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CHENNAI | WEDNESDAY 30 | OCTOBER 2019

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## WEATHER

Max: 29°C  
Min: 25°C  
Rainfall: 15 mm

## ASTROGUIDE

Vikari: Aippasi 13  
Tithi: Thrithiyai  
Star: Anusham  
Rahukalam:  
12 noon to 1.30 pm  
Yamagandam:  
7.30 am to 9 am

## PRAYERS

Fajar: 4.49 am  
Zohar: 11.58 am  
Asar: 3.14 pm  
Maghrib: 5.46 pm  
Isha: 6.58 pm

SUNSET TODAY 5.44 PM

SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.02 AM

MOONRISE TODAY 7.59 AM

MOONSET TOMORROW 7.49 PM

## IndiGo places order for 300 A320neo family aircraft

Mumbai: Placing one of the single largest aircraft orders, IndiGo will buy 300 Airbus A320neo family planes as the budget carrier continues with its ambitious growth plans. While the price details were not disclosed, the order would be worth over US\$ 33 billion (over ₹2.3 lakh crore) on the basis of catalogue price of A320neo plane that was published in 2018.

## Nawaz Sharif fighting for life, says doctor

Lahore: Nawaz Sharif is "fighting for life" after a drastic drop in his blood platelet count, a media report quoted his personal doctor as saying on Tuesday, days after Pakistan's former prime minister was rushed from prison to a hospital. Sharif, 69, was admitted to the Services Hospital on Monday night from the anti-graft body's custody after his platelets dropped to a critical low level of 2,000.

## COUNTER POINT



How about sending CBI and ED as our emissaries to seek support!

## Market report

**GOLD**  
24 ct (1 gm): ₹3,840.00  
22 ct (1 gm): ₹3,664.00

**SILVER**  
Bar (1 Kg): ₹48,500.00

**INDICES**  
Sensex 39,831.84 pts  
Nifty 11,786.85 pts

**EXCHANGE**  
US\$: ₹70.84 Euro: ₹76.60



Members of European Union Parliamentary delegation during a shikara ride at Dal Lake in Srinagar, on Tuesday. — PTI

## Clashes erupt during EU MPs' guided tour of Srinagar

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC  
SRINAGAR, OCT. 29

Parts of Srinagar erupted on Tuesday as a delegation of 23 European lawmakers arrived in Jammu and Kashmir's summer capital on a two-day visit to assess the situation in the State. This is the first high-level foreign visitors' delegation to J&K after it was stripped of its special status under Article 370 of the Constitution and split into two Union Territories by the Centre on August 5.

The team originally comprised 27 Members of Parliament, drawn mainly from far-right parties, of eleven European countries but four of them opted out at the last minute and have reportedly returned to their respective countries after the authorities refused to permit them to visit places and meet people of their own choice in the Valley, citing security reasons.

Soon after their arrival here, the EU delegation visited the headquarters of Army's 15 Corps in Badami Bagh Cantonment where they were served lunch and subsequently briefed on the security situation in the Valley and along the Line of Control

(LoC) by General Officer Commanding (GOC), Lt. Gen. Kanwal Jeet Singh Dhillon, and his team.

The Army sources said that the delegation was also apprised of the "constant attempts being made by Pakistan to disturb peace in J&K by pushing in terrorists" and "inciting local youth to violence" at the briefing.

Later at a dinner meeting with top government and security forces officials at a City hotel, the delegation was also told that the security clampdown that was imposed in the State in August was necessary to maintain law and order and prevent violence. The officials pointed out to the relatively limited number of incidents of violence compared with previous bouts of unrest as a result of this measure.

The dinner was hosted by J&K's Chief Secretary, B.V.R. Subrahmanyam. Earlier local leaders of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) also called on the delegation at the hotel it is staying in and told it that the situation is "normal" in the Valley after the abrogation of Article 370 and that people of J&K "want peace and development".

## Six non-Kashmiri workers shot dead by militants in Kulgam

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC  
SRINAGAR, OCT. 29

Six non-local workers were killed and another wounded in a militant attack in Jammu and Kashmir's southern Kulgam district on Tuesday, the police said. A report from Kulgam said that unidentified gunmen opened fire at a non-local brick kiln worker identified as Zahooruddin, a resident of West Bengal, in the district's Kathrasoon village on Tuesday evening, leaving him critically injured.

As his colleagues rushed to the spot to evacuate him to hospital, the gunmen, hiding in a nearby alley, again opened fire, killing six of them, the report said. However, police sources said that the workers were abducted by the gunmen from a brick kiln and subsequently shot at.

## Justice Bobde to take oath as CJ on Nov. 18

New Delhi, Oct. 29: Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde was on Tuesday appointed as the 47th Chief Justice of India, the Law Ministry said. Justice Bobde, 63, will take oath as the CJ on November 18, a day after incumbent Ranjan Gogoi demits office.



Appointment was signed by President Ram Nath Kovind following which the Law Ministry issued a notification announcing

Justice Bobde's appointment as the next head of the Indian judiciary. The Warrant of Appointment was handed over to Justice Bobde by top Law Ministry officials this morning. As per established procedure, Justice Gogoi had earlier this month written to the Law Minister recommending the name of Justice Bobde as his successor. — PTI

## After 82 hours in borewell, only Sujith's remains extricated

DC CORRESPONDENT  
TIRUCHIRAPALLI, OCT. 29

Two-year-old Sujith Wilson was declared dead at about 2.30 am on Tuesday, about 82 hours since the rescue operations had begun almost immediately after he slipped into the borewell of his father's cornfield Friday evening. The NDRF-SDRF teams that have been toiling through these past couple of days to retrieve the kid alive through multiple plans to reach him even as he kept slipping deeper into the well, finally brought him out in decomposed condition, body parts dismembered.

Announcing the boy's death to the media, Principal Secretary Dr J Radhakrishnan said at about 2.30 am that the medical team had found, around 10 pm or so, a foul smell emanating at the mouth of the borewell. The boy could not be saved despite "all our herculean attempts (bageeratha muyarchi)", said the senior bureaucrat, looking very distraught and not just physically drained. The NDRF-SDRF teams were summoned and, using pincer equipment, the body was pulled out of the deep pit. It was found to be heavily decomposed and the body parts dismembered.

Earlier, the senior bureaucrat, who has been at the fulcrum of all the planning and execution of the efforts to save and secure Sujith, had discussed with his team plus Health Minister Dr C Vijaya Baskar, on the final move to get the body out of



Students of Bhaktavatsalam Vidyashram, Korattur, pay homage to Sujith Wilson who died in borewell mishap at Nadukattupatti village near Manapparai on Tuesday. — DC

the borewell. Since it was now confirmed that the boy was no more, it was decided to opt for the not-so-delicate method of bringing his body out through the borewell itself by using the pincer instrument, without having to continue with the 'careful' process by the larger parallel tunnel that was being drilled.

The body was brought out at about 4 a.m. and was at once rushed to the hospital wrapped in a plastic sheet for post-mortem and encasing in a coffin for the last rites as per the family's Christian rituals. The coffin was brought out a couple of hours later for the ministers and other important people to place garlands and thereafter driven to the cemetery, where it was kept for the last respects from the family and others.

## HC comes down hard on State govt

DC CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI, OCT. 29

Asking as to whether the state government needs a dead body to act upon implimenting each and every statute, the Madras high court has directed the state government to submit various details including the penal action taken against violators who have failed to comply with the conditions stipulated for digging the borewells and tube wells.

A division bench comprising Justices M.Sathyanarayanan and N.Seshasayee gave the directive after hearing a

Public Interest Litigation filed soon after the death of 2-year-old Sujith Wilson who into an abandoned borewell in his father's farm at Nadukattupatti village in Tiruchirappalli district on October 25.

In his PIL, V.Ponraj, a scientist, who had worked with former president late A.P.J.Abdul Kalam for 20 years, sought a direction to the state government to strictly comply with the guidelines issued by the Supreme Court in 2010 and enforce the Tamil Nadu Panchayats (Regulation of Sinking of Wells and Safety Measures) Rules. — P2

## Fadnavis says 50:50 deal never on, Sena remains adamant

SONU SHRIVASTAVA | DC  
with agency inputs  
MUMBAI, OCT. 29

Strained relations between the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Shiv Sena worsened on Tuesday as a war of words erupted between the two allies who, on October 24, seemed all set to form the next government in Maharashtra.

First, chief minister Devendra Fadnavis rubbished Uddhav Thackeray's claim that the Shiv Sena had been assured of the post of CM for two-and-a-half years as part of a power sharing "formula" agreed before the Lok Sabha, and said that he would be the chief minister of Maharashtra for a full term.

No plan to split the five-year term had been agreed



Devendra Fadnavis



Uddhav Thackeray

upon with the Sena. Mr Fadnavis, 49, said, "There is no doubt in my mind that I will be chief minister for five years," he told reporters.

It was BJP president Amit Shah, Mr Fadnavis said, who had indicated to him that no such formula had been discussed. He was reacting to the Shiv Sena's warning to immediately adopt the 50-50 formula agreed upon by both the parties or it would explore "other options".

Soon after Mr Fadnavis' statement, Uddhav Thackeray cancelled his party's 4 pm meeting with the BJP on formation of the next government, and a close aide of his released an old video of the chief minister's press conference on February 18 this year in which he is purportedly talking of equal sharing of posts and responsibilities in the state government. Shiv Sena's spokesperson Sanjay Raut held a press conference where he announced the meeting's cancellation.

## Maoists on Kerala border: Security beefed up in Nilgiris

B. RAVICHANDRAN | DC  
OOTY, OCT. 29

In the wake of the grim gun battle with Maoists by Kerala police in Agali limits on the Kerala border, police in Nilgiris district have stepped up vigil and intensified vehicle checks at the hill borders to check for any infiltration of Maoists into the hills here.

They have intensified combing operations in the jungles along the western Nilgiris bordering Kerala in the backdrop of the feared Maoist resurgence in the jungles on the Kerala border.

Police in the hills, the STF and also the Naxal Special Duty (NSD) wing police stationed on the Nilgiris border have started visiting the jungle hamlets, especially, in the Geddai and Kinnakorai limits in the Kundah border which are close to Agali limits in neighbouring state, where Kerala police gunned down suspected Maoists on Monday, to gather information. — P3

## India to invest \$100bn in energy infra in 5 years

Riyadh, Oct. 29: India will invest a massive US\$ 100 billion in oil and gas infrastructure to meet energy needs of an economy that is being targeted to nearly double in five years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday as he sought investment from oil kingpin Saudi Arabia and other nations to boost supplies.

Speaking at Saudi Arabia's annual investment forum, also known as 'Davos in the desert', Modi promised stable, predictable and transparent policy regime to catalyse foreign invest-

ments. "India is investing heavily in oil and gas infrastructure," he said adding as much as US\$100 billion will be spent by 2024 in creating additional oil refining capacity, laying new pipelines and building gas import terminals.

The world's third-largest energy consumer is 83 per cent dependent on imports to meet its oil needs and about half of its gas needs are shipped from abroad. Its per capita energy consumption is a fraction of the global average and it is now investing heavily in physical infrastructure as well as

city distribution to boost availability in a growing economy.

Saudi Arabia is India's second-largest supplier of crude oil and New Delhi is keen to expand this partnership beyond the buyer-seller relationship into a strategic one with cross investments. Modi highlighted the recent opening of the fuel retailing sector for non-oil companies to lure investment in the world's fastest-growing consumption centre. "India needs investments in the energy sector to meet the demand of a fast-expanding economy. And I request

energy companies present here to take advantage of this opportunity," he said. Modi said Saudi national oil company Aramco has decided to invest in the 60 million tonnes a year West Coast refinery project in Maharashtra - which will be Asia's biggest refinery.

Aramco, whose planned initial public offering is touted to be as big as the size of the Indian economy, too is keen to venture into fuel retailing and the petrochemical sector so as to lock-in consumer for its oil in a world that is fast-moving towards renewable energy sources and

electric vehicles.

"I want to ensure you that India's rate of growth is going to rise further. We are taking steps for the growth of our economy," he said. "We are improving on our ease of doing business ranking. Due to political stability, predictable policy, and big diverse market, your investment in India will be most profitable." — PTI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi meets H.M. King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on Tuesday. — Twitter/PTI





### Awareness drive

Participating in a party initiative to sensitise people on dengue prevention, TMC leader G. K. Vasan distributed 'Nilavembu' Kashayam to public at Velachery, Chennai

# Terribly sad, says Palaniswami

## ■ Chief Minister announces ₹20 lakh solatium to Sujith's family

D. SEKAR | DC TIRUCHY/CHENNAI, OCT. 29

Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami on Tuesday expressed deep pain and regret that two-year-old Sujith Wilson who accidentally fell into an uncovered borewell at Nadukattupatti village near Manaparai in Tiruchy district, could not be saved despite the best multi-level efforts by the state government.

Palaniswami, who, accompanied by Deputy Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam, paid homage at the village home of Britto Arokiyaraj, the father of the deceased boy after the latter's mortal remains were laid to rest earlier in the day, said it was terribly sad that Sujith Wilson could not be brought out alive for all the persevering and sincere efforts made by the Tamil Nadu government with help of multiple agencies in a nearly five-day rescue mission.

"Everyone knows how officials and ministers have strained every nerve over the past few days, 24x7 to rescue the trapped boy, taking advice from geological and other experts and using technical and technological assistance from diverse organisations such as ONGC, Neyveli Lignite Corporation, etc.", Palaniswami told reporters, in refuting Opposition DMK leader M. K. Stalin's charge of 'lethargic approach' by the state agencies. The efforts were to drill a larger borewell near the affected



Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami on Tuesday pays floral tribute to Sujith Wilson portrait at Nadukattupatti village near Manaparai in Tiruchy district. Deputy CM O. Panneerselvam and minister Vijayabhaskar also seen.

### 'DMK politicising issue'

Referring to a similar tragedy that took place in Theni district in 2009 when DMK was in the government, Palaniswami asked what steps had Stalin or any of the DMK ministers done then to retrieve the victim. "Was the Army's help requested then to

retrieve the child from the borewell," Palaniswami posed, adding, "nothing was done then". "But we after having taken maximum steps to save Sujith using latest technologies and doing our best to save the boy's life, it was the DMK which is politicising the issue," added Palaniswami.

on the part of officials will be strictly dealt with, warned the Chief Minister.

Palaniswami also urged the people's cooperation to abide by the guidelines so that such tragedies could be averted in future.

Condolences for the boy's tragic and untimely demise poured forth from a range of constitutional functionaries and political leaders including the Tamil Nadu governor Sri Banwarilal Purohit, Telangana Governor, Dr Tamilisai Soundarajan, Congress MP Rahul Gandhi, TNCC president, K S Azhagiri, DMK president M K Stalin, DMK MP Ms. Kanimozhi, PMK leader Dr S Ramadoss, TMC president G K Vasan and the DMKD treasurer Premalatha Vijayakanth, among others.

borewell to reach out to the boy and bring him out alive, but due to very hard rocky terrain encountered, the rescue mission met with several complications.

Palaniswami, who at the village announced a solatium of Rs 20 lakh to the bereaved family - Rs 10 lakh from the state government and Rs 10 lakh from the AIADMK party funds, explained that

soon after he heard about the tragedy, he had immediately directed that a rescue team be assembled and start their work in the village. State health minister C. Vijayabhaskar, tourism minister Vellamandi Natarajan, backward classes minister B. Valarmathi, and commissioner for revenue administration Dr J. Radhakrishnan, besides Tiruchy district collector

Sivasaru were tasked to coordinate and oversee the entire rescue operations.

Stating there were well set guidelines and rules for digging borewells which have been gazetted, Palaniswami said he had also directed all the district collectors to ensure that the guidelines were complied with in full in their respective areas. Any negligence or laxity

## 2010: SC issued 13 safety measures

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, OCT. 29

The Supreme Court in its order dated February 11, 2010, issued 13 safety measures/guidelines to be observed by all the states.

The guidelines are:

1. The owner of the land/premises, before taking any steps for constructing bore well/tube well must inform in writing at least 15 days in advance to the authorities concerned in the area, i.e., district collector/district magistrate/sarpanch of the gram panchayat/officers of the department of ground water/public health/municipal corporation concerned, as the case may be, about the construction of bore well/tube well.
2. Registration of all the drilling agencies viz., govt./semi govt./private etc should be mandatory with the district administration.
3. Erection of signboard at the time of construction near the well with the following details: a) Complete address of the drilling agency at the time of construction/rehabilitation of well. B) Complete address of the user agency/owner of the well.
4. Erection of barbed wire fencing or any other suitable barrier around the well during construction.
5. Construction of cement/concrete platform measuring 0.50 x 0.50 x 0.60 meter (0.30 meter above ground level and 0.30 meter below ground level) around the well casing.
6. Capping of well assembly by welding steel plate or by providing a strong cap to be fixed to the casing pipe with bolts and nuts.
7. In case of pump repair, the tube well should not be left uncovered.
8. Filling of mud pits and channels after completion of works.
9. Filling up abandoned bore wells by clay/sand/boulders/pebbles/drill cuttings from bottom to ground level.
10. On completion of the drilling operations at a particular location, the ground conditions are to be restored as before the



start of drilling.

11. District collector should be empowered to verify that the above guidelines are being followed and proper monitoring check about the status of bore wells/tube wells are being taken care through the state/central government agencies concerned.

12. District/block/village wise status of bore wells/tube wells drilled viz., number of wells in use, number of abandoned bore wells/tube wells found open, number of abandoned borewells/tube wells properly filled up to ground level and balance number of abandoned bore wells/tube wells to be filled up to ground level is to be maintained at district level.

In rural areas, the monitoring of the above is to be done through village sarpanch and the executive from the agriculture department.

In case of urban areas, the monitoring of the above is to be done through junior engineer and the executive from the department of ground water/public health/municipal corporation etc concerned.

13. If a bore well/tube well is 'abandoned' at any stage, a certificate from the department of ground water/public health/municipal corporation/private contractor concerned must be obtained by the aforesaid agencies that the 'Abandoned' bore well/tube well is properly filled up to the ground level. Random inspection of the abandoned wells is also to be done by the executive of the agency/department concerned. Information on all such data on the above are to be maintained in the district collector/block development office of the state.

## Convert unused borewells into RWH structures, says TWAD board

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, OCT. 29

The Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board (TWAD board) has directed the engineers in TWAD board to convert all the unused borewells and open wells under their control to convert them into rainwater harvesting units within 24 hours across the state.

In a communication sent to the TWAD board engineers, managing director, TWAD board, Dr C.N. Maheswaran, has directed the engineers to work swiftly to convert all unused and abandoned borewells and open wells to convert into RWH units in TN.

In a communication, the IAS officer said these unused borewells may pose threat to public. There may be chances of children and cattle falling into them. Hence, Maheswaran directed the officials to take swift action to close them and convert them into RWH units within 24 hours. If they fail, the TWAD board may

take action against the erring officials.

He noted that the TWARD Board maintains 556 combined water supply augmentation projects and 4.23 crore people in nine Corporations, 66 municipalities, 347 town panchayats and 48948 villages are benefiting from projects. The TWARD Board, barring Chennai, supplies 1906 MLD water to the people.

The TWAD board has given detail plan to district collectors, DRDO and district TWAD board officials regarding measures to save rain water and augmentation of water resources with the help of GPRS. The department has given guidelines to the officials. He appealed the public including NGOs, social activists and SHGs to collect the details/know-how on how to convert the unused bore wells and open wells into RWH units. He assured that the department officials will come forward to assist those willing to convert them into RWH units.



Ten rescue teams were formed to safeguard fishermen from cyclone 'Kyarr'

—D Jayakumar, Fisheries minister

### OTHER STORIES

## Abandoned borewell closed at Kinathukadavu

ANANTH MATHIVANAN | DC COIMBATORE, OCT 29

Even as the district collector here announced toll free complaint number on abandoned open borewells across the district, residents of Kinathukadavu took initiative to close an abandoned open borewell in their locality.

Coimbatore collector Rajamani announced a toll free complaint number 1800-599-6000 for lodging complaints on abandoned borewells left open across the district.

While corporation commissioner Shraavan Kumar had passed an order to close all abandoned dry wells and borewells falling under the corporation limits, Shraavan Kumar had also said that legal action would be taken against those who fails to act on the circular.

Meanwhile, residents of Vasath Nagar at Kinathukadavu - Sikalampalayam in the city's outskirts, on Monday evening closed an abandoned 6.5 inch open borewell that remained opened for a long time without water.

## Call to seal unplugged borewells in Coonoor

B. RAVICHANDRAN | DC COONOOR, OCT. 29

After the tragic death of toddler Sujith Wilson in Mannaparai limits in Tiruchy district, which evoked widespread sympathy, residents of Coonoor are coming to realise the danger of unsafe and unplugged borewells and want the district administration in Nilgiris to initiate action to plug abandoned unsafe borewells.

Residents in Coonoor pointed to an abandoned borewell in the Appleby road area and in a few other places. One resident said that an unplugged borewell in the Appleby road area was hurriedly and temporarily sealed on Tuesday morning.

Knowledgeable sources said that quite a few borewells were sunk during early 2017 in Coonoor and its suburbs by the local body administrations to draw water when the hills faced drought and water shortage. Many of these borewells were left abandoned, as water could not be drawn from these. There was need to inspect such abandoned bore-wells and plug and seal them permanently, residents said.



Officials close unused borewell on Saidapet main road in Vellore on Tuesday. Totally 15 borewells closed. — DC

## ₹5 lakh for hackathon for rescue solutions: IT dept

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, OCT. 29

The principal secretary, state information technology department has announced a 'hackathon' with a cash prize of ₹5 lakh to those who can come up with solution to end the nightmare following death of two-year-old Sujith in an abandoned borewell.

In his Facebook page, principal secretary Dr Santhosh Babu stated that "Dear friends it's been a heartbreaking Deepavali for all of India, especially Tamil Nadu... another precious life has been lost due to sheer negligence. Let this be the last death of a child in India.... We need urgent solutions."

He said the IT department is proposing to have a 'hackathon' for a solution to this.... I feel guilty that we didn't have one... but we better late than never....

The first prize for the best solution will be ₹5 lakh which should be working prototype equipment for rescuing children from borewells

/tunnels. Anybody/startup/company who comes with a workable solution will be rewarded."

He suggested that the solution can be at permission level for drilling a borewell itself. The latitude and longitude have to be captured and put on a website. And, device much like a bronchoscope, which can remove foreign bodies in the oesophagus, where a pipe once it reaches the child, can put out tentacles around the child and pick him/her up. (Da Vinci robotic arm type). The post in the Facebook received a large number of messages including suggestions and replies.

Welcoming the move one FB user stated the proposed hackathon initiated by IAS

officer is the need of the hour and in line with lesson we just learnt from the DM strategies @ Nadu Kattupatti... We can take a step forward for optimistic actions rather than meaningless criticism... Actions speak louder."



DMK president consoles Sujith's mother at hospital in Tiruchy on Tuesday. — DC

## Stalin: Army should have been called for rescue ops

D. SEKAR | DC TIRUCHY/CHENNAI, OCT. 29

Expressing the hope that the tragedy that befell two-year-old toddler Sujith Wilson should not happen to any other person, DMK president M. K. Stalin on Tuesday observed that the boy, who fell into an uncovered borewell near Manaparai in Tiruchy district, could have been brought out alive had the state government sought the Army's help at the earliest stage itself when Sujith was found fairly close to the ground-level.

Stalin, who paid homage at the burial site in Nadukattupatti village where the mortal remains of the boy was interred early in the day after having been brought out dead, sought to know why the Tamil Nadu government had not called for assistance of the Army or the national disaster response

force (NDRF) immediately after the boy had slipped into the borewell on Friday evening.

Stalin expressed regret that the rescue operation by the Tamil Nadu government was 'lethargic' and lacked proper planning. The early 'golden hours' in retrieving the boy alive were 'wasted' as a coordinated effort with technical experts was not visible. Only ministers and officials were seen giving instructions at the site and giving interviews to the media, he pointed out.

Pointing out that the Supreme Court had laid clear guidelines for digging borewells, Stalin said there are GOs based on that and even the Panchayat Act had been amended for the purpose to regulate this activity. But all that "now seems like a mirage," the DMK leader observed.

As local body elections have not been held for the

past three years, their representatives were not in the State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA), he pointed out.

Stalin said despite the TWAD Board having a separate wing to have information about the geological and soil aspects area-wise, they were not put to use in this effort.

"Something like this should never happen in Tamil Nadu and as per the Supreme Court orders, unused borewells should be sealed immediately or converted into rain water harvesting structures," Stalin said, adding, the SDMA should be equipped with latest technology. The 'trial and error' approach of the government had proved futile in Sujith's case, he further regretted.

Stalin, who also consoled the parents of the boy, announced a solatium of Rs 10 lakh from the DMK party funds.

# HC impleads civic authorities, raps media over Sujith's death

FROM P1

Suo motu impleading the principal secretaries of municipal administration and water supply department and rural development panchayat raj department, the bench directed them to file their counter affidavits by November 21 containing details relating to the number of permissions granted and the list of contractors and entities accorded permission to dig borewells and tubewells and list of unused and abandoned borewells and tube wells as well as the penal action taken against the violators who have failed to comply with the conditions stipulated for digging them.

During the hearing, the bench orally observed that the media except giving live relay had not acted with responsibility in bringing awareness among the public with regard to the implementation of rules and regulations stipulated for digging borewells and tube wells.

The bench also observed that everybody has a social responsibility to bring awareness and it was more on the media in publishing the guidelines issued by the state government based on the order of the Supreme Court. In his petition, Ponraj submitted that the state government had miserably failed in complying with the guidelines of the Supreme Court and the guidelines issued by the ministry of women and children development dated September 12,

2013. Failure to implement the guidelines led to an incident in the year 2012 at Tiruvannamalai, where a child was rescued after death. Subsequently, a PIL

was filed seeking a direction to the state government to issue fresh guidelines or to enact a special Act to prevent such incident. A division bench of this court had directed the state government to enact a Special Act with regard to borewell and strictly enforce the same in a period of one month. In view of the said direction, the Tamil Nadu Panchayats (Regulation of Sinking of Wells and Safety Measures) Rules, 2015, came into force with effect from February

18, 2015. But, unfortunately, this has also not been complied with by the authorities, he added.

He said the utter failure of the state government in complying with the order of the Supreme Court as well as the judgment of the Madras high court, was the main cause for the present incident of Sujith falling into the borewell. The non-compliance of the guidelines by the government had invited the problem, which directly takes away

the fundamental right of Sujith guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution. State adopted various rescue operations to rescue the boy. The various methods adopted by the government consumed the golden hours. It clearly shows that the government was not in a position to ascertain the ground reality and not prepared or equipped with the rescue operations. This was not the first time and there were many incidents took place in TN, he added.



## Guru Peyarchi

Governor Banwarilal Purohit on Tuesday took part in the Guru Peyarchi rituals in Kakkalur temple, in Thiruvallur district



People must take to small savings. They should also teach children the benefits of small savings  
— Edappadi K Palaniswami, CM

## OTHER STORIES Combing operations intensified

**FROM P1**  
They are crisscrossing the challenging jungle terrains in Gudalur, Pandalur in Gudalur limits and Geddai and Upper Bhavani limits in the Kundah slopes along the Nilgiris-Kerala border. Apart from combing operations, vehicle checking has been intensified 24x7 in places such as Nadugani, Geddai and Gudalur areas on the hill border. In about 14 places along the borders in the hills, vehicle checks are being done round-the-clock. Security has been strengthened around police stations in border areas such as Manjoor, where extra pickets have been posted for round-the-clock vigil.

## 'No move to merge Yanam with AP'

**Puducherry:** Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry Kiran Bedi on Tuesday termed false and fake information spread by some vested interests that she had sent a report to the Centre for merger of Yanam region with Andhra Pradesh. The former IPS officer, in a statement here, said, "This is a highly condemnable and utterly false information." Yanam is an enclave of Puducherry in Andhra Pradesh. Bedi said the false information has been spread to divert deliberately the attention of the people from addressing the real issues ailing Yanam region like providing safe drinking water, preventing flooding in low-lying areas through cost-effective technology and poor health-care system, among other things. —PTI

## 6,500 students of SRMIST placed in 600 firms

**Chennai:** A large number of corporate and IT firms has made bee-line to SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Kattankulathur, and hired more than 6,500 students in campus placement. More than 600 firms have hired the students in campus placement season, which began on July 22, 2019. Several other companies are expected to visit the institute to offer employment opportunities to the students, as the placement season will continue till April/May 2020. In the last year campus placement season 3,020 students were offered employment in big four IT companies (TCS, Cognizant, Infosys, Wipro). This year, the highest offer made was ₹41.6 lakh per annum by Microsoft. Other top recruitment companies include Amazon (18 offers of ₹32 lakhs per annum), Barclays (25 offers of ₹10 lakhs per annum) and startup Udaan (4 offers of ₹30 lakhs per annum). Organizations like Veritas and Pay Pal have made internship linked placement offers. The TCS made 1437 offers ('Ninja Track'), Infosys 1315, Cognizant 1175, and Wipro 822. Apart from this, TCS has made 183 offers under 'Digital Track' (₹7 lakhs per annum), said Director, Career Centre at SRMIST, Sriram S. Padmanabhan. This is the highest number of offers made by these four companies in any single campus in the country, he said. Students from SRM campuses including Modinagar, Ramapuram and Vadapalani took part in the centralized placement process conducted at Kattankulathur campus, said Padmanabhan. About 1210+ students have been made super dream (₹10 L Pa+) and dream offer (₹5 L Pa+) so far. Students are also recruited by companies from the core engineering sector.

# Jealous cousin is murder suspect, goes missing 13-year-old girl found dead in Adambakkam

DC CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI, OCT 29

In a suspected case of rape and murder, a 13-year-old girl was found dead in her house in Adambakkam on Tuesday, police said. The body of the minor has been sent to the city government hospital for post-mortem.

According to police, the 13-year-old girl is an orphan with mild mental illness staying with her aunt R. Vedavalli (55) in Ambedkar Nagar in Adambakkam. Vedavalli works at a private hospital in the city. Vedavalli's elder son Babu (26) is married and lives in Saidapet. The incident came to light when the girl's sister visited the Adambakkam house to meet her sister on Tuesday afternoon. Police said that at around 12.30 pm, the girl



Police questioning the family members of the deceased. (Inset) the suspected murderer Babu.

was found dead in bed, allegedly half-naked, by her sister. Her clothes were torn and she was injured on her breasts, thighs and hands. She immediately alerted Vedavalli, who rushed to the spot and took the girl to a private hospital in Adambakkam. The doctor who examined her confirmed that she had

died. Adambakkam police sent the body to Chromepet GH for post-mortem. Adambakkam police registered a murder case and have begun investigations. Preliminary investigations by police revealed that Vedavalli's elder son Babu came to the house at around 10:30 am on Tuesday and left the spot after an hour. During investigation, Vedavalli told police that Babu was jealous of the girl and often fought with her. He even threatened to kill Vedavalli as she took better care of the girl than her own children. Based on inputs from Vedavalli and locals, police launched a search for Babu who went missing after the incident. Further investigations are on.



Wall painting in T Nagar portraying the significance of rainwater. —DC

# Kollywood actor among 2 killed in twin mishaps

DC CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI, OCT 29

Two persons lost their lives in separate accidents that took place on Sunday night in Ambattur and in Nungambakkam in the wee hours of Tuesday.

In the first accident, police identified the deceased as Mano, a film actor and television comper. Around 7 pm on Sunday, Mano was driving with wife Livia to Avadi, when he hit a median near an engineering college in Ambattur. Mano died on the spot and Livia was admitted to a private hospital and is under treatment. Mano's body was handed over to the family after post-mortem on Tuesday. Poonamalee traffic investigation wing registered a case and are investigating. Mano has acted in the lead role in Tamil film 'Puzhal' along with Murali and Ramachandran. The film, directed by Azhagu, was released in 2010. Mano is also known to be a great mimicry artist.

In the second accident, a 55-year-old passenger in a call taxi died as the driver rammed the vehicle into a parked water tanker at Nungambakkam here, in the wee hours of Tuesday.



None hurt in this mishap.

Police said, the accident took place at Uthamar Gandhi road when a call taxi driver Mohammed Hassan (27) from Ponneri, was ferrying Ravichandran (55), a senior manager with Air India. Police said Ravichandran died on the spot and his body was sent to Kilpauk government medical college and hospital for post-mortem. Mohammed also suffered injuries on his face and head and was admitted to the same hospital.

Pondy Bazaar traffic police registered a case and arrested lorry driver Murugan Virudhunagar, on charges of illegally parking the truck on the roadside.

On Tuesday afternoon near Kanchipuram, a



major mishap was averted after a private omnibus came to halt safely after the driver lost control of the vehicle. The bus plying between Chennai and Theni, hit the sidewalk on the road and came to halt. The accident happened on Chennai - Trichy national highway near Singaperumal Kovil around 10:30 pm. Police said no one was injured. Chengalpet taluk police registered a case.

# Varsity employees get HC reprieve

DC CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI, OCT 29

Coming to the rescue of six junior assistants and computer operators, who were appointed on consolidated pay basis in Periyar University and long for regularisation for over 6 years, the Madras high court has directed the authorities to consider their representations and pass orders in regard to regularization of their services.

Justice M.Dhandapani gave the directive while disposing of a petition filed by

S.C.Radhakrishnan and five others.

According to petitioners, they were appointed as junior assistants and computer operators in 2001 on consolidated pay basis. On September 21, 2012, the syndicate of the Periyar University in Salem district has decided to regularise the employees and consequently, an Establishment Committee was also constituted. The said Committee after scrutinizing the educational qualifications of the petitioners has recommended to regularize the services of the petitioners and



placed the same before the Syndicate on April 23, 2013 for implementation. Thereafter, the Periyar University has requested the Higher Education secretary to grant permission for regularization of the services of the petitioners. Thereafter, there

was no progress in the matter and the services of the petitioners were not regularized despite the decision taken by the syndicate. Therefore, they made representations. However, there was no response, they added. M.R.Jothimaniyan, counsel appearing for the petitioners submitted that the petitioners have been working on consolidated pay for the past 19 years and despite the decision taken by the syndicate to regularise their services based on the recommendation of the expert committee, the services of the

petitioners have not been regularized. The judge said considering the facts and circumstances and the submission made by the counsel for the petitioners and also in view of the fact that the petitioners have been working for the past more than 19 years, this court directs the authorities to consider the representations and pass appropriate orders in regard to regularization of services of the petitioners based on the report of the Periyar University in accordance with law within 12 weeks.



Health department officials search and find unhygienic food and banned plastic from a restaurant in Pudupet on Tuesday. They sealed the premises. —DC

# Vijay gets bomb threat call at his residence

DC CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI, OCT 29

The city police arrested a man who called up the police control room and claimed that a bomb would explode at the Saligramam residence of actor Vijay.

According to sources, the state police control room received a call from a miscreant saying that there was a bomb planted at actor Vijay's residence in Saligramam, who also said that the explosive might go off in some time.

Following the bomb threat call, security forces were rushed to the actor's house in Saligramam which alarmed his parents, S A Chandrasekar and Shoba. Police forces were sent to



Police personnel also enquired S.A. Chandrasekar about the call and deployed police personnel to provide security to the family. Vijay, his wife Sangeetha along with their kids live in a plush residence in Panaiyur on East Coast Road.

Vijay's Panaiyur residence also for tight security.

The police officials filed a case under cybercrime attack and launched investigations to nab the person who made the call.

During the course of investigation, the team narrowed it down to a youngster hailing from Alapakkam near Porur.

At present, police officials are enquiring the youngster regarding the bomb threat.

Vijay is basking in the success of his recently-released film, Bigil, directed by Atlee.

The film, based on women's football, has crossed a massive collection of ₹150 crore at the worldwide boxoffice in just four days.

# Five-year-old dies of fever in Vellore

KSENTHIL NATHAN | DC  
VELLORE, OCT 29

The death of a five-year-old girl due to fever has triggered a flutter in the district.

Sources said that Sounder, a daily wage and wife Pavithra, who lived in Pullaaneri Batton village near Jolarpettai, Vellore district.

The couple has three children. The eldest daughter Anusha, aged five years, was staying with her grandparents in Ammsamangalam, and attending LKG classes in a local private school there.

A few days before, all on a sudden, Anusha developed high fever, and she was admitted to the Tirupattur GH. She underwent treat-



ment for a while at the government hospital there, and became alright. After treatment, she was discharged from hospital and she came back home last Sunday. But again, suddenly the fever relapsed and Anusha was admitted to the government hospital at Tirupattur. For intensive care, the child was shifted to the government hospital at Adukkamparai. Though she received medical attention in the new hospital, she died on Tuesday morning without responding to treatment.

# 2 minor girls from Odisha resued

Bhawanipatna (Odisha):

Two minor girls who were missing from a shelter home in Odisha's Kalahandi district since last month have been rescued from Bengaluru and Chennai, a police officer said on Tuesday. A 24-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly prompting the two girls, aged around 15 years, to escape from the shelter home run by an NGO here on September 24, Kalahandi Superintendent of Police B. Gantagadhar said. Police teams rescued one girl and arrested the accused, identified as Purna Chandra Chatria, from the outskirts of Bengaluru. Another girl was rescued from near Chennai on Sunday. —PTI

# 6-yr-old dead: TN to pay ₹3L to mom

DC CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI, OCT 29

The State Human Rights Commission directed state government to pay a compensation of ₹3 lakh to the mother of a six-year-old boy who died following treatment in Kanyakumari more than a decade ago.

According to sources, the SHRC, on the basis of a news item published in a newspaper on April 5, 2007, took suo moto cognizance of the death. It was alleged in the newspaper that on March 22, 2007, six-year-old Sijo studying in the first standard, was returning home

from. He fell down and was injured on his right hand knee. His parents took him to the nearby government hospital at Kuzhithurai in Kanyakumari district.

Since there was no facility to take an X-ray, he was rushed to the Government Medical College Hospital at Asaripallam. He was admitted as an in-patient in the hospital and was operated on April 3, 2007. He was kept in the ICU. Doctors did not allow his mother Vasantha to see her son up to 8.30 pm. When he became serious, doctors asked her to take her son home.

The next morning, the doctors told her that Sijo had died and compelled her to take his body. Angered at this, her relatives protested and gave a complaint at the Asaipallam police station alleging medical negligence. Vasantha sought appropriate action against Dr. Jayasingh Rajamani, the then tutor in anaesthesiology, Government Medical College Hospital, Kanyakumari, who was responsible for the death of Sijo.

Denying the allegation Dr. Jayasingh Rajamani stated that he being an anaesthetist, he was doing his duty only under the

observation, instruction and advice of the medical team. He had administered anaesthesia to save the patient as per medical jurisprudence and as per the rules framed by the All India Medical Council. The Madurai bench of the Madras high court quashed a case registered against him.

SHRC judge D. Jayachandran said that the charge of negligence against Dr. Jayasingh Rajamani was not proved beyond doubt. The commission stated that Vasantha is entitled to receive a compensation of ₹3 lakh from state government on humanitarian grounds.



Stormwater drain work going on at slow pace in Parry's corner. —DC



## Lesson

### AMMK founder T. T. V. Dhinakaran has said toddler Sujith has taught us all a lesson by his death



It's a shame our technology couldn't help save Sujith

—Thol. Thirumavalavan, VCK leader

## SHORT TAKES

### Special camp in Chennai for TNSCB title deeds

Chennai: The Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board (TNSCB) has decided to issue registered deeds to allottees of its flats in 17 divisions across the state. The TNSCB has been building tenements under the Madras Urban Development programme and Tamil Nadu Urban Development programme. In the first phase, 164 allottees in Tiruvanmiyur and Madhavaram will get their respective title deeds, a press release from the TNSCB said. A special camp for the purpose is being held here on November 12 and 13. The allottees can attend the camp and produce the documents like allotment order, ration card, Aadhar card, voter ID and get their title deeds, the release added.

### 13-year-old undergoes successful lung transplantation

Chennai: 13-year-old Josephine Swetha from Tambaram, Chennai has become the youngest Indian to undergo a bilateral lung transplant. The surgery was successfully performed by a team of doctors led by Dr K R Balakrishnan, Director, Cardiac Sciences and Dr.Suresh Rao KG, Head of Department, Critical Care & Cardiac Anaesthesia, Fortis Malar Hospital. Josephine was admitted to the hospital with severe breathlessness and was diagnosed with primary pulmonary hypertension. She had also developed severe right heart failure, a condition which requires both heart and lung transplant. After evaluation, the team of doctors decided to do bilateral lung transplant as the team felt that the heart function would improve once the lungs were transplanted. Following this, she was registered at the state transplant registry for a suitable pair of lungs and the surgery was performed as soon as a fitting donor was available. Immunosuppression therapy was administered to prevent rejection of the organ. A bronchoscopic biopsy was also done two weeks later, which did not show any signs of rejection. Her lungs started functioning well after the transplant and the heart function has recovered post-transplant, said doctors. She has now been discharged from the hospital. "Lung transplants in India have picked up in the recent past. Several patients with end-stage lung diseases can be saved with lung transplants", said Dr K. R. Balakrishnan. Dr Suresh Rao added that though it was challenging to get the appropriate lungs for her thoracic size, they were surprised by her rapid recovery post lung transplant.

### Sports will be made part of CBSE system: Min

Chennai: Minister of youth affairs and sports (independent-in-charge) Kiren Rijiju on Tuesday said the CBSE was preparing a system to ensure sports becomes a substantial part of education to determine the achievement of a student. "PM has already announced setting up a Board for Sports Education. Now, under the new education policy, sports will become a part of education and the CBSE is preparing a system to ensure sports becomes a substantial part of education," Rijiju said. He said this after inaugurating the Dr N P V Ramaswamy Udayar Hockey Centre at Sri Ramachandra Medical College and University here.

## 'Over 90% of VAOs don't stay in villages of work' VAO, tahsildar or collector? Who is to be blamed?

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, OCT. 29

Though Sujith's father Britto Arockiaraj had told the officials right at the beginning that he had closed the borewell after finding it dry long ago and that the recent rains could have washed away the mud he had used to cover the hole on the ground, the truth appears different. That the kid fell into the borewell and got locked in a six-inch diameter tube-space with face inside and the two hands locked over the head, could only mean his slide down had been quick and smooth.

And here comes the tell-tale evidence: the boy slipped down from the first position about 25 feet down the field-level to almost 80 feet, thereby indicating that it had been hollow cylindrical space under him and he was pushed by the earth and stone that landed on his head when attempts were made to dislodge the earth to dig a parallel pit to reach him.

It was first a thin layer of earth that fell on the kid but soon more mud and stone landed on his head. At one point of time, even late Sunday, it was rumoured that there was at least two inches of mud and stone on his head, pressing him down. Finally, the boy landed at about 80 feet down the borewell and reportedly held in a place that was barely four inches diameter. It is anybody's guess how he could have been in one shape at such a position, and alive.

And that's how and why health minister Dr C

## Sujith's mother inconsolable, calls son to come out of coffin

FROM P1

Mother Kala Mary sobbed uncontrollably while calling her child to come out of the coffin and into her embrace "just one last time". Her husband Britto Arockiaraj went through the rituals like a zombie, benumbed beyond tears.

"We were informed late Monday that Sujith is no more, that we will not get him back. Kala had already drained of tears and energy, but the terrible news shattered us as we hoped till that very moment there would be some miracle and our prayers would be answered. It did not happen", sobbed the kid's aunt Julia, even as Sujith's elder brother Puneet Roshan, barely four, stood close by looking

confused.

It was Puneet who rushed back home to inform mom about Sujith falling into the borewell on that fateful Friday evening. He did not seem to realise that the little coffin, barely four feet long, contained his kid brother's remains and he will not come back to play in the fields.

Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami, Deputy CM O Panneerselvam and a host of Ministers and ruling party leaders came later to console the Britto family. CM announced solatium of five lakh rupees from the CM's Relief Fund and another five lakh rupees from the AIADMK fund. He had earlier ordered closure of all illegal borewells;

so did the deputy CM.

DMK president M K Stalin too dropped in with consoling words and solatium of five lakh rupees. Also, he could not resist the temptation of delivering a punch at the EPS regime, accusing it of being slack in its handling of the rescue operation. Why wasn't the Army called to get the kid out of the borewell, asked the Opposition Leader, only to draw a sharp reaction from the CM, who asked whether the then DMK Government had called in the Army and if any of its prominent Ministers and party leaders had bothered to personally oversee the rescue operation when a kid fell into a borewell in Theni in 2009, and died.

Vijaya Baskar, who was overseeing the rescue operations from the beginning, announced to the media early morning of Saturday that Sujith had responded with a feeble 'ahm' when his mother called out from the borewell mouth at about 3.30 am but was silent when they called him around 6 am.

The poor kid, who had fallen into the borewell on Friday evening, must have succumbed to his injuries and trauma around that time. The question arises,

though seeming to be harsh at this point of grieving time, if dad Britto should not be punished for violating the government order inspired by the Supreme Court diktat on the subject that unused/unapproved borewells must be closed tight with cement-gravel.

Another question arises whether the Village Administrative Officer at Nadukattupatti should not hauled up for not checking on Britto's borewell; and if Tiruchy District Collector should

not be quizzed if he has been really checking on those registers coming from down below listing out the mandated tasks fulfilled by the VAOs and tahsildars along with their signatures.

RTI specialists have alleged that over 90 per cent of Village Administrative Officers do not stay in their villages of work and the higher-ups are aware that all those registers and filled-up forms of performed duties are nothing but 'cut-and-paste' jobs from the earlier ones.



Devotees throng Sri Thiruvalluvar temple, Padi, in the city on the occasion of Guru Peyarchi (transit of Jupiter from Viruchiga rasi to Dhanusu rasi) on Tuesday morning. —DC

## Rumours denied: No cyber attack on KKNPP

M. ARULOLI | DC TIRUNELVELI, OCT 29

The Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project (KKNPP) has categorically denied any cyber attack on its control system, refuting reports doing the rounds in social media platforms that went viral and added that the two power units under operation are doing well without any operational or safety concerns.

The sensation has been created by a Haryana-based cyber intelligence specialist, Pukhraj Singh, who, also a former officer of the National Technical Research Organisation, (NTRO), a premier government agency tasked with India's cyber defence operations, tweeting about a press statement of Kaspersky, a cyber security company, that a spyware "Dtrack RAT" was discovered in the cyberspace of Kudankulam Nuclear Power project.

Pukhraj Singh in his tweet added that he had already notified the presence of the malware to the National Cyber Security Coordinator (NCSC). "So, it's public now. Domain controller-level access at Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant. The government was notified way back. Extremely mission-critical targets were hit," Singh has said.

Referring to the KKNPP's denial, he reiterated that he had notified Lt Gen Rajesh Pant (National Cyber Security Coordinator) even on September 4 about the cyber-attack, thereby implying that the government response has not been adequate. "Follow-up emails were exchanged, acknowledging the issue. I would solicit no further enquiries on the matter, requesting privacy," Singh said.

In yet another tweet, he

posted: "I just witnessed a casus belli in the Indian cyberspace and it sucks at every level".

Several twitteratti followed up on the scare thrown up by Singh's revelation of the North Korean attack, acknowledging a data dump on VirusTotal, a virus tracking website, which pointed to Lazarus, the North Korean hacker group. It was stated that the group could have gained access to some of the systems at KKNPP. An expert said the attack could have been carried out through a 'mutant variant' of the 'DTRACK' virus to gain administrative control of the infected system to the creator of the virus.

Responding to this information about a spyware in the cyber system of the nuclear power project, the Congress MP, Sashi Tharoor demanded an explanation on the issue and stated in his tweet that "if a hostile power was able to conduct a cyber attack on our nuclear facilities, the implications for our national security were unimaginable."

This has created a flutter in Kudankulam, where the country's biggest nuclear power park is located with two units having a generation capacity of 1,000 MWe each are under operation and two more units of the same capacity are under construction. The information on possible cyber attack on the power project too triggered panic in the surrounding coastal hamlets that are against setting up the nuclear power park since its inception in the 1980s.

Dr S. P. Udayakumar, the noted anti-nuke activist, who pivoted the People's Movement Against Nuclear Energy (PMANE), alleging fishy deals in the project,

responded, "there is no smoke without fire."

Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project sources however attempted to put a full stop by saying that the information about cyber attack on its cyber system was nothing but a rumour.

In his official clarification, the training superintendent and information officer of Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project, R. Ramdoss, has stated that the Kudankulam Nuclear Power project and other Indian Nuclear power plants' control system were standalone systems and not connected to outside cyber network and internet.

"Therefore any cyber attack on the nuclear power plant control system is not possible," said Ramdoss, who too added that the units 1 and 2 of Kudankulam power project have been functioning well generating 1,000 MWe and 600 MWe respectively without any operational or safety concerns to this day.

A cyber expert explained that there was difference between getting access to domain controller and the control systems of KKNPP. "Getting access to the domain controller does not mean one can shut down the plant. Such a thing is possible only by transferring the virus physically from the domain controller to the control systems of the plant using a USB drive and that's just not possible", said the expert seeking anonymity.

He also said KKNPP and others in control of the security of critically important national cyberspace would have "certainly and quickly put in place a SOP (Standard Operating Procedure) that would include the shutting down of all systems, including the computers".

## MONSOON DAYS



Riders brave the heavy rainfall in Chromepet, Chennai, on Tuesday morning. —DC

## President's nod for bill on contract farming obtained

Chennai, Oct 29: The Tamil Nadu government on Tuesday said President Ramnath Kovind has given assent to a bill that puts in place a policy framework and institutional mechanism on agricultural produce and livestock contract farming.

The Tamil Nadu Agricultural Produce and Livestock Contract Farming and Services (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2019, adopted by the state assembly in February, is a first-of-its-kind legislation on assuring farm income, an official release here said.

The bill, aimed at benefiting marginal farmers, has been given the Presidential nod and published in a gazette, it said. —PTI

## Parents must bear brunt of blame for death of Sujith

Narasimhan Vijayaraghavan

It would be cruel for Britto Arockiaraj and Kala Mary to be sued for criminal negligence for the death of their dear, younger son Sujith Wilson, all of 2 years. But, that is the ruthless legal position, for the abandoned borewell was in the land belonging to the parents. Equally, the elder son could sue the parents for the death of his younger sibling, arising out of negligence of the landowners, claiming compensation. The law is an ass. And that is how it would operate in the given circumstances, when the toddler, playing outside the house 'accidentally' fell into the pit which was dug for installation of borewell and 'abandoned' by the parents, for future use or whatever purpose.

It is a tragic story, that after an 80-hour struggle that TN and India was witness to, as prayers went out from Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Rahul Gandhi to Chief Minister

Edappadi Palaniswami and commoners at large, only the remains of the child could be salvaged. Parents have lost their dear son. TN and India lost Sujith Wilson, whom we desperately wanted to be rescued alive. In fact, the story made headlines all across international networks too. Of course, social media was full of it and it was one viral story which we did not want to end in death and despair.

It may be ultimately harsh but we need to ask the question. Who is to blame? Why was it allowed to happen in the first place? Is there a regime in place to avoid such mishaps? Tough questions with no ready answers. The focus has been on whether the first responders answered the call in time. Whether National Defence Rescue Force (NDRF) was called in time? Whether the technology and measures taken met the requirements or they fell short? Comparison was made with the rescue of an 11-year-old student in China from a borewell, to suggest that we lacked the expertise and werewithal

to perform successful rescue missions of such genre? Our politicians were not beyond politicising it, aided and abetted with bawling anchors across vernacular channels. Exposing the chinks in our armoury. Typical to show, yet again - We Are, after all, Like That Only?

Recall the not so long before Thailand escapade, when 12 boys along with their football coach, were rescued from Tham Luang Cave, they had meandered into and got lost. One rescuer lost his life. The rest had a happy ending. The world got in as one. It was a veritable United Nations mission, with experts from several countries. Including Arabians and Israelites, hand in hand, working in unison, for a common and noble purpose. The world was witness to the professionalism and commentary on international networks was top class with genuine professionals, participants in similar missions explaining and expounding on what was going on and what was possible and why not and so on. No one blamed anyone and surely

not the State that put its full weight behind the rescue mission. Not so in our midst. Ours was a wholly amateurish cacophony. How peevish we can get to score brownie points even in such times of distress.

Can the state be blamed for what happened or the failure of the mission or crudely still, the death of Sujith Wilson? We may surely be seeing the Madras High Court getting into the act, suo motu, or at the instance of a pro active citizen. Possibly to constitute a Committee of Experts to enquire into the tragedy and come up with recommendations to avoid its possible recurrence. There could be a clarion call for compensation too and the state may willingly part with it, as deserving solatium. But the bottom line would still be elusive, as to who was to blame? Why did it happen, if at all?

Research tells us that We The People, including the family of Sujith Wilson, (may sound cruel but that is the truth that may have to hurt) are to blame for the sad, sad demise of the 2-year-old. Way back in

2010 itself, the Supreme Court had got into the act and framed guidelines relating to digging of borewells and their safe-keeping.

There was specificity in its order enjoining responsibility on the person digging the borewell and notifying the local authorities, in advance. Of course, there is equal accountability, on the notified entities to follow up and ensure safety measures were put in place.

Obviously, nothing was followed in this instance. Neither the parents cared to notify the authorities nor did the authorities get a chance to keep track. Independent of the obligation on the borewell owner, can the state be blamed for the death of Sujith Wilson? Surely not.

Reference to decision of a Delhi High Court (Labansh-2018) would reveal the legal position. In that case, there was failure of duty and negligence attributable to Public Works Department because the land on which the bore well was sunk, belonged to the public authority. The very occur-

rence of the fall of the boy into the pit was covered by the well known maxim res ipsa loquitur - accident speaks for itself. Accordingly, the state was held liable for the boy's fall and claim for compensation of ₹10 lakh with interest at 7.5% p.a. from date of death of Labansh. There was even a hint of criminal prosecution for the negligent conduct of the state officials, apart from a series of directions for compliance to avoid such recurrence.

All that is alien to Sujith Wilson. It would be heart rendering for the parents to even think that it was they who allowed their son to meet his doom. But that is what had happened. Unless we accept this factual and legal reality, we will not learn the lessons, we may need to.

Who is to blame then? We The People. The Supreme Court mandated guidelines have been there since 2010. Maybe, the state can be blamed for not publicising it, as much as it required. But then, we cannot absolve ourselves of the blame. There is a cultural disconnect in us, as

societal beings, to ignore law's mandate, even if it means a risk to our lives. Just recall the extraordinary resistance we continue to display for the simple deed of wearing helmets to protect our craniums. We just don't care. We are disdainful. We are disrespectful. As for digging borewells, how many of us would care to notify the authorities, as we are required to.

And then we muster the gall, gumption and temerity to blame the state. Society is us and the state too.

We need to follow the rules. Abide by law first. We have no right to blame the State when we are reckless in our disregard for law. We killed Sujith Wilson. Let us face the truth.

Otherwise, we run the risk of losing more of our Sujiths. Can we afford such repetitive tragedies? What killed Sujith Wilson was the utter apathy and indifference of ourselves, as We The People.

(The writer is a practising advocate in the Madras high court)



## Backing doc strike

DMK president M. K. Stalin has said that the party was supportive of the on-going doctor's strike



Precaution should be taken so that tragedies like Sujith's death happen no more

—K S Alagiri, TNCC president

### SHORT TAKES

## Railway cop thrashed in Kovai

Coimbatore: Police have launched a search for three people who fled after attacking a railway police head constable late on Monday night after a quarrel in Coimbatore. According to police, Navas, 35, working as a railway police head constable and residing at PRS police quarters in Avinashi road, was returning from duty on Monday night. He noticed three youth on a bike at Anna Statue traffic signal. They did not move even after the signal turned green. Navas advised them not to play on the road and moved from the spot. The three chased him in their bike and attacked him. Navas fell down from his bike and suffered injuries. The trio thrashed Navas again and fled.

Motorists passing the stretch rescued him and admitted to the Coimbatore Medical College Hospital (CMCH). On a complaint from Navas, Race course police have launched a search for the trio on the run.

## Depression in Bay, cautionary signal No 3 at Pamban

Rameswaram: With a depression forming over Southeast Bay of Bengal adjoining the Sri Lankan coast, 'cautionary signal number 3' has been hoisted at Pamban port here on Tuesday, indicating a distant storm that could approach the Tamil Nadu coast. Fishermen were advised by weathermen not to venture into the sea. Meanwhile, Rameswaram island experienced good rains from 11 am on Tuesday, bringing much needed relief to the local people.

## Jumbo found dead in Erode forest

Erode: The decomposing carcass of an elephant was spotted by Forest department officials in the Kadambur forest circle, part of the Sathyamangalam tiger reserve, in Erode district on Tuesday. A forest patrol led by range officer Venkatachalam found the dead jumbo near Aanarapallam, after they suspected the death of a forest animal from the foul smell emanating in that area. On the directive of the district forest officer, Sri Arunial, the forest department veterinarