were actually worse on warmer, damper days. — Agencies





French writer Louis-Ferdinand Céline, largely remembered for his 'misanthropic' *Journey to the End of the Night*, was decorated for bravery in the First World War. He wrote anti-Semitic pamphlets in the run-up to WWII and was jailed for collaborationist sympathies.

# A millennial's perspective on annihilating caste



Anand Teltumbde review

Suraj Yengde's *Caste Matters* is a remarkable book providing a millennial perspective and compelling proof for the continued prevalence of casteism in modern India. It has by now received raving reviews, and also a few brickbats, the latter, paradoxically, from his own brethren. Seven students of Jawaharlal Nehru University accused Yengde to be opposed to Ambedkarism. It is not the content of their accusation, which may be easily trashed by any reasonable reader, that matters but the very fact that it comes from a collective of the millennial dalits, indicating the hopeless disorientation of the dalits at a time when they face the worst crisis in modern times.

Autobiographical accounts of dalit lives generally evoke prurient interest among non-dalit readers. From the earliest autobiography, *Baluta*, by Daya Pawar, to *Juthan* by Omprakash Walmiki to the recent one, *Interrogating My Chandal Life* by Manoranjan Byapari, an important addition to the galaxy of dalit writers from the unlikely state of West Bengal, the story has been much the same. The vivid description of abject poverty, squalid surroundings and the uninhibited lives of the subjects make captivating reading for the non-dalits and to most dalits it reminds of their own past. *Caste Matters* is not exactly an autobiography but it might be mistaken as one as it launches itself from the very personal memoir of the author in the introduction. The scathing exposure of pervasiveness of caste is what makes the book stand out. Yengde describes it as "an ethnography of the sociality of caste in the

**Yengde notices the rise of a certain 'Ambedkargodism' among dalits: 'Ambedkar has become a fairytale hero who has solution to every problem.' He laments that the iconoclast Ambedkar being cast into the godhead and worshipped in Hindu style.**

moment of social justice and prejudice".

The book is divided into six chapters. The first chapter "Being Dalit" juxtaposes dalits against the non-dalits, particularly the Brahmins, and illuminates the difference between them along such dimensions as love, humour and universalism. Its narrative is replete with profound observations such as, "Dalit love is a juxtaposition of possibilities and deep pain" (p. 49), "the situation that Dalits live under is akin to an open prison" (p. 52), "the idea of contemporary India is a Brahminical project designed by Brahmins" (p. 63), and so on. The main argument of the chapter is that Dalits are culturally distinct. The self-pride with which dalits are depicted smacks firstly of treating them as a homogeneous people, which they are not, as he himself explains in the third chapter and secondly, they are made of some different stuff. The compartmentalised lives of different castes and communities in India are bound to reflect some cultural specificities but within the overarching caste culture.

The second chapter "Neo-Dalit Rising" is an exposition of the ways caste operates in India.

Yengde characterises the Indian state-society as an entity of brahmin supremacy" (p. 71) and faults the constitutionality of the state for not "explicitly talking about the unequal stakes inherited by the traditional power brokers..." The Indian Constitution is fraught with high-sounding dictums but lacks in basic accountability of the power holders who enjoy unlimited impunity (p. 73). Yengde has narrated how dalits at every echelon of society are discriminated against. Justice C.S. Karnan, a dalit sitting judge of a high court, who was incarcerated for six months, is one such case. (p. 74). Yengde is inspired by the youth fury over the institutional murder of Rohith Vemula to see a neo-dalit rising. Sadly, this reaction had not even lasted up to the first anniversary of Rohith's martyrdom.

The third chapter takes stock of many categories of dalits, acknowledging the changes that befell the community. One one hand, it reflects the progress the community made but on the other, a loss of community itself. It also notices the rise of a certain "Ambedkargodism" amongst dalits. Yengde boldly points out: "Ambedkar has become a fairytale hero who has solution to every problem". (p. 146) He laments that the iconoclast Ambedkar being cast into the godhead and worshipped in Hindu style.

The fourth chapter deals with the phenomenon of the dalit middle class and brings up the question of reservations. It notes that although reservations have benefited many individuals, it has not uplifted the community. (p. 164) This upwardly mobile middle class, unable to

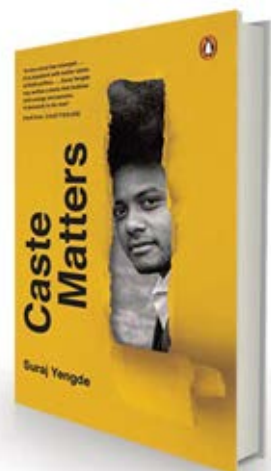
overcome social prejudices of the upper castes, falls back on the community to meet its social needs. Yengde observes how the dalit middle class upholds the Ambedkarite dictum — "becoming the ruling class" revived by Kanshiram, but will conveniently ignore his vision of socialism.

The next chapter on "Dalit Capitalism" presents an interesting comparison between Booker T. Washington, who formally established the National Negro Business league in 1990 with an intent of creating a capitalist class among the Black population in the US and Web Du Bois, who wanted the Black population to acquire positions of eminence in arts, literature, academia and other forms of cultural, moral and intellectual endeavours. Du Bois wanted to elevate Black people from their enforced subservience. This is similar to the idea of Ambedkar who wanted Untouchables to leave hamlets that were the site of traditional caste-mandated occupations (p.210). The folly of the fad of Dalit capitalism is thus disposed of.

The last chapter "Brahmins against Brahminism" acknowledges the contributions of people of the brahmin caste to anti-Brahminist struggles of the oppressed castes.

The book boldly confronts most of the contemporary issues facing dalits, largely successfully. However, it has certain logical angularities. As it classifies people by caste, it necessarily feeds into caste identities, which the author detests to start with.

*The writer is a columnist and civil rights activist. He taught in IIT Kharagpur and currently heads Big Data Analytics at the Goa Institute of Management.*



**CASTE MATTERS**  
by Suraj Yengde  
Penguin, ₹599

## How Jagmeet Singh, Canadian MP, failed to love his father fully



Kulbir Kaur review

The personal is political" and not surprisingly, the memoir of Jagmeet Singh, elected as the first visible minority face to lead a major federal political party in Canada, was released during an election year. He led Canada's New Democratic Party (NDF) to win 24 seats in the recently concluded general election and was briefly set to play "kingmaker" to Justin Trudeau's Liberal Party.

The title of the book, *Love and Courage*, his signature political catchphrase, emerged as a response to a heckler who typecast people sporting turbans as Muslim and accused them of being terrorists. Whenever he was faced with Islamophobia, Jagmeet Singh never replied, "I'm not a Muslim", because "hate is wrong, no matter who it is aimed at". "We must respond to hate with love and courage," was his message.

Can you separate the personal from the political, especially when you belong to a visible minority community with very visible religious symbols as markers of your identity? Singh, like so many other non-Caucasians, faced stares and taunts like "Dirty", "Paki", "diaper-head", what with society, including the media, broadcasting the image of a terrorist as "brown skin-plus-young male-plus-beard-plus-turban". "Carding" and "profiling" were more widespread among black and indigenous people, often termed as "routine procedure". Bouncers at clubs targeted brown-skinned people. Violence against cab drivers was common and the lives of brown people were deemed less valuable.

Jagmeet (which means friend to the world) became an activist in addition to his law practice and participated in anti-poverty and pro-human rights demonstrations. He regularly organised "Know your Rights" workshops and soon went on to form the first Western Sikh student association.

This book is, in fact, his journey from being Jimmy to Jagmeet. It was a life-changing moment for our hero when at the end of his second grade he made two big decisions — to change his name from Jimmy Dhalliwal to Jagmeet Singh and to stop cutting his hair: This memoir is also a window to some basic Sikh theological beliefs and practices in everyday life. With some core values like *Ikk-Onkar*, God is one, *Chardi Kala* (to remain in high spirits against all odds), *Gurbani* as a source of strength, *gurdwara* as a gateway to enlightenment, *seva* (service), sacrifice, charity and *sarbat-da-bhala*, it can be said that Jagmeet Singh has truly embraced the "Sikh way of life". There are pieces of Sikh history and culture as well in the book and these include references to Maharaja Ranjit Singh, the Akali movement, the British Sikh Army, the Punjabi language as a bond between Jagmeet and his parents, Operation Blue Star and the 1984 riots. Jagmeet writes that Canada is home to him and it is a country that respects human rights and dignity of life.

Initially, Jagmeet was so shy that he couldn't even pick up the phone to order a pizza. Incidentally, he had turned into a vegetarian just to win an argument. Jagmeet also faced sexual abuse from his trainer when he was part of a "special programme" that only the very best were allowed to participate in. It required a lot of courage to come out on this incident that had kept Jagmeet in a shell for a long time.

Jagmeet Singh is the first Sikh with a turban to sit as a provincial legislator in Ontario. Chosen by *Toronto Life* magazine as one of the five youngest rising stars and featured in the top ten best-dressed people of 2013, Jagmeet Singh's image as a style icon is also related to his attempts to meet stares and unfriendly looks thrown at him because of wearing the turban. To dress sharp was a part of his socialisation process when his father discovered it as a way "to belong". "As people of colour, we couldn't afford not to look good," he believed. His father said one cannot control the colour of his skin or his country of birth, but one can control what one's wardrobe says to the world — so Jagmeet made sure his clothing never gave anyone a reason to think he didn't belong.

The use of simple language in his work immediately builds a bond with Jagmeet's readers. Jagmeet's story, intersecting many social and political issues, inspires one in myriad ways. His first meeting with Walid Mansour stays with you and brings a smile to your face. It is difficult not to remember Jagnu, his dog, who proved to be the only link among and source of solace for all family members.

But the real hero of the book turns out to be Jagmeet's father, and not Jagmeet himself. Born in Punjab and armed with a medical degree, Jagtaran Singh Dhalliwal had landed in Canada to start a new life. Working as a security guard at night and studying for the Medical Council of Canada examination in the library, it was a struggle but failure was no option. From providing an affluent lifestyle to his family to giving them exposure to various activities and hobbies like horse-riding, skiing, snowboarding and golf, he made sure his children got the best upbringing. Alas, his drinking problem proved to be his nemesis. Despite Jagmeet seeming to see his father as part of every single problem and defending his mother and siblings' harsh treatment of him, your heart bleeds for him and you end up seeing what Jagmeet failed to notice. Though his mother complained to the authorities against him, Jagtaran never received a single complaint from any patient. Always sober at work, he used to help out with psychiatric services and provided treatment to needy. Though he was addicted to alcohol, he was also the family's sole breadwinner and supported the children's college educations. He got fancy cars and separate apartments for all his children. It breaks your heart when he was not allowed to live in his own apartment.

Ask who you remember the most after reading *Love and Courage* and it is definitely the father whose story inspires you, pierces your soul and becomes a part of your memory. Though Jagmeet Singh loved and cared for his father, albeit in pieces, how I wish he would have shown more courage to love him — right at the start.

*The writer teaches sociology at Shyama Prasad Mukherji College, Delhi University*

**LOVE & COURAGE: MY STORY OF FAMILY, RESILIENCE, AND OVERCOMING THE UNEXPECTED**

by Jagmeet Singh  
Simon and Schuster, ₹499



## Anxious Kolkata girl loves anew with family blessings



Rupa Gulab review

Pushing forty, divorced, and disillusioned even further after a failed live-in relationship in London, management consultant Lata Ghosh goes on a little holiday to Kolkata to meet her mother, the lovely but annoying Manjulika Ghosh, who would visit her every year in London, urge her to freeze her eggs, and try to lure her back to Kolkata with tales of friends who were doing astonishingly well there. It's not easy to argue with a woman like this: "Manjulika Ghosh taught history and geography in middle school. She also only wore the finest Dhakai saris on her annual journey to London, where unlike the other passengers who emerged from Heathrow looking like crushed paper towels, she glided out like Aparna Sen on set."

Once in Kolkata, Lata's friends from Presidency college pop up (including Ronny-an ex) and you can look forward to squeals of joy, cheerful banter, laughs and love-or maybe not. The problem is,

Lata Ghosh is a bit of a moaner. This is her default mode: "Lata fell back onto the mattress and covered her face with the crook of her elbow. The exhaustion of last year, things staggering to a stop after the final break-up with Ari (after which she went through the excruciating block-unblock-block-unblock saga for months). The annoying clients, the terrible Tinder dates, the daily commute, the wetness of weekends that followed the terrible Tinder dates. The long journey from Heathrow to Dum Dum. Everything seemed to rise around her like a river in flood. She was sinking."

Moan and groan, ad nauseum. If Lata were a character in a Wodehouse novel, rest assured no one would holler "Hail to thee, Blythe Spirit" on catching sight of her: Dear me, no-she is more like Coleridge's *Ancient Mariner*; "Alone, alone, all, all alone/Alone on a wide wide sea/And never a saint took pity on/My soul in agony." Which, actually, is perfect for chick lit. Unfortunately, Lata is far too beautiful (Helen of Troy was a moniker thrust upon her by the Head of the Economics department when she failed to answer a question) and intelligent and competent to be a chick lit heroine, and not witty enough besides-her best friend Aaduri has all the best lines!

Before you think we're treading into Jane Austen's *Persuasion* where old flames meet after

years, the answer is a firm no as well. Both Lata and Ronny have had other loves in between, and no tortured bouts of yearning for each other. In fact, more than Lata, it's her family members who look forward to her getting back with Ronnie, now a famous award-winning filmmaker, who currently is in a relationship with the young daughter of a leg-

endary Bollywood star.

The most charming romance in this book is the one that blossoms between sarcastic, no-nonsense Aaduri and her seemingly earnest boss with a spoofy, dead-serious editor sort of name: Hem Shankar Tiwari. Only, Hem and Aaduri are not writing poignant editorials on poverty alleviation or award-winning investigative stories on defence deals-they work in the digital space where memes, hits, etc are the things that stress them out most. It's terribly embarrassing when young, just-out-of-some-US-university trainees know more on the subject of digital media than their bosses!

Satire is what makes you turn the pages of this book: Ronny leads to hilarious takes on Bollywood, and his agony over his new script is painful. He chops and changes and rarely meets deadlines, which makes his almost-Marwari assistant, Bobby Bansal, feel like tearing her hair out.

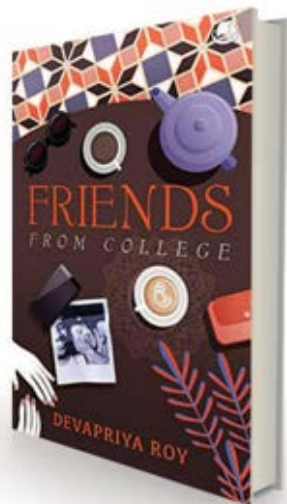
Bobby is only the first of the almost-Marwaris you meet in this book. Her cousin is engaged to Lata's cousin Molly (who organises her wedding by ordering almost everything online, which is so smooth). As the final tiresome and troublesome offline wedding preparations finally kick off at Ghosh Mansion, you meet the entire strict vegetarian almost-Marwari family (who are actually

from UP, but no one can tell the difference). This integration between Bengalis and Marwaris (almost, or not) is a nice, warm touch, considering that Marwaris have been a part of West Bengal for ages.

Kolkata is dutifully and beautifully paid respect to. If you had lived there during the seventies, eighties or nineties, you'd probably sing along with Lata when she bursts into of the most loved non-Bengali songs during those decades, Dolly Parton's yowly "Jolene". It doesn't matter if you've lived in Kolkata or not, though. The characters are alive, the one-liners are fun, and the observations are witty. If a happy ending is what you're after, you may be disappointed. Lata finally has a valid reason to feel depressed, but take heart-there's a silver lining too!

While Lata's mother may not think *Friends from College* is a worthy book, she would perhaps agree that it is a pleasant and comforting read. Feel free to ignore Manjulika Ghosh's stricture on books to read while travelling: "You bought a new book to read on a journey-and mind you, no pot-boiler or whodunit either. A worthy book. To accompany your worthy self."

*Rupa Gulab is a freelance writer and the author of Girl Alone, Chip of the Old Blockhead and The Great Depression of the 40s*



**FRIENDS FROM COLLEGE**  
by Devapriya Roy  
Westland, ₹299



## Filthy politics

### Bolivian presidential challenger Carlos Mesa rejects the re-election of President Evo Morales, describing the vote result as fraudulent



As bishop of this diocese, I ask forgiveness from those who have been offended by this — Pope Francis on Amazon statue theft

## BRIEF

### UK lorry: Driver charged over deaths

London: British police investigating the deaths of 39 people in a refrigerated truck said on Saturday they charged a driver arrested at the scene with manslaughter and people trafficking. Maurice Robinson, 25, from Northern Ireland, faces "39 counts of manslaughter, conspiracy to traffic people, conspiracy to assist unlawful immigration", police said. Robinson was arrested shortly after the bodies were discovered in the truck at Purfleet on the River Thames estuary, after arriving on a ferry from the Belgian port of Zeebrugge on Wednesday. He will appear in court on Monday, Essex. Three other people have been arrested in Britain in connection with the investigation, on suspicion of conspiracy to traffic people and manslaughter. — AFP

### Fire danger for millions in CA

San Francisco: Millions of Californians were preparing to live in the dark again as the state's largest utility warned it may cut power for the third time in as many weeks because of looming strong winds and high fire danger. Pacific Gas & Electric will decide whether to blackout 8,50,000 homes and businesses in 36 counties for 48 hours or longer throughout the San Francisco Bay Area, wine country and Sierra foothills. The two previous shutdowns were done amid concern that gusty winds could foul or knock down power lines and spark devastating wildfires. Weather forecasts called for record strong winds to lash much of the region over the weekend, with some gusts hitting 85 mph. PG&E's warning came as firefighters battled flames in Northern and Southern California. A blaze destroyed at least six homes in the Santa Clarita area near Los Angeles and prompted evacuation orders for up to 50,000 residents, although some were allowed back home after Santa Ana winds began to ease.

### DIWALI IN US IS RELIGIOUS LIBERTY: DON

Washington, Oct. 26: Sending Diwali greetings to Hindus, Jains, Sikhs and Buddhists, US President Donald Trump said that the observance of the festival of lights throughout America is an important reminder of the significance of the country's core tenets — religious liberty. A day earlier, Trump celebrated Diwali in the Oval Office with a small group of Indian-Americans. "The observance of Diwali throughout America is an important reminder of the significance of one of our Nation's core tenets — religious liberty," Trump said in a statement ahead of the Diwali celebrations in India, the US and across the world. "My administration will continue to defend the rights enshrined in our Constitution that enable people of all faiths to worship according to their beliefs and conscience," he said. "As Diwali commences, Melania and I wish those observing the Festival of Lights a blessed and happy celebration," said the US President. For many Hindus, Jains, Sikhs, and Buddhists in the US and around the globe, this sacred period is an opportunity to commemorate the victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance, he said. "Throughout this holy time, members of these faiths engage in prayer, light diyas and lanterns, and partake in traditional feasts and other festivities with friends and family," he said.



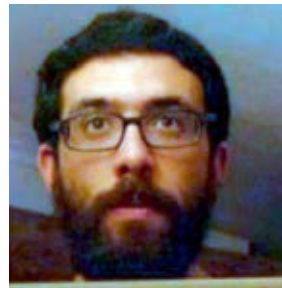
As many as a million Chileans protested peacefully in Santiago in the biggest rallies yet since violence broke out a week ago over entrenched inequality in Chile. — AFP

# Deja vu for Indians

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH HYDERABAD, OCT. 26

When Chileans woke up on October 20, they were under their first curfew since 1987. The cascading effect began on October 4, when the government announced a hike in the subway and bus fares. This echoes happenings in India, where people are vociferous about sky-rocketing prices and the curbing of civil rights. Residents like Pablo Abufom of the Solidarity Movement recount to Deccan Chronicle: "High school students began organizing what they called a 'massive evasion',

collective fare-dodging in subway stations. From October 14th, more joined their protest, and by the 17th the subway service was suspended several times during the day. By the 18th, almost the entire subway network — 136 stations, transporting approximately 2.6 million people daily — were suspended. Masses were spontaneously protesting in the streets of the capital Santiago and several stations set ablaze. The president declared a state of emergency in the city, restricting some civil liberties like the rights to freely move and assemble,



Pablo Abufom

and military units were deployed. By the 19th, protests spread to other cities, to which the government responded with more Emergency declarations." What are the civil soci-

eties reacting to this matter? Several Human Rights organizations (National Human Rights Institute, Instituto Nacional de Derechos Humanos, INDH) are offering daily reports of people injured, killed, and detained. As of Thursday, the Association of Physicians of Universidad de Chile have confirmed 24 people killed (13 shot by armed forces), 39 severely wounded (hit by cars), 62 severe eye trauma, and 5,845 arrested since October 18th (the night Emergency was declared). Forces comprised 19,461

police and military members deployed throughout Chile, as per the Ministry of Interior, National Association of Physicians, and the National Attorney Office. Pablo Abufom, an activist for a new pension system, says: "The government's response has been twofold: Emergency (including deployment of military and curfew, which resulted in killings and illegal arrests) and an attempted 'National Agreement' with conservative and centrist political parties." Despite these efforts, people in several cities, especially Santiago, have

defied curfew and have implicitly rejected the agreement by calling for new demonstrations and continuing to march. Today a new march was called by the National Confederation of Trade Unions. Today, people were mulling gathering downtown for a new march. It was expected to be a massive demonstration today. There has also been a call for a constituent assembly, and several neighbourhoods in Chilean capital Santiago and other cities are establishing neighbourhood assemblies to organize their safety, protests, and supplies.

## US troops going to Syria oil fields

Brussels, Oct. 26: The United States will send armored vehicles and combat troops into eastern Syria to keep oil fields from potentially falling into the hands of Islamic State militants, US defense secretary Mark Esper said. It was the latest sign that extracting the military from Syria is uncertain and complicated. Though Trump reportedly says he is pulling out of Syria, the reality on the ground is different. Adding armoured reinforcements in the oil-producing area of Syria could mean sending several hundred US troops — even as a similar number are being withdrawn from a separate mission closer to the border with Turkey. Esper described the added force as "mechanised," which means it likely will include armoured vehicles such

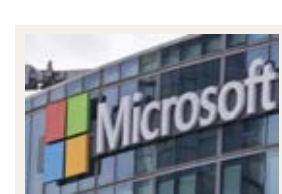


Mark Esper

as Bradley armoured infantry carriers and possibly tanks. This would introduce a new dimension to the US military presence, which largely has been comprised of special operations forces not equipped with tanks or other armoured vehicles. Meanwhile, Russia accused the US of "international banditry" after Washington announced its intention to protect Syria's oil fields which are controlled by Kurdish forces. — AP

## Pentagon snubs Amazon, gives Microsoft \$10b deal

San Francisco, Oct. 26: The Pentagon awarded Microsoft a \$10 billion cloud computing contract, snubbing early front-runner Amazon, whose competitive bid drew criticism from President Donald Trump. Bidding for the huge project, known as Joint Enterprise Defense Infrastructure, or Jedi, pitted leading tech titans Microsoft, Amazon, Oracle and IBM against one another. The giant contract has attracted more attention than most, sparked by speculation early in the process that Amazon would be the sole winner of the deal. Oracle and IBM pushed back with their own bids and also formally protested the bidding process last year. Oracle later challenged the process in federal court, but lost. Trump waded into the fray in July, saying the



TRUMP has frequently expressed his ire for Amazon and founder Jeff Bezos, who also owns the Washington Post newspaper

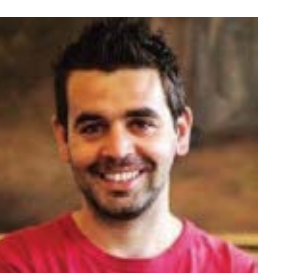
administration would "take a very long look" at the process. Trump has frequently expressed his ire for Amazon and founder Jeff Bezos, who also owns the Washington Post. At the time, he said other companies told him that the contract "wasn't competitively bid." The JEDI system

will store and process vast amounts of classified data, allowing the US military to use AI to speed up its war planning and fighting capabilities. A cloud strategy document unveiled by the defense department last year called for replacing the military's "disjointed and stove-piped information systems" with a commercial cloud service "that will empower the warfighter with data and is critical to maintaining our military's technological advantage." The Pentagon emphasized that the process was fair and followed procurement guidelines. It noted that over the past two years, it has awarded more than \$11 billion in ten separate cloud-computing contracts, and said the Jedi award "continues our strategy of a multi-vendor, multi-cloud environment." — AP

## Migrants gamble their lives as safer routes are closed Ex-refugee recounts dangers of trafficking

London, Oct. 26: Ahmad Al-Rashid knows what it was like for the 39 people who were found dead in the back of a truck in southeastern England this week. He's been there. The 29-year-old Syrian refugee found himself gasping for breath inside a refrigerated shipping container with a group of migrants and a load of frozen chicken when a planned trip across the English Channel turned into hours of terror in 2015. The truck hadn't even left the French port of Calais when someone

heard the cries of the desperate migrants and opened the doors. "They don't see you as a human being. They see you as a commodity, as money, as an object, and this is it," he said. "Never, ever, trust them. I mean, I had to put my faith in them and I regretted it." This week's tragedy brought the terror of his own experiences flooding back, he said. Rashid told his story so people understand that migrants and refugees gamble their lives in sealed trucks and leaky



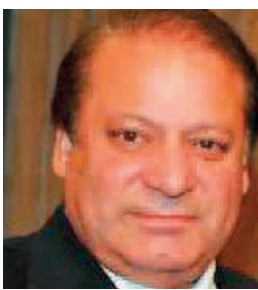
Ahmad Al-Rashid

rafts because safer routes have been closed to them. They take risks because, he said, they feel like they have no other choice. "No one puts their life in

danger for no reason," Rashid said. "People do this out of desperation." Police investigating the deaths of 39 people in a truck near London said they had arrested three more suspects on suspicion of human trafficking amid signs that some of the dead may be Vietnamese. As forensic experts began the process of identifying the victims, the Vietnamese embassy in London said families from the southeast Asian country had got in touch about missing relatives. — AP

## NAWAZ SHARIF SUFFERS ANGINA ATTACK

Lahore, Oct. 26: Former Pakistan prime minister Nawaz Sharif on Saturday suffered angina pain while undergoing treatment at a Lahore hospital, according to a media report. Angina is a type of chest pain caused by reduced blood flow to the heart. Sharif suffered angina pain in the morning while undergoing treatment at the hospital, Dawn News reported quoting Services Institute of Medical Sciences Principal Dr Mahmood Ayaz. Ayaz refuted reports in a section of media that the 69-year-old Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader has suffered a heart attack. Earlier in the day, Sharif's lawyer Khawaja Haris claimed that the former premier had suffered a "minor heart attack" last night and that his "life is in danger". Ayaz said Sharif's platelet count is now rising. He is administered around 16 injections of intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIg) every day. The Lahore High Court granted bail to Sharif, who is undergoing treatment, after being diagnosed with an acute immune disorder, which reduced his blood platelet count to dangerous levels. The three-time premier was in Kot Lakhpat jail but early this month was sent to the custody of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB), which is probing the Sharif family in the Chaudhry Sugar Mills case. Sharif's daughter Maryam Nawaz, 45, is also under treatment at the same hospital. — PTI



Nawaz Sharif

## TRUMP IMPEACHMENT Release Mueller document: Judge

Washington, Oct. 26: A US judge validated the legality of the Democratic-led impeachment inquiry against President Donald Trump and ordered his administration to hand over an unredacted copy of former special counsel Robert Mueller's report detailing Russian meddling in the 2016 election. US district judge Beryl Howell, handing a major victory to the Democratic-led House of Representatives, undercut an argument that Trump's fellow Republicans have made in attacking the impeachment inquiry. The judge said the House need not approve a resolution formally initiating the effort. The US Constitution gives the House wide latitude in handling impeachment. Democrats began the inquiry without putting such a resolution to a vote.

The judge gave the Justice Department until next Wednesday to provide the blacked out material from the Mueller report that was subpoenaed by the House Judiciary Committee. "The reality is that DOJ and the White House have been openly stonewalling the House's efforts to get information by subpoena and by agreement, and the White House has flatly stated that the Administration will not cooperate with congressional requests for information," the judge wrote, using an acronym for the Justice Department. "This critical court ruling affirms Congress's authority to expose the truth for the American people," Pelosi, the top elected Democratic official, said in a statement, adding, "The President will be held accountable — because no one is above the law." — AP

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Online bids are invited for the following of works up to 10/11/2019 at 17:30 hours.

Sr. No.	System Tender No.	NIT No.	Name of work / Description of work	Tender Amount	EMD Amount	Time Period
1	58008	184/RSC/2019 RAIPUR DATED: 23/10/2019	नरेश्या तालाब इनर पाथवे में विटुमिन कवार्प जाने बाबत।	₹. 35,11,000 Lakhs	₹. 26350 Lakhs	04 Months Construction period DLP

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh e-Procurement Portal <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> and from 23/10/2019 17:30 Hours (IST) onwards up to 10/11/2019 up to 17:30 Hrs. Physical Submission of Document can be done up to 11/11/2019 up to 15:30 Hrs. through speed post/registered post only. Tender will open on 11/11/2019 17:30 Hrs.

For more details on the tender and bidding process you may please visit the above-mentioned portal.

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1. All eligible/interested Bidders are mandated to get enrolled on e-Procurement portal.  
2. Bidders can contact Help Desk for any clarification of their doubts regarding the process of Electronic Procurement System. Help Desk at Toll Free No. 1800 419 9140 or through Email ID [helpdesk.eproc@cgswan.gov.in](mailto:helpdesk.eproc@cgswan.gov.in)  
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At last

**Lina Wertmüller, first female directing nominee, will finally get her Oscar at 91 years of age**

## Hawaiian heiress faces court test to control \$215m trust

**Honolulu:** A 93-year-old heiress doesn't need a guardian to take care of her, but a hearing will be held to determine whether she needs a conservator to oversee her \$215 million trust, a judge ruled Friday in an ongoing battle over her wealth.

Abigail Kawananakoa's fortune has been tied up in a court case since her 2017 stroke. Her longtime lawyer, Jim Wright, argued the stroke left her impaired, and he stepped in to assume the role of trustee.

Kawananakoa said she's fine, fired Wright and married her partner of 20 years, Veronica Gail Worth.

Kawananakoa inherited her wealth as the great-granddaughter of James Campbell, an Irish businessman who made his fortune as a sugar plantation owner and one of Hawaii's largest landowners.

### Abigail Kawananakoa's fortune tied up in court case since her 2017 stroke

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She fired Wright and married her partner of 20 years, Veronica Gail Worth

She inherited her wealth as the great-granddaughter of James Campbell, an Irish businessman who made his fortune as a sugar plantation owner and one of Hawaii's largest landowners



Native Hawaiians consider her a princess because she's a descendant of the family that ruled the islands before the overthrow of the Hawaiian kingdom in 1893.

They have been closely watching the legal wrangling over her trust

because they are concerned about the fate of a foundation she set up to benefit Hawaiian causes.

Last year, Judge R. Mark Browning ruled Kawananakoa lacks the mental capacity to manage her trust, appointed First Hawaiian Bank to serve as trustee and

removed Wright. Wright had appointed three prominent Native Hawaiian leaders to serve as board members for the \$100 million foundation Kawananakoa created in 2001. The foundation is participating in the court battle because it is a beneficiary of her trust.

Board members of her foundation and ex-employees say her wife is manipulating her. Lawyers for the couple dispute that.

Petitions for a guardian and a conservator come "from a place of sincere respect and reverence, honoring

Ms. Kawananakoa's lifelong commitment to the Native Hawaiian people," said David Kauiha Kopper, an attorney for the foundation.

She attempted to change her trust last year to ensure her wife receives \$40 million and all her personal property, according to court records. — AP

## STINKING PONYFISH COVER THAI BEACH



Dead ponyfish on a beach on Koh Naka Yai, east of Phuket, Thailand. Hundreds of stinking ponyfish washed ashore on a beach island off the coast of Phuket, a fisheries chief said on Saturday, as worries about the environment grow due to a spate of marine wildlife dying in Thailand's plastic-infested waters. — AFP



I am so proud of her (Selena Gomez). She is been through so much.

— Taylor Swift, American singer

### IN BRIEF

#### Cyprus to quiz UK over Thatcher vase

**Nicosia, Cyprus:** Cyprus will seek an explanation from the British government over how an ancient vase given to the late Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher as a state gift has ended up on the auction block. A Cyprus official says Cyprus' embassy in London would raise the issue with UK authorities. In a tweet, art historian Maria Paphiti found that the 2,700-year-old vase had been sold at Christie's auction house in May for nearly \$7,700. Vase was given to Thatcher by ex-Cyprus President George Vassiliou 3 decades ago. — AP

#### Disney to reboot Pirates of Caribbean

**Los Angeles:** Disney has roped in *Pirates of the Caribbean* veteran Ted Elliot and *Chernobyl* creator Craig Mazin to work on a story for the reboot of the movie franchise. Disney hired the *Deadpool* writing team of Rhett Reese and Paul Wernick last year to reboot the franchise but the duo is no longer on board. According to the *Hollywood Reporter*, Jerry Bruckheimer is expected to once again produce the project. Five previous *Pirates* movies were fronted by Johnny Depp. — PTI



#### Olivia DeJonge to play Priscilla Presley

**Los Angeles:** Australian actor Olivia DeJonge, best known for her work in Netflix series *The Society*, has joined the cast of Baz Luhrman's *Elvis* biopic. DeJonge will essay the role of the king of rock and roll's wife Priscilla Presley, reported *Deadline*. The film features Austin Butler as the iconic musician and veteran actor Tom Hanks will portray her manager, Colonel Tom Parker. "Olivia is capable of manifesting the complex depth and presence that made Priscilla Presley an icon in her own right. She's an extremely talented young actor and the perfect counterpoint to Austin's Elvis," Luhrmann said. — PTI

## END ORPHANAGE TOURISM, SAYS J.K. ROWLING

**London:** J.K. Rowling has told young people not to become volunteers in overseas orphanages, because of the risk that they might be unwittingly supporting places that are cruel to children, the BBC reported. The *Harry Potter* author warned that children in orphanages in poorer countries often still had parents but they had been separated by poverty rather than the death of their parents. "Do not volunteer in orphanages. Instead, look at what drives children into institutions," she told a conference in London. The author set up a charity, Lumos, in response to cases of neglect in Eastern European orphanages, which is campaigning to remove children from orphanages. It operates in countries including Moldova, Ukraine, Haiti, Ethiopia and Kenya. End to 'volun-tourism'. But Rowling warned that orphanages were being given support by "volun-tourism", where young people from West volunteered to help in orphanages as part of their travelling experience. — Agencies



J.K. Rowling

## Scientists go broke as Russian eagles rack up roaming charges

**London:** Russian scientists tracking migrating eagles ran out of money after some of the birds flew to Iran and Pakistan and their SMS transmitters drew huge data roaming charges.

After learning of the team's dilemma, Russian mobile phone operator Megafon offered to cancel the debt and put the project on a special, cheaper tariff, the BBC reported.

The team had started crowdfunding on social media to pay off the bills. The birds left from southern Russia and Kazakhstan. The journey of one steppe eagle, called Min, was particularly expensive, as it flew to Iran from Kazakhstan.

Min accumulated SMS messages to send during the summer in Kazakhstan, but it was



out of range of the mobile network. Unexpectedly the eagle flew straight to Iran, where it sent the huge backlog of messages. The price per SMS in Kazakhstan was about 15 roubles (18p; 30 US cents), but each SMS from Iran cost 49 roubles. Min used up the entire tracking budget meant for all the eagles. The Russian researchers are volunteers at the Wild Animal Rehabilitation Centre. — Agencies

## After 11 days in prison, Huffman finally released

**San Francisco:** Actress Felicity Huffman was released Friday morning from a federal prison in California two days before the end of a two-week sentence for her role in the college admissions scandal, authorities said. *Desperate Housewives* star was released from the low-security prison for women because under prison policy, inmates scheduled for weekend release are let out on Friday, the US Bureau of Prisons said.



Felicity Huffman

Her husband William Macy dropped her off at Correctional Institution, Dublin in San Francisco Bay Area on Oct. 15, with one day of credit already banked for day she was originally arrested and jailed. — AP



Anthony Bourdain

## CNN & HBO to serve up new Anthony Bourdain docu

**Los Angeles:** A feature documentary on renowned chef, food critic and writer Anthony Bourdain is in the works from CNN Films, HBO Max and Focus Features. Oscar-winning filmmaker Morgan Neville is attached to direct the documentary, reported *Variety*. Neville, who won the Academy Award for 2013 documentary *20 Feet from Stardom*, will also produce the feature via his Tremolo Productions banner. CNN Films and HBO Max will executive produce.

"Anthony Bourdain did more to help us understand each other than just about anyone in the history of television. He connected with people not in spite of his flaws, but because of them.

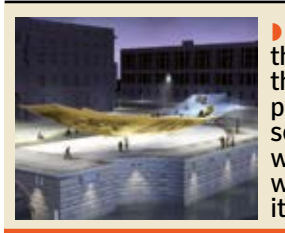
"To have the opportunity to tell his story is humbling. CNN is in the DNA of Tony's work, and perfect partners. I'm thrilled to be reteaming with Focus Features after our journey on 'Won't You Be My Neighbour?'. I am also happy that HBO Max will make sure Tony's audience only continues to grow," Neville said in a statement. — PTI

## Bats, German unity building's nightmare

**London:** For over a decade attempts to build a monument to German unity have been hampered by technical problems, spiralling costs and huge disagreement over its purpose, the *Guardian* reported.

The latest hurdle is a colony of 60 rare bats that took up residence in the pedestal of the planned 50-metre-long seesaw steel bowl, which will rock from side to side when people climb on to it.

On the advice of nature conservationists, the Daubenton's bats — Eurasian species recognisable by their small ears —



A colony of 60 rare bats that took up residence in the pedestal of the planned 50-metre-long seesaw steel bowl, which will rock from side to side when people climb on to it, is the latest hurdle

will have to be rehoused near the planned site of the monument. Their careful removal and the construction of a new home for them are likely to further delay the monument and add considerably to the final costs of a project that is already hugely over budget and behind sched-

ule. The budgetary committee of the Bundestag recently approved extra funding for the monument, bringing the costs up to €17m from an original sum of €10m.

The decision to build the monument to freedom and unity was made by the Bundestag in 2007. It was

supposed to be completed in time for the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall next month, but there is now considerable doubt as to whether even a later date — 3 October 2020, 3 decades after the reunification of East and West Germany took place — can be met.

Bowl of the winning design, by architects Milla & Partner, is to be inscribed with the words, "Wir sind ein Volk", echoing the rallying cry of demonstrators in former East Germany in months leading up to Wall's fall. — Agencies



Jane Fonda is arrested at the Capitol for blocking the street after she called on Congress for action to address climate change in Washington on Friday. — AP

Cosplayer Shaela Halcrow is dressed as Do Flamingo character during the first day of Comic Con event in London on Friday. — AP



A model walks the ramp on the last day of the Fashion Pakistan Week in Karachi on Friday. — AFP

Chelsea Kane at Respect Awards in Beverly Hills, California on Friday. — AFP

## Crunch time for married priests as special Vatican assembly votes

**Vatican City:** Catholic bishops gathered at a special Vatican assembly will vote Saturday on whether to recommend Pope Francis to open the priesthood to married men or create female deacons, issues that are taboo for traditionalists.

The ballot comes at the close of a three-week "synod" on the Pan-Amazonian region which highlighted the challenges facing the region, from the destruction of

the rainforest to the exploitation of indigenous peoples and a scarcity in priests. The pontiff is expected in the coming months to address the issues raised with a document which could have repercussions not only for

the vast, isolated territory, but the whole of the Roman Catholic Church. The synod brought some 184 bishops to the Vatican, over 60 percent of whom hail from the nine Amazon countries. Bishops will have their say on a final list of proposals. Together with representatives of peoples and nuns, they discussed a multitude of regional concerns, from climate change to violence against women. — AFP

They were being gassed." They said that about 20 or 30 prisoners were led in. He couldn't say whether they were men or women, because their heads were shaved, or whether they were Jews or other prisoners.

He also couldn't say what happened afterwards. "I didn't see anyone come out." On another occasion, he said, he saw a group of 10 or 15 men being led into

## UK student missing in Koh Rong island

**London:** A British student who disappeared after a party on a Cambodian island is missing, the BBC reported.



Amelia Bambridge

Amelia Bambridge was last seen in backpacker resort of Koh Rong on Wednesday. Searches of the sea, beaches and jungle had begun in a bid to find her. — Agencies

## Nazi guard: Saw people led to gas chambers

**London:** A 93-year-old former guard at the Nazi Stutthof concentration camp has testified at his trial that he once saw people being led into the gas chamber, followed by screaming and banging sounds behind the locked door, the *Guardian* reported.

Bruno Dey, a former SS private, went on trial on 17 October at the Hamburg state court where he stands accused of having

the gas chamber, but they then came out and were taken to the crematorium building by people in white overalls. He said he heard that the prisoners were supposed to work outside the camp and had to be checked first.

Dey said he and around 400 other soldiers were taken to Stutthof in June or July 1944 and he did not know at the time what kind of people were incarcerated there. — Agencies

### NEWS INUGGETS

#### \$1.84M DIAMOND STOLEN FROM JAPAN TRADE SHOW

**Tokyo:** Japanese police are investigating a 200 million yen (\$1.84 million) diamond allegedly stolen from an international jewellery trade show near Tokyo. The 50-carat diamond was last seen sitting inside a glass showcase at 5 pm Thursday.

An hour later, just after closing time, the diamond was gone and the jewellery case was unlocked, according to police.

Police said Saturday they suspect the alleged thief took place sometime in the final hour of the crowded exhibit at Yokohama, near Tokyo. The sparkly stone, exhibited by a company in Saitama, north of Tokyo, was the only item missing. Nobody is arrested. Investigators are checking security camera footage that showed a man reaching toward a showcase during the suspected time of theft. — AP

#### OZ WATER RATS KILL TOADS WITH PRECISION TO FEAST ON HEARTS

**London:** Australian water rats have learned how to kill cane toads, eat their hearts and carve out their organs with "surgical precision", the *Guardian* reported. In only 2 years, highly intelligent native rakali in the Kimberley region of Western Australia discovered how to safely destroy the deadly toad — by removing its gallbladder and feasting on the heart. The rats even targeted

the biggest, most poisonous toads they could find, leaving their bodies strewn by the river-side, according to research published in *Australian Mammalogy*. Cane toads first came to Queensland in the 1930s and have been marching slowly west ever since, devastating native animals. The toads first arrived in a site monitored by the researchers in WA in 2011. — Agencies

#### AMERICAN GIRL WINS COURT BATTLE OVER 'RAPIST IN SCHOOL' NOTE

**London:** A US judge has blocked the suspension of a high school girl who was punished for posting a note at school warning of a "rapist" in their midst.



In September Aela Mansmann was accused of bullying by school officials in Cape Elizabeth, Maine, after she posted notes in the girls' toilets, the BBC reported. But on

Thursday a judge issued a temporary stay on the suspension citing concerns over free-speech rights. A lawsuit filed by the girl's family against the school is still pending. The case began on 16 September after Aela posted notes in 2 bathrooms at Cape Elizabeth School reading, "There's a rapist in the school and you know who it is." — Agencies

“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/shabdant/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

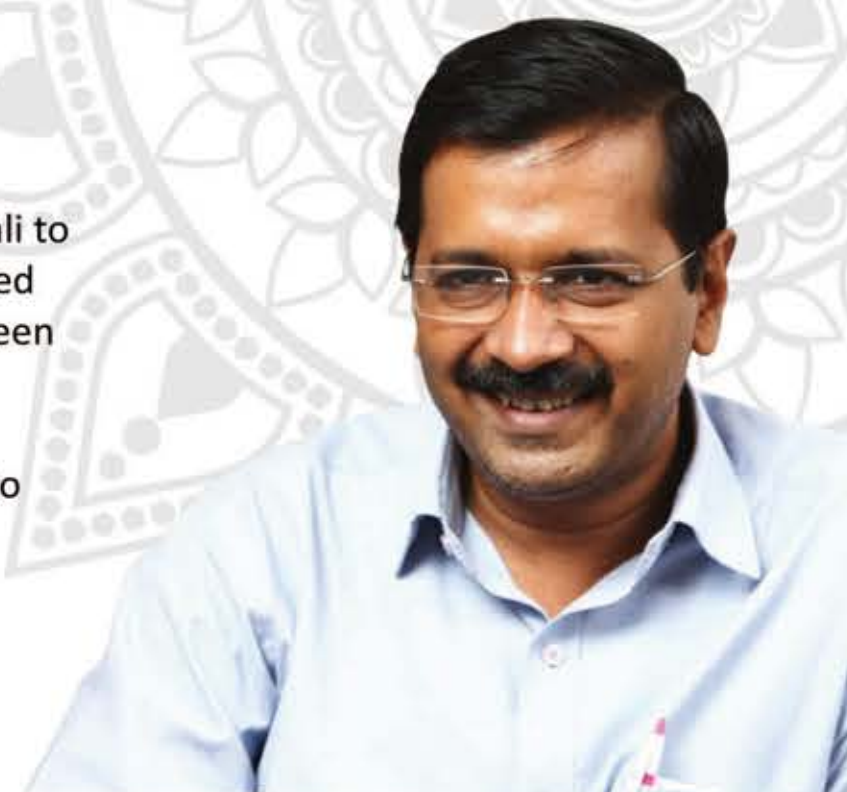
**ENTRY FREE**

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



**SPORT | Cricket**

‘Puerile to keep harping on MSD for retirement’

14

**SPORT | Basketball**

Irving stars for Brooklyn in Big Apple NBA battle

15



**GUIDE TO FORTUNE**

Tick the answer and check them below.

**1** Who is the youngest Nobel Laureate in Nobel Prize history?

- Lawrence Bragg
- Werner Heisenberg
- Malala Yousafzai

**2** Murugappa Gold Cup is associated with which of the following sports?

- Badminton
- Hockey
- Cricket

**3** Who among the following is not the winner of Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award 2016?

- P.V. Sindhu
- Sakshi Malik
- Saina Nehwal

**SHORT TAKES**

**3 burglars held; car, pistol seized**

**New Delhi:** Three men were arrested for allegedly burgling houses in South Delhi, police said on Saturday. According to a complaint lodged at Safdarjung police station, the accused stole jewellery worth ₹25 lakh and ₹5,700 cash from a house in Green Park on Wednesday. During investigation, police analysed CCTV cameras installed in the area and got the photographs of the accused persons and later arrested them on Thursday, DCP (southwest) Devender Arya said. Malkiyat Singh (49), a resident of Vishnu Garden, Mahinder (45) and Santosh Kumar (39), residents of Tilak Nagar, were arrested, he said, adding that Pardeep Kumar (29), who used to buy all the stolen jewellery from them, was also arrested. During interrogation, the accused revealed that earlier they had targeted several other houses in South Delhi. Mahinder and Santosh used to break open the locks in the houses and steal the valuable items, the DCP said.

**50-year-old man commits suicide**

**New Delhi:** A 50-year-old man allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself from a tree on Babar Road in central Delhi's Bengali Market area on Saturday morning, police said. The deceased has been identified as Basant Lal. He worked as a labourer at a construction site in Pragati Maidan, they said. The police were informed about the incident at around 9.30 am on Saturday. No suicide note was found from the spot, a senior police official said. The family members of the deceased told police that Lal was under depression for quite sometime. The police have ruled out foulplay in the incident. The body will be handed over to the family after post-mortem, said the police.

**3 men arrested after encounter**

**New Delhi:** Three men, who were allegedly planning to kill two businessmen, were nabbed by the special cell of the Delhi police following a shootout in northwest Delhi's Qutabgarh area, officials said on Saturday. The accused have been identified as Sachin, Vishal and Pravesh, who were members of the Gogi gang, they said. Two of the three accused sustained bullet injuries in their hands and legs in the shootout, police said. The three men were planning to kill two businessmen in Delhi's Kanjhawala and Narela area, they said. Further investigation is underway, police said.

**THE ANSWERS TO TODAY'S GUIDE TO FORTUNE**

- Saina Nehwal
- Hockey
- Malala Yousafzai

## Dilli ki Diwali: Mega laser show at Connaught Place

Event organised to encourage people shun crackers to cut down pollution

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, OCT. 26

Amid cheers by amazed spectators, Delhi's famed Connaught Place on Saturday was witness to a mega laser show organised by the Arvind Kejriwal government to encourage people shun crackers to cut down pollution in the national capital.

At the inaugural session, chief minister Kejriwal said that every year people would burst firecrackers in large numbers days ahead of Diwali, but this time, he has noticed a change.

"I have not heard a single firecracker being burst in the capital and it is a good start," he said. Lt Governor Anil Bajjal and deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia were also present at the four-day event, named "Dilli ki Diwali", kickstarted in Central Park in presence of hundreds of people.

The show with lasers beaming in sync with patriotic songs and audible from Ramayana was nothing short of a mega party on the streets for Delhiites who came from far and beyond.

**AAP govt did nothing to tackle pollution, says Gambhir**

**New Delhi, Oct. 26:** The former cricketer and MP from East Delhi, Gautam Gambhir, on Saturday,

accused the Delhi government of only putting up advertisements and doing nothing worthwhile to control pollution in the past four-and-half-year of its tenure.

"People of Delhi are in distress because of pollution but the Delhi government only brings out detailed advertisements on pollution control. It has done nothing to address pollution in the four-and-half-years that it has been in power," Mr Gambhir told a news agency.

"Things will improve only when work is done on the ground and not by bringing out advertisements," he added.

Mr Gambhir appealed to the public to not burn firecrackers this Diwali to make a positive change.

"People have become aware now and they do not burst crackers as much as they did earlier. Awareness programmes run by the Central government have created a difference on the ground", he said.

Air quality remained "very poor" on Saturday and is expected to turn "severe" post-Diwali due to firecracker emissions and spike in stubble burning in neighbouring states.

According to the System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR), the National Capital Region's overall air quality index (AQI) is expected to enter the "severe" category for a short period of time on Sunday night, but the situation would be not as bad as last year.

Last year, Delhi's AQI stood at 642, which falls in the "severe plus emergency" category, on November 8, the day after Diwali. — Agencies



Laser Show at Central Park in Connaught Place to celebrate cracker-less and pollution-free Dilli ki Diwali in New Delhi on Saturday.

— BIPLAB BANERJEE

"Today, the entire city has gathered to celebrate community Diwali. It is the first time something of this kind has happened," said Mr Sisodia, seeking feedback to improve ways to celebrate the festival.

However, traders at Connaught Place said that their business was down by 70-80 per cent due to the

closure of a few roads and parking slots for the laser show.

The circles of Connaught Place and adjoining areas were decked up with lights and people from all walks of life thronged the heart of the city to witness the unique show.

"It is the first time that a laser show is being organ-

ised and it's in the central location of Delhi, so I along with my family decided to begin our Diwali celebration right from here and contribute our bid," said Shilpa Yadav. Ajay Kumar along with his family came all the way from Sonapat in Haryana to enjoy the laser show.

"After the quiz, the participants will be explained about the schemes and also told the correct answers during a 30-minute session," said the convener of the quiz competition, Virender Sachdeva.

## Quiz to create awareness about Centre's schemes

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, OCT. 26

In an attempt to connect with the youths ahead of the forthcoming Delhi Assembly polls, the Global Young Action Network (GYAN) Foundation — a group of professionals affiliated to BJP — is holding a state-level quiz competition, "Atulya Atal," based on the policies, schemes, and projects launched by the Narendra Modi government in the last five years.

The finale of the quiz

competition will be held on December 25, the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

The main objective of the quiz competition is to create awareness about Prime Minister Narendra Modi's work, welfare schemes, and also the 'failures' of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government.

"The quiz papers include questions related to work undertaken by the Modi government, like the Ayushman Bharat Yojana (National Health

Protection Scheme funded by the Centre). There'll be questions pertaining to which states have implemented the scheme and which haven't. This way, they will come to know that chief minister Arvind Kejriwal has not executed the scheme yet.

"After the quiz, the participants will be explained about the schemes and also told the correct answers during a 30-minute session," said the convener of the quiz competition, Virender Sachdeva.

## Man shot dead in road rage, juvenile among 6 nabbed

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, OCT. 26

A man has been shot dead in Delhi's Jahangirpuri area after he got into fight with two persons on a bike, which brush-passed him, police said on Saturday.

The incident happened on Thursday and police said they have arrested six persons and also detained a minor in connection with the case. Those arrested are Suraj (35), Prashant (23), Arun Bhatia (24), Harish Bhatia (33), Abhishek (24) and Govinda (30), all residents

of Jahangirpuri, they said. Jwala Singh, who is also a local, was rushed to nearby BJRM hospital after being shot at but doctors declared him "brought dead", said the police.

Singh was shot in his face after he got into a fight with two of those arrested. However, it was not immediately clear which of the two were behind the incident. Police said the arrests were made after technical surveillance. The pistol from which the shot was fired has been recovered from Suraj, police said.



BJP MP Vijay Goel celebrates Diwali with residents of an unauthorised colony in New Delhi on Saturday.

— PTI

## Low business, cheap Chinese lights mar city potters' Diwali

**New Delhi, Oct. 26:** The narrow lanes of the Potters' Colony in Uttam Nagar are a tad bit dustier than usual with trucks and tempos stationed at odd angles, waiting to be loaded with all kinds of earthenware—idols, vases, but most importantly diyas.

Ahead of Diwali, generations of potter families inhabiting the Kumhar Gram in West Delhi are on their toes, hoping to make the best of the festive season. But business is slow. Hari Om, a third generation potter in the colony,

blames inflation. The 52-year-old said that with the prices of diyas going up, customers simply opt for the cheaper "Chinese lights."

"We do get decent business during Holi and Diwali, but we have seen a 40 per cent decrease in sales since last year. Customers also prefer buying cheaper options like Chinese lights," he said soon after confirming an order of 2,000 diyas.

Hari Om's family is among the 700 families that inhabit the Kumhar Gram, most of them originally

hailing from villages in Haryana, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh.

Rest of the year, they sell earthen pitchers, pots, fountains, and other decorative pieces, but the income is bare minimum. Deepak Kumar, another potter in Kumhar Gram, is also struggling to make ends meet.

"Mouths to feed are too many, and profit negligible. A single decorative piece costs around Rs 70 to make and then we sell it for Rs 100. Since all eight people of the family do this work, there isn't much left in the

## Security stepped up across Delhi-NCR ahead of Diwali

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, OCT. 26

Security arrangements have been beefed up in Delhi in the run-up to Diwali, senior police officers said.

According to sources, Delhi police commissioner Amulya Patnaik has directed all senior officers of the force to strengthen anti-terror measures in their respective districts, sources said.

Prominent markets like Azadpur and Ghazipur are especially on the radar of the police as many people from outside Delhi visit these areas daily.

DCP (East) Jasmeet Singh said that extra force has been deployed at the Ghazipur market. "Due to high footfall at Ghazipur market, extra force has been deployed and patrolling has also been increased in the area. Officers in civil dress are also there," DCP Singh said.

According to joint commissioner of police (southern range) Devesh Srivastava, all senior

## No leave for firemen today

**New Delhi, Oct 26:** Delhi Fire Services has not only deployed 2,000 officers across the city to tackle emergencies on Diwali, but has also stationed 25 officials to man its control room to deal with any fire-related calls, a day ahead of the festival of lights, officials said.

It has also cancelled leave applications of its personnel, officials said. All the vehicles of the department have been

repaired and checked to ensure that they are equipped to handle emergencies, they said.

Compared to last year, the fire department said it has deployed 500 extra personnel at several locations. Twenty-two fire units have been stationed at several locations, including Bara Tooti Chowk, Sadar Bazaar, Bhatti Mines, Chandni Chowk, Lajpat Nagar, and Gandhi Nagar, they said. — PTI

## 2 stabbed to death, security guard held

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, OCT. 26

Two men were stabbed to death allegedly by two security guards following a scuffle in outer Delhi's Swaroop Nagar, police said on Saturday. The deceased have been identified as Sunil (25) and Ravi Kumar (29), they said.

The incident took place on Friday at a construction site near a school. According to the police, Ravi's father Ram Singh was constructing a house and security guards Jai Kumar (27) and Dharmender used to stay at the site.

On Friday, after Ravi arrived drunk at the construction site, an altercation broke out between him and Dharmender, a senior police official said. Following the scuffle,

Dharmender called Jai for help while Ravi called his acquaintance Sunil.

A scuffle broke out between the four people, the official said. Ram Singh along with his other son Shashi also arrived at the spot.

Jai and Dharmender attacked Ravi and Sunil with a knife, the official said.

"On reaching the spot, Sunil was found dead while injured Ravi was rushed to Babu Jagjivan Ram Memorial Hospital, where he was declared brought dead," DCP (Outer North) Gaurav Sharma said.

A case of murder has been registered. While Jai Kumar was arrested from the spot, teams have been deployed to nab his accomplice who managed to escape, the officer said.

## Vehicles with casteist remarks on them fined

AGE CORRESPONDENT NOIDA, OCT. 26

Over 250 vehicles, including two-wheelers, having casteist or "aggressive" remarks or tampered number plates were penalised in Noida and Greater Noida on Friday, police said.

The action was taken across Gautam Buddha Nagar as part of the district police's ongoing "Operation Clean" to ensure hassle-free traffic and check crime, the officials said.

As many as 133 vehicles, 100 in urban areas and 33 in rural areas, were challaned for having casteist remarks or words on them. Another 91 challans, 78 in urban areas and 13 in rural areas, were issued against those having aggressive remarks on their vehicles.

Also, 56 challans were slapped against owners of vehicles which were found having tampered number plates, a police spokesperson said.

The police also carried out inspections at major jewellery shops, fuel stations and markets from 11 am till 11 pm as it stepped up security checks and patrolling in view of Diwali festivities.

"The practice of writing casteist words or aggressive remarks on numberplates needs to be discouraged. Such writings create a feeling of insecurity among people and becomes a nuisance. Hence, we have taken action against them," Gautam Buddha Nagar SSP Vaibhav Krishna said.

## Ahead of Diwali, generations of potter families inhabiting the Kumhar Gram in West Delhi are on their toes, hoping to make the best of the festive season

the street vendors who buy diyas in bulk to sell them in residential areas—have also taken a hit.

Both the potters and the vendors claim that the municipal corporations have run anti-encroachment drives in the city, making it difficult for hawkers to sell these products, leading to a loss of work for both the communities.

A hawker in Janakpuri, 21-year-old Najim who managed to make ₹4,000 in the ten days leading up to Diwali last year, has barely made ₹300 this time. "It's

difficult to stand at one spot for too long, someone or other would come and tell us to go away. If a customer doesn't know where we put our cart, how will anyone do any business?" he said.

Other potter markets, which get a life of their own during the festive season, are the Hauz Rani Market in Malviya Nagar and the Matka Market in Sarojini Nagar.

Both markets have been the go-to stops for Delhiites during festivities for years. However, this year the crowds are thinner. — PTI



**Relief**

Captain Aaron Finch was on Saturday cleared to play in Australia's opening Twenty20 against Sri Lanka, but the team was dealt a blow with fast bowler Andrew Tye ruled out of the series



I can't wait to play. Any time you play for Australia in Australia it's a great honour and I'm excited.  
— Steve Smith

**SHORT TAKES**

**Azam will try to emulate Kohli**

**Dubai:** Pakistan's newly appointed T20I skipper Babar Azam seeks inspiration from Kane Williamson and Virat Kohli and wants to emulate them as captain. "I look at current captains like Kane Williamson and Virat Kohli, and how well they manage their own form along with bringing results to the team. I'll try to emulate them," International Cricket Council (ICC) quoted Azam as saying. "Moreover, I'm not just thinking I'll be happy to play regardless of the results. I'm looking to get a performance out of my team, as well as my individual performances," he added. On October 18 replacing Sarfaraz Ahmed, Azam was appointed as the Test captain while Azam was handed over the reins in the shortest format of the game. The 25-year-old Azam had played 33 T20I games in which he scored 1290 runs with an impressive average of 49.61. His first assignment as captain will be upcoming Australia tour, where Pakistan will play three T20Is followed by two Tests. In the recent home T20I series against Sri Lanka, he did not score many runs but served as vice-captain. In the series, Sri Lanka clean sweep Pakistan 3-0. Azam is currently number one in the ICC T20I batsmen rankings. The series against Australia at their home soil would be a challenging one for Pakistan. — ANI

**Thakur lashes out at ICC**  
**Hampir (Himachal Pradesh):** Former BCCI president Anurag Thakur on Sunday lashed out at the International Cricket Council, saying it "has no relevance" without the world's richest board, which used to give the ICC seventy-five percent of grants to run its affairs. Thakur, a union minister of state for finance and corporate affairs, was in the town in connection with the Sansad Mahakumbh prize distribution function. "The ICC has no relevance without the BCCI as it used to give it seventy-five percent of grants to run its affairs," said Thakur, who is the brother of newly-appointed BCCI treasurer Arun Dhumal. He also expressed hope that the Sourav Ganguly-led new body of BCCI would take up the issue with the ICC and get it due. Thakur said the appointment of Arun as the board's treasurer is a matter of pride for the state and he was hopeful that his brother would do the job honestly. — PTI

# Kohli gets Jumbo backing

**■ Kumble supports Virat's suggestion to have permanent centres for Tests**

**New Delhi, Oct. 26:** Former India captain and coach Anil Kumble has supported Virat Kohli's view of having five centres for Test matches in order to bring the spectators back to the stadium. Kumble, in fact, wants the BCCI to go back to the old tradition of the 80s and 90s where Test matches at specific centres were held during festivities. During the 80s and 90s the BCCI calendar used to have Tests on New Year in Kolkata and in Chennai at the time of Pongal. "I think that has certainly been one of the ways of promoting Test cricket. By restricting it to few centres and not just that it is also important to choose the time of the Test match," Kumble was quoted as saying by *Cricbuzz*. "We all remember that in the festival time, during the festival of Pongal, the Test match used to happen in Chennai. And the start of the season used to be in Delhi, Bangalore would have a Test match, Mumbai would have a Test match, Kolkata of course," he added. Earlier this week, the final Test between India and South Africa witnessed a lukewarm response from the Indian crowd in Ranchi, prompting Kohli to suggest the idea of five permanent Test centres for future home series, similar to the English and Australian model when top teams tour those countries. "I think it is important for Test cricket to promote these centres where people would know that these are the centres where you are going to play Test match cricket in prior to the start of the season so that you can market Test cricket and you can make sure that the crowd come in," Kumble said. "When I was the coach, I think we played in six different centres, they were all new centres and the one centre it was packed was Indore. And the atmosphere was brilliant, it is in the heart of the city that was one of the reasons that the crowd could come in irrespective of the time of the day," Kumble added. The 49-year-old, who is back to coaching again, this time as director of cricket

operations at Kings XI Punjab, also lent support to the idea of India playing day-night Tests. "I think day-night Test cricket will certainly bring in the crowds towards the latter half of that game," Kumble said. "You also need to choose the right time of the year because we've seen in day-night ODIs, the ball gets really wet because of dew. So, you may have to choose the venue and time of the year," he added. Word number one, India, put up a dominant effort in all departments to whitewash visitors South Africa 3-0 in the recently-concluded Test Series after winning their last two overseas series in the West Indies and Australia. They also lead the World Test Championship with 240 points. "Yes, I believe so and even three years ago when I was the coach, I did mention that this team certainly has everything in them to dominate world cricket and that is exactly what they have done and it is not just about the playing eleven, it is also the bench strength," Kumble said. "It is also the quality of bench strength that we are discussing here. You have fantastic quality. Whoever comes in certainly performs," he added. — PTI



Newly joined Bangladesh bowling coach Daniel Vettori throws a ball during a training session in Dhaka. — AFP

# Tamim pulls out of India tour

## Bangla crisis: BCB may take legal action against Shakib

**Dhaka, Oct. 26:** Bangladesh opening batsman Tamim Iqbal has pulled out of next month's Twenty20 and Test tour of India on personal grounds, the Bangladesh Cricket Board said on Saturday. The 30-year-old Tamim — Bangladesh's top run scorer in all formats — had indicated he would likely miss part of the tour to be with his wife as they expect their second child, chief selector Minhajul Abedin said. Bangladesh are scheduled to play three Twenty20 internationals and two Tests in India in November, starting in Delhi on November 3. Tamim missed Bangladesh's recent tri-series Twenty20 tournament after a dip in form. The left-hander also struggled in the World Cup in England, where he scored only 235 in eight innings, a 29.37 average. The 30-year later made interim captain for a three-match one-day international series in Sri Lanka in the absence of injured regular skipper Mashrafe Mortaza. But the leadership role failed to bring out his best, with Tamim making only 21 runs in the entire series, which Bangladesh lost 0-3. The Bangladesh Cricket Board said it will name a replacement of Tamim for the India tour in due course. — AFP

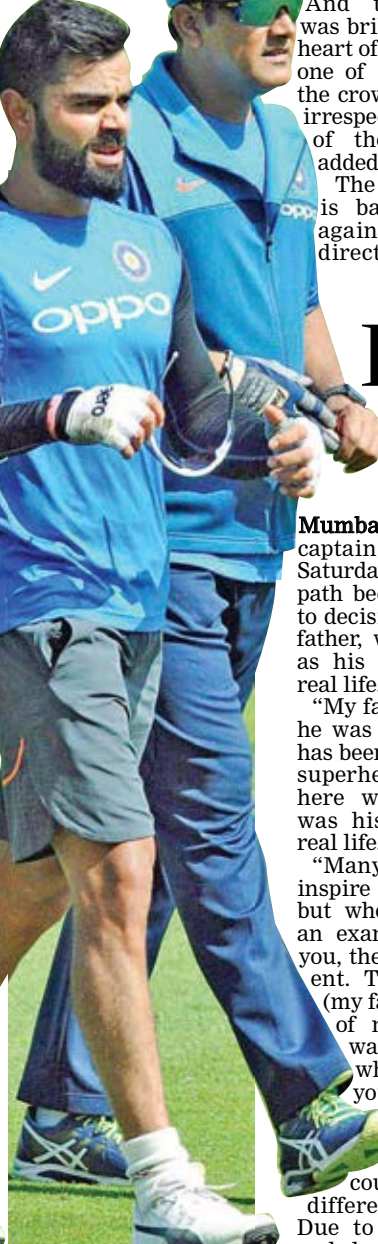
**Dhaka, Oct. 26:** Bangladesh's domestic cricketers might be reaping benefits from the players' protest but their national captain Shakib Al Hasan has been caught off-guard, with the board mulling legal action for violation of central contract. With Bangladesh set to leave for the all-important India series in the next few days, the BCB's strong stance could certainly affect the morale of the team. According to a report in *Cricbuzz*, Shakib has signed a deal with noted telecom company 'Grameenphone', which is in violation of the central contract clause. "BCB president Nazmul Hasan said that they will take strict action if he is unable to provide a satisfactory reply. Grameenphone, the local telecom giants, announced on October 22 that the country's leading



Shakib Al Hasan

all-rounder joined them as their brand ambassador," *Cricbuzz* reported. "He cannot make this agreement [with a telecom company] and why he cannot make this agreement is clearly stated in our contract paper," BCB president Nazmul Hasan was quoted as saying by the Bengali daily 'Kaler Kantho' on Saturday. "Robi [Telecom] was our title sponsor and Grameenphone did not bid and instead they grabbed few cricketers by paying them TK One or Two Crores. What happened in the end? The board lost TK 90 Crores in three years," he said. "We are going into legal action. We cannot spare anyone in this regard. We will ask for compensation. We will seek compensation from the company as well as from the player," Hasan said. "I heard about it [on October 23] and asked to sent legal notice to Grameenphone to claim compensation. I asked to send a letter to Shakib for explanation. We must give him a chance to show he didn't break the rule. To us it seemed that it was something like 'give a damn to the board' and if that is the case we will take tough action," he added. Shakib along with senior cricketers Mushfiqur Rahim and Mahmudullah led the players' protests 11-point demand. — PTI

**Thakur lashes out at ICC**  
**Hampir (Himachal Pradesh):** Former BCCI president Anurag Thakur on Sunday lashed out at the International Cricket Council, saying it "has no relevance" without the world's richest board, which used to give the ICC seventy-five percent of grants to run its affairs. Thakur, a union minister of state for finance and corporate affairs, was in the town in connection with the Sansad Mahakumbh prize distribution function. "The ICC has no relevance without the BCCI as it used to give it seventy-five percent of grants to run its affairs," said Thakur, who is the brother of newly-appointed BCCI treasurer Arun Dhumal. He also expressed hope that the Sourav Ganguly-led new body of BCCI would take up the issue with the ICC and get it due. Thakur said the appointment of Arun as the board's treasurer is a matter of pride for the state and he was hopeful that his brother would do the job honestly. — PTI



# Dad was super hero for Virat

**Mumbai, Oct 26:** India captain Virat Kohli on Saturday said his career path became simple due to decisions taken by his father, whom he termed as his "super hero" in real life. "My father till the time he was in this world he has been always been my superhero," Kohli said here when asked who was his 'super her' in real life. "Many people can inspire or motivate you, but when someone sets an example in front of you, the impact is different. The examples he (my father) set in front of me... like when I was playing cricket when I was young...the decisions he took with regard to my career. He could have told me different dimension. Due to his personality and decisions, my focus

# Delhi's post-Diwali pollution cause of concern ahead of T20

**New Delhi, Oct. 26:** The prevailing air pollution in the national capital region has become a cause of concern ahead of the T20 International between India and Bangladesh at the Feroz Shah Kotla on November 3. Back in December 2017, the Sri Lankan cricket team was left gasping for breath during a Test match at the Kotla, forcing most of their players to wear protective masks even as some fell ill. However, the rotation policy followed by

the BCCI and the travel route for the visiting team forced the BCCI to schedule the first match of the tour in Delhi, and they are now hoping that the city's poor air quality doesn't become an issue during the night encounter. Just a couple of days before the Diwali, the Air Quality Index (AQI) was rated as "very poor". As per AQI standards, 0-50 is satisfactory, 51-100 is moderate, 201-300 is poor while 301-400 is very poor.

Anything above 400 is considered to be severe, which can cause serious health issues. According to the available information, on Thursday, at 8:30 am, the AQI in the vicinity of the Delhi University was 357, which is considered to be very poor. Both senior BCCI and DDCA officials acknowledged that air pollution is something that is beyond their control and they can only hope that since the match is being held a week after Diwali,

the situation will be under control. "Look, we have factored in the post Diwali air pollution in Delhi but since the match is a week away, we are hopeful that the players won't face any health hazards," a senior BCCI official said. Due to the nightmarish experience and bad publicity following the Sri Lanka game, there are questions as to why the BCCI didn't do away with the rotation policy as far as Delhi is concerned. — PTI

# AFTER BCCI, CA WORRIED ABOUT FTP

**Melbourne:** Cricket Australia has echoed BCCI's concerns about ICC's proposed one flagship tournament every year during next eight-year FTP cycle (2023-2031), as they are not ready to compromise on conducting bilateral Test series. During the ICC meeting in Dubai earlier this month, it was announced that a working group of member nations had agreed in principle to the chief executive Manu Sawhney's idea of selling eight ICC men's events in eight years (2023-2031) as part of the next broadcast rights package. BCCI CEO Rahul Johri has already expressed his concern and ICC has been appraised that world's richest cricket board is not on same page. Cricket Australia chief executive Kevin Roberts' apprehension about the global body's plans will be music to BCCI's ears. "The ICC schedule of tournaments is certainly something that is absolutely up for discussion at the moment and will continue in the months ahead," Roberts recently told *SEN Radio*. — PTI

# It's puerile to keep harping on MSD to announce retirement



**Ayaz Memon**  
**Over The Top**

Mixed signals have emerged from the Indian cricket establishment about Mahendra Singh Dhoni's future over the past few days. After picking the team for the limited overs series against Bangladesh, chief selector MSK Prasad said "we've moved on" when asked whether the former India captain had been considered. However, new BCCI president Sourav Ganguly had earlier said on the issue that "great players don't just fade away", and on Saturday, coach Ravi Shastri came out firing on all cylinders against Dhoni's critics in an interview to a national daily. While Prasad appeared

point of view from them on Dhoni's future? It could become a hugely vexing situation for Prasad & Co if Shastri, captain Virat Kohli and vice captain Rohit Sharma see merit in Dhoni's inclusion for the T20 World Championship. I have sympathy for the selectors who found themselves in a predicament that has only been growing since the World Cup, and chose to tackle the Dhoni matter head on. In hindsight, Prasad will believe he could have been prudent and demurred defer on Dhoni's future for nobody can say with any certainty how it will unravel.



Dhoni's inclusion in the current situation was of course impossible. He hasn't played a single match since the World Cup. There was nothing for the selectors to go by. But whether this eliminates his prospects in the remainder of this season and then the next, leading into the T20 World Championship is of the crux. This is where Ganguly (likely) and Shastri (most certainly) seem to be pulling in a different direction from the selectors. The stridency in Shastri's position is particularly telling. What comes through is lack of conviction in Rishabh Pant (or Sanju Samson who is now part of the T20 squad) to measure up to the demands of a World Championship. Having Dhoni on the radar, it would appear, reduces the anxiety somewhat in the team management. Age works against Dhoni. He will be 39 next year, and

going by reports in recent weeks, he is carrying a niggle from the World Cup. While he remains among the fittest cricketers in the country, such niggles take longer to overcome with advancing age. This probably explains why Dhoni has stayed away from domestic tournaments. But if he regains complete fitness, finds his best form and has the zest for competition at the highest level, the age consideration gets mitigated. There are several players who've been successful in T20 when in their late 30s. But the onus is then squarely on them to prove their credentials. One can punt on a youngster. From a veteran, the need is for greater certainty. How does the Dhoni issue get resolved? It is puerile to keep harping on Dhoni to make his retirement plan known. Everybody knows it can be too far away. But it remains his personal decision to make — and when he

wants. He has not made any unusual demands for being given preference, in fact gone out of his way to encourage younger players, so it is reasonable to infer that he isn't clinging on to his place in absentia. But for inclusion in the team Dhoni needs to be assessed on form and fitness: like every other player. If he doesn't do this in time for selection, he obviously should not be considered. Whether he announces his retirement or not is then superfluous. As I see it, Dhoni is listening intently to his body and mind in assessing his future. He'll probably play some domestic matches, the IPL certainly (barring injury), see how his feet are moving, whether the bat is still productive and most importantly whether he is better than all challengers for a place in the Indian team. That's the only thing that should interest selectors too.



## New coach

Former US international star Tab Ramos was named as the new head coach of the Major League Soccer outfit Houston Dynamo



Honestly, by the time I got to the (WTA Finals), I was just so tired.

— Naomi Osaka on last year's season ending tournament.

## SHORT TAKES

### England stun NZ to reach WC final

Yokohama (Japan): Fly-half George Ford led the way as England ended New Zealand's eight-year reign as champions with a superb 19-7 World Cup semi-final win in Yokohama on Saturday. Ford, restored at 10 by coach Eddie Jones, took over goal-kicking duties after England captain Owen Farrell took a knock but he landed four penalty attempts after Manu Tuilagi stunned the All Blacks with an early try. This was just England's eighth win in 42 Tests against New Zealand and meant the All Blacks had lost their first World Cup match since a shock 2007 quarter-final defeat by France. England's first World Cup win over the two-time defending champions puts them into their fourth final — just four years after their embarrassing first-round exit on home soil. "Our best form of attack is our defence. We create opportunities through our defence to attack," said England coach Eddie Jones, who has master-minded the turnaround. — AFP

### Strong winds play spoilsport

Phillip Island (Australia): Qualifying for the Australian MotoGP was cancelled Saturday as fierce winds caused havoc at the beachside circuit, with riders deciding it was too dangerous after Tech3 Racing's Miguel Oliveira was "blown off" the track. Phillip Island, known for its fast corners and long straights, is a favourite among the sport's stars, but is also renowned for notoriously unpredictable weather. After wet and then dry sessions on Friday, the riders had to contend Saturday with not only more rain but blustery and cold conditions, making it hard to push the pace. The winds whipping the circuit were such that 10 of the 22-strong field didn't even set a lap-time in third practice session. Fourth practice was then red-flagged when pit board numbers blew onto the track, just minutes after Oliveira lost control and came off his bike in a big crash on the approach to turn one. MotoGP officials said he was "blown off the track", with the Portuguese rider stretched away. "From the morning to the afternoon the wind completely changed direction and was going sideways on the straight," Oliveira told the crash.Net website on Saturday. — AFP

### 'BAN CAN TAKE AWAY CHAMPIONS'

New Delhi: British heavyweight boxing star Tyson Fury believes International Olympic Committee's decision to ban world body (AIBA) will have a massive impact on amateur and professional boxing, saying it can potentially take away champions of the future from the sport. "It will have a massive impact because it is potentially stopping stars of the future from getting a break," Fury said during an international conference call ahead of his WWE in-ring debut against Braun Strowman at Crown Jewel in Riyadh next week. "It is very important that amateur boxing continues so we can have professional champions of the future." "If there is no amateur boxing, there is no professionals. I don't know many people who have turned professionals without being amateurs. It could have a big impact on the professional sport for sure. It could be taking away champions of the future." Fury will join the likes of Evander Holyfield, Floyd Mayweather, Mike Tyson and Muhammad Ali when he takes on Braun Strowman at the WWE Crown Jewel on October 31 in Saudi Arabia. Fury was also impressed with Indian boxer Vijender Singh goes on to win the world title for India. — PTI

# Nets edge Knicks

## Irving stars for Brooklyn in Big Apple NBA battle

Los Angeles, Oct. 26: The Nets, out to make Brooklyn the center of New York City's NBA universe, edged the Knicks 113-109 Friday, but not before a fourth-quarter dogfight.

Brooklyn's new star Kyrie Irving didn't match the 50 points he dropped in a heartbreaking season-opening loss to Minnesota, but his 26 points included a step-back three-pointer with 22.4 seconds to play that gave the Nets a 111-109 lead that they wouldn't give up.

"Ah man, I just had to get to my spot, make sure my elbow was pointed and, you know, gratefully it went in," Irving said of the shot that drew comparisons to his game-winner in game seven of the 2016 NBA Finals for Cleveland.

Allonzo Trier's 22 points helped the Knicks erase a 19-point deficit and take a three-point lead with 3:41 to play.

Irving said his only message to his teammates as the Knicks poured on the pressure was "stay poised, stay calm."

Irving ramped up the Big Apple rivalry on Thursday when he said at a promotional event that the Nets were "going to take over the whole city."

"It's about us," said Irving, who was booed by Knicks fans who crossed the Brooklyn Bridge for the game at the Barclays Center.

Nets fans had their say as well, with taunting reminders that it was



New York Knicks center Mitchell Robinson (right) defends against Brooklyn Nets guard Kyrie Irving who goes up for two points during the first half of an NBA game on Friday. — AP

Brooklyn that won the off-season free agent contest with the acquisition of Irving and former league Most Valuable Player Kevin Durant — who is still recovering from an Achilles tendon injury.

### Lakers bounce back

LeBron James and the Los Angeles Lakers, who lost their season-opener on Tuesday to their upstart cross-town rivals the Clippers, bounced

back with a 95-86 victory over the Utah Jazz.

James scored 32 points with 10 assists and seven rebounds and Anthony Davis scored 21 points with seven rebounds.

Davis also blocked five shots as the revamped Lakers delivered an impressive defensive performance.

"The more we can defend like this, the easier it'll be for us," said Davis after the Lakers harried the Jazz into 23 turnovers

that yielded 22 Los Angeles points.

"That's who we are," James said of the defensive effort. James scored 12 points in the third quarter and the Lakers led by 19 heading into the final frame — when they stretched the advantage to as many as 22.

### T-Wolves win again

There was no let-down for the Minnesota Timberwolves after their

one-point overtime victory over the Nets on Wednesday in the face of Irving's 50-point explosion.

Karl-Anthony Towns scored 37 points, pulled down 15 rebounds and handed out eight assists as the Timberwolves won their second straight — 121-99 over the Charlotte Hornets.

Towns connected on 13 of 18 shots from the field, making four three-pointers. — AFP

## Wissam's goal sinks Nantes

Nantes (France), Oct. 26: Prolific striker Wissam Ben Yedder grabbed his ninth goal of the season as Monaco handed Nantes their first home Ligue 1 defeat of the campaign on Friday.

Ben Yedder struck in the first half and had two more efforts ruled out for offside as Leonardo Jardim's rejuvenated Monaco clinched a fourth win in their last five league outings.

They move into eighth place in the table while Nantes stay second, five points behind leaders Paris Saint Germain who take on bitter rivals Marseille on Sunday.

Nantes' defeat ended their perfect record at home this season which had seen four successive 1-0 wins

over Montpellier, Reims, Rennes and Nice.

"It's important to win away from home for the first time this season," said Jardim after Ben Yedder became the first Monaco player in 50 years to score nine goals in his first nine games in a season.

"Ben Yedder was always very effective at Toulouse and Sevilla. He is also in a better physical condition than at the beginning of the season."

Ben Yedder grabbed the only goal after 22 minutes when he picked up a pass from Aleksandr Golovin to unleash a fierce right foot drive into the roof of the net.

He found net again but he had strayed offside and the goal was ruled out. — AFP

## MEXICAN GRAND PRIX

# Hamilton's title hopes fade after Mexico practice flop

Mexico City, Oct. 26: Lewis Hamilton's hopes of wrapping up his sixth drivers world title this weekend dimmed on Friday when he languished in fifth place behind Sebastian Vettel and Ferrari after second free practice at the Mexican Grand Prix.

After topping the times in the opening session, the defending five-time champion was unable to resist the pace of his main rivals as four-time champion Vettel delivered a best lap in one minute and 16.607 seconds.

"It wasn't good enough," said Mercedes boss Toto Wolff, whose team clinched an unprecedented sixth championship double last time out in Japan.

"This is a difficult track for us, but we are lacking performance. It is one of our worst tracks."



Lewis Hamilton

On an overcast but warm day at the Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez, the outright pace of the Ferrari ruled on the main straight with Max Verstappen, winner of the last two Mexican races for Red Bull, also showing competitive pace.

The Dutchman was second, just one-tenth down on Vettel, but four-tenths ahead of Charles Leclerc with Hamilton's Mercedes

team-mate — and only title rival — Valtteri Bottas fourth ahead of the champion-elect.

"The Ferraris are too fast for us," said Verstappen. "They will be too quick in qualifying. They are ahead of us all here."

Daniil Kvyat was sixth ahead of his Toro Rosso team-mate Pierre Gasly, Carlos Sainz of McLaren, Nico Hulkenberg of Renault and Lando Norris in the second McLaren.

Wolff admitted that it was unhelpful for Hamilton that he is without his usual race engineer Peter 'Bono' Bonnington in Mexico and Austin next weekend, as he has stayed in Britain to recover from surgery.

"It's not great, but it is what it is," he said. "Not ideal. It's tough. Rain might be a help here this weekend." — AFP

## SWISS INDOORS

# Tsitsipas sets up clash with Roger

Basel (Switzerland), Oct. 26: Stefanos Tsitsipas set up his fourth meeting this season with Roger Federer after a 3-6, 6-4, 6-4 quarter-final comeback win over Filip Krajinovic at the Swiss Indoors on Friday.

The Greek world number seven has beaten nine-time Basel champion Federer at the Australian Open while benefitting from a walkover on the clay in Rome.

In between, Federer, 38, swept past the 21-year-old Greek in Dubai.

Top seed Federer on Thursday had already made sure of his spot in the semi-finals after Swiss compatriot Stan Wawrinka withdrew from their last-eight tie with a lower back injury just an hour after seeing off Frances Tiafoe in a gruelling second round clash. On Friday, Tsitsipas had to stage a fightback for a second straight match after recovering against qualifier Ricardas Berankis 24 hours earlier.

"Persistence was the key today," said third seed Tsitsipas. "I put a lot of emphasis on my serve."

"It was also crucial to stay concentrated, even if I was broken three times, unfortunately. But there were plenty of games where I played very confidently."

Tsitsipas said his Australian Open fourth round defeat of Federer remains in his memory.

"It was one of the greatest moments of my career. Of course, the crowds love Roger — but what can you do?"

"Roger understands the



Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece reacts during a match in Basel. — AP

game very well, his serve is one of his biggest weapons and his movement and coverage help him," added the player who has also scored wins over Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal in 2019.

### Opelka fires 31 aces

Reilly Opelka fired 31 aces to reach the fifth semi-final of his career as he beat Roberto Bautista Agut 6-3, 3-6, 6-3.

The 37th-ranked American's victory in 93 minutes also slowed the progress of his Spanish opponent in the chase for one of the two remaining places at the ATP Finals in London next month.

Opelka has reached four of his five semi-finals this season — most recently at the start of the month in Tokyo — as the 22-year-old works to broaden his game beyond just a huge serve. — AFP

## Steeled for WTA finals, says Osaka

Shenzhen (China), Oct. 26: In-form world number three Naomi Osaka believes she is better equipped to deal with the WTA Finals' demanding round-robin format, after her maiden appearance at the season-ending showpiece ended in tears.

There was much attention on the Japanese sensation entering last year's WTA Finals on the back of a controversial US Open victory over Serena Williams.

But Osaka failed to live up to the hype in a winless campaign that ended in tears when she was forced to retire against Kiki Bertens due to a hamstring injury.

Having learned the lessons from that bitter experience, Osaka said she knew what to expect in the \$14 million tournament pitting the eight best ranked players of 2019.

The lucrative WTA Finals has moved to the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen for the next 10 years after a five-year run in Singapore. "I definitely think last year helped me in the way that I kind of know the format more," Osaka told reporters on Saturday.

"Before last year, I hadn't played round-robin since I was, like, eight or ten."

"I think the end of last year was just so hectic for me. Honestly, by the time I got to the (WTA Finals), I was just so tired," Osaka added.

She will be one of the favourites in Shenzhen having claimed successive titles in Osaka and Beijing. It has been a return to form for the 22-year-old after a stunning first-round exit at Wimbledon followed by a lacklustre US Open title defence ended with a round of 16 defeat to Belinda Bencic. — AFP

## ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP

# Tiger stuns himself with 2nd 64

Inzai (Japan), Oct. 26: Tiger Woods surprised himself with a second straight 64 Saturday for a two-stroke lead over Gary Woodland at the halfway stage of the rain-delayed ZoZo Championship in Japan.

"I'm surprised that I was able to score as well as I have," admitted Woods, who is playing his first tournament for two months after having arthroscopic knee surgery.

"It usually that takes a little bit of time. I've been able to strike my irons pretty well this week so far and that's been nice."

The 15-time major winner lit up the back nine in five-under 31 to take control on an empty Narashino Country Club course, closed to spectators for safety after soaking up more than six inches (150mm) of rain during Friday's washout.

"I had made a couple putts today and I went to put my hand up and I'm like, don't put your hand up, there's no one clapping," said Woods. Chasing a record-equalling 82nd PGA Tour victory, Woods had bounced back from bogeying his



Tiger Woods of the United States watches his tee shot on the fifth hole in Tokyo on Saturday. — AP

opening three holes to shoot a mesmerising 64 with nine birdies in Thursday's first round.

He started more steadily on Saturday and was one-under at the turn before switching on the afterburners.

"Hit the ball a little bit better than I did (Thursday)," Woods said. "Let's hope that trend continues."

Three birdies in four holes from the 10th took

total of 128. US Open champion and overnight co-leader Woodland said he had to dig deep for his 66 to keep in touch with Woods.

"It was a grind all day," said the 35-year-old.

Friday's postponed round finally began at 10am Saturday on a weather-ravaged course with bright sunshine helping to dry the turf. A pond to the left of the 10th fairway had expanded into a lake, forcing officials to move the tee forward, and in a trice a 376-yard par four became a 140-yard par four.

Local favourite Hideki Matsuyama immediately took advantage of the tiny 10th with an eagle but trod water thereafter to finish four shots behind Woods.

World number two Rory McIlroy had a ragged two-over 72 on Thursday but he too opened with an eagle at the 10th to get back to level par. A birdie four at the long 14th kept up the momentum and two more gains at 16 and 18 saw him turn in 31 and his way to a 65 to be three-under total, nine behind Woods. — AFP

## Olympic, Tour de France dreams drive Froome

Saitama (Japan), Oct. 26: Still limping heavily, Chris Froome is fighting back from less than zero, he told AFP on Saturday, in what he describes as an unprecedented bid to win another Tour de France in 2020.

Froome, the winner of four Tour de France titles, fractured a thigh, elbow and vertebrae in a high speed crash in June. On Sunday he plans to make a statement of intent.

On Sunday Froome will race in an exhibition-style team time-trial for Ineos at Saitama, Japan. While on Friday, he also rode part of July's Tokyo Games road race route.

"The accident has certainly changed me, given me a new start," said a determined looking Froome.

"It's like starting from zero again, below zero if you like, that's what it feels like," he said, his voice wavering slightly. "But it's completely changed my motivation, given me a challenge I've never had before. This

### ● Froome fractured a thigh, elbow and vertebrae in a crash in June

### ● On Sunday he will race in an exhibition-style team time-trial

could be perceived as an incredibly difficult and negative situation, but I've tried to turn that around to try and achieve something unprecedented."

Froome will be 35 years old when the Tour embarks from Nice next June. With three other Grand Tour winners on the Ineos roster, he knows the size of the challenge ahead, not least building up the strength in his injured leg.

"I've got to get the legs back to 50-50 (instead of 65-35 strength balance)," says the Africa-born Briton, clearly dragging his right leg as he walks. "I've still got more sur-

gery (in December) to remove a big metal plate and about six screws. It's quite tender, the muscle and soft tissue that's being impacted by this metal plate on my hip," he says.

### "Get back to where I left off"

Before the accident, Froome made no secret of his ambition to equal the five Tours de France won by Eddy Merckx, Jacques Anquetil, Bernard Hinault and Miguel Indurain, but is now focussed just on starting another one.

"The Tour de France is the driving force, the big prize for me is to try and get back to the Tour de France, it's still too early to say if it's doable. I'm going to do everything I can to get back to where I left off," he says.

Froome says the unusual 2020 Tour de France route is double motivation. "It's a Tour de France we haven't seen for decades." — AFP



## Worried

**Pep Guardiola insists Manchester City will not buy a player in the January transfer window despite admitting he is concerned about his team's growing list of injuries in defence**

# Sterling show rocks Villa

## 'Ruthless' Leicester rout Saints



We said at half time, keep your speed in the game and we have to punish them

— Brendan Rodgers, Leicester City manager after thrashing Southampton 9-0 in the EPL

### SHORT TAKES

#### Cadet TT girls grab gold in Oman Open

**Muscat:** Indian cadet girls on Saturday defeated Chinese Taipei 3-1 to grab the gold medal in the ITTF Junior Circuit Premium Oman Open here. The Indian paddlers ended the day with a total of four medals in the cadet events while the juniors bagged three. The B team in the girls cadet event lost their matches to India A and Chinese Taipei but registered wins over Greece, England and Sri Lanka to end up with the bronze medal. The Indian cadet boys teams also added two bronze medals when they failed to go past the semi-final hurdle, as the A and B teams lost to Chinese Taipei and Russia, respectively. In the junior girls event, both the Indian teams finished number two and three in group standings to win the silver and bronze medals. While, in junior boys category, one of the two Indian teams won bronze when it went down 1-3 to Iran in the semi-finals. — PTI

#### Ultra runners aim for glory in France

**Delhi:** India's top 9 ultra runners, Bengaluru's Ullas Narayana and Delhi's Apoorva Chaudhary, will lead the country's challenge in the IAU 24-hour World Championship in Albi, France, over this weekend. Narayana, a veteran runner from Bengaluru who works in Vancouver (Canada) now, qualified for the World Championship by covering a mind-boggling 250.371 kms during the 24-hour Stadium Run a couple of months back. Among women, Delhi's Apoorva covered 176.8kms to become India's top candidate and both will fancy their chances in the gruelling competition. The 9 runners, including 5 men and 4 women, have been selected by the Athletics Federation of India, and are being sponsored by IDBI Federal Life Insurance. A five-member support crew, including 3 ultra marathon runners and a leading sports medicine specialist, are part of the travelling contingent. — PTI

#### DYBALA SCORES BUT JUVE HELD BY LOWLY LECCE

**Milan:** Paulo Dybala scored but Juventus were held 1-1 at lowly Lecce on Saturday with the defending champions in danger of being overtaken by Inter Milan at the top of the Serie A table. Both goals came from penalties with Dybala's strike from the spot after 50 minutes cancelled out by Lecce's Marco Mancosu's effort six minutes later. The Italian champions have 23 points from nine games, but could be overtaken by Antonio Conte's Inter who are two points behind before hosting Parma later on Saturday. Juventus rested Portuguese star Cristiano Ronaldo after Tuesday's 2-1 Champions League win over Lokomotiv Moscow, and ahead of two Serie A matches in four days next week. But Dybala, who scored both goals against the Russians, started up front alongside Gonzalo Higuain, with Federico Bernardeschi just behind the Argentine strike duo. Maurizio Sarri gave starts to Emre Can and Danilo with Blaise Matuidi and Juan Cuadrado starting on the bench. Promoted Lecce, a side from the heel of Italy, are struggling above the relegation zone, but managed to pull through for a precious point despite being dominated by the visitors. Slovenian midfielder Zan Majer forced a save from Juventus goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny after just two minutes. Dybala was targeted early by the Lecce defenders with Luca Rossetini and Marco Calderoni picking up yellow cards early for fouling the Argentine forward. Higuain looked as he had the opener after a quarter of an hour finishing off Alex Sandro's cross, but his effort was ruled for offside. — AFP

**London, Oct. 26:** Pep Guardiola was relieved Manchester City found their rhythm in time to close the gap on Premier League leaders Liverpool to three points as Raheem Sterling inspired a 3-0 win over Aston Villa on Saturday. Guardiola's side survived a tame opening period as second half goals from Sterling, David Silva and Ilkay Gundogan put Villa to the sword. Guardiola's side closed the gap on Premier League leaders Liverpool to three points thanks to goals from Raheem Sterling, David Silva and Ilkay Gundogan at the Etihad Stadium. But City boss Guardiola was frustrated with the way his players struggled to establish any momentum in the first half, just days after they fell behind against Atalanta in the Champions League before eventually winning 5-1. He fears City will be caught out in future if they continue to play so lethargically in the first half. "Of course, respect and credit for Aston Villa. The first half we played football but we don't play in the way we should play," Guardiola said.

"We were better in the second half. I don't know if it was because of the early goal. "In the second we play in the way we normally are but we have to try and play 90 minutes. We played just 45." City's second successive league win means Liverpool are under pressure to beat Tottenham at Anfield in Sunday's clash between last season's Champions League finalists.

At the Amex Stadium, Everton blew a 2-1 lead in the final 10 minutes to leave Silva fighting to save his job. Silva's side were in trouble after 15 minutes when Pascal Gross smashed a free-kick past Jordan Pickford for his first goal since April.

Everton drew level five minutes later when Richarlison met Lucas Digne's corner with a header that deflected off Brighton defender Adam Webster into his own net. Dominic Calvert-Lewin came off the bench to put Everton ahead from Mason Holgate's pass in the 74th minute.

**SILVA WOES** However, Brighton's Neal Maupay scored an 80th minute penalty after Michael Keane was controversially ruled by VAR to have fouled Aaron Connolly.

And Everton defender Digne added to Silva's woes when his stoppage-time own goal from Leandro Trossard's cross left Everton two points above the relegation zone after their fifth defeat in their last six league games.

Watford remain bottom of the table after a 0-0 draw against Bournemouth. The Hornets are still without a league win this season and haven't won in nine home league games dating back to April. Lys Mousset finished a memorable week on a high note with the equaliser in Sheffield United's 1-1 draw at West Ham.

The hosts took the lead in the 44th minute through Robert Snodgrass's cool finish from Andriy Yarmolenko's pass. — AFP



### THE RESULTS

<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>Manchester City</b> 3
(Sterling 46, De Bruyne 65, Gundogan 70)	<b>Aston Villa</b> 0
<b>Brighton</b> 3	(Gross 15, Maupay 80-pen, Digne 90+4-og)
<b>Everton</b> 2	(Webster 20-og, Calvert-Lewin 74)
<b>Watford</b> 0	<b>Bournemouth</b> 0
<b>West Ham</b> 1	(Snodgrass 44)
<b>Sheffield United</b> 1	(Mousset 69)
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>Southampton</b> 0
<b>Leicester</b> 9	(Chilwell 10, Tielemans 17, Perez 19, 39, 57, Vardy 45, 58, 90+4-pen, Maddison 85)

Manchester City's Raheem Sterling celebrates after scoring against Aston Villa in their English Premier League match at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester on Saturday. — AP

**Southampton, Oct. 26:** Leicester boss Brendan Rodgers hailed his team as "ruthless" for their record-equalling 9-0 rout of Southampton in the Premier League on Friday as besieged Saints coach Ralph Hasenhuttl insisted: "Blame me". Ayoze Perez and Jamie Vardy both hit hat-tricks as Rodgers' side moved second in the table. The rout equalled Manchester United's 9-0 demolition of Ipswich at Old Trafford in March 1995 for the biggest win in Premier League history. "We were ruthless. I'm very proud to stand and be the manager of that team," said Rodgers after a game played out in driving rain at St Mary's Stadium. "A mark of the good sides is you don't let up. We wanted to show we're a good side and we certainly did that in the second half. "We were ruthlessly simple in our game. When you're so many goals up you can easily slow but we kept focused. We want to be a top team and to be a top team you must be clinical." Hasenhuttl saw his team slip into the bottom three and he pulled no punches after a performance which also saw Ryan Bertrand red-carded after 10 minutes. "The per-

formance was a disaster and I have to apologise and take 100 percent responsibility — I've never seen a team act like this, there was no fight for anything," admitted the Saints' coach. Southampton midfielder Nathan Redmond added: "It was an embarrassing performance, the stuff of nightmares." Leicester are just five points behind league leaders Liverpool, who host Tottenham on Sunday. Ben Chilwell began the destruction in the 10th minute when he tapped in on the rebound, and Ryan Bertrand's red card — awarded via VAR for a late tackle on Perez in the build-up to the opener — helped the away side open the floodgates. — AFP



Leicester City players celebrates their 9-0 win over Southampton. — AFP

## Sindhu bows out of French Open

**Paris, Oct. 26:** Ace Indian shuttler P.V. Sindhu failed to stop her recent run of early exits after the reigning world champion crashed out in the quarterfinals of the French Open after a three-game defeat to top seed Tai Tzu Ying of Chinese Taipei here. The fifth seeded Indian went down 16-21, 26-24, 17-21 to the world number one shuttler in a hard-fought match that lasted one hour 15 minutes on Friday night. This the 10th time Sindhu had lost to Tzu Ying, who now enjoys a dominant 10-5 record over the Indian. — PTI



## Gyan heads winner for Highlanders

**Guwahati, Oct. 26:** Star striker Asamoah Gyan handed NorthEast United FC their first victory of the Indian Super League after netting the winner in a 2-1 result against Odisha FC here on Saturday. The home team drew first blood when Redeem Tlang scored the quickest goal of the season (2'). Odisha equalised through Xisco Hernandez (71') before defender Carlos Delgado was sent off. The Highlanders made their advantage count through Gyan who popped up with a header six minutes from time. The win takes NorthEast to the top of the table while Odisha slumped to their second loss in as many matches. The hosts enjoyed the best possible start to the game when they roared into the lead with just two minutes on the clock. Martin Chaves started the move with a run down the left flank before finding Panagiotis Triadis down the middle. The Greek midfielder found Tlang in space down the right and the youngster tucked a finish past Arshdeep Singh to send the home crowd into raptures. NorthEast looked assured in possession following the opener and caused a few problems for the Odisha defence. — PTI



Asamoah Gyan (centre) of NorthEast United FC celebrates after scoring the winning goal against Odisha FC in the ISL on Saturday.

## AFC RECOGNISES ISL AS INDIA'S TOP LEAGUE

**New Delhi, Oct. 26:** The Asian Football Confederation on Saturday recognised the Indian Super League as the country's premier competition while recommending the AIFF to "open a pathway" for two I-League clubs' entry into ISL by the end of 2020-21 season. The AFC's executive committee approved All India Football Federation's proposed roadmap for the country's sport during a meeting in Vietnam. In a release on Indian football's roadmap, the AFC stated, "In season 2019-20, the ISL will attain the status of premier league competition in Indian football." Another key recommendation by the AFC is to open a "pathway for two I-League clubs' entry into the ISL by the end of the 2020-21 season, subject to the criteria being fulfilled." The top continental body will allow the winning ISL club to represent India in the AFC Champions League play-offs, and the I-League winner will get to play in the AFC Cup play-off. The endorsement comes days after the AFC held a summit in Kuala Lumpur on October 14. — PTI

## CHENNAIYIN SEEK HOME COMFORT

**Chennai, Oct. 26:** Indian Super League action returns to the southern metropolis for the first time this season as Chennaiyin FC take on Mumbai City FC in their opening home game of the season here on Sunday. The fans of Hero ISL season 4 champions would hope for a better performance from their team after a terrible campaign last time which saw them finish rock-bottom. "First game in front of the fans and obviously our players want to make an impression. I don't care how we win, we need to get three points. I'd be delighted if we can take maximum points from the next two games," said Chennaiyin head coach John Gregory. Chennaiyin have not had the best of starts, however. They started with a 0-3 away defeat to FC Goa where their defence looked all at sea against a brilliant attack. Centre-backs Lucian Goian and Eli Sabia didn't have the best of outings and could not keep Ferran Corominas and co. At bay. But the Romanian centre-back should be pumped to face his former side with whom he spent two seasons. The Islanders are brimming with confidence after a tough away win at Kochi in their season opener against Kerala Blasters FC. However, they do have a few concerns. — PTI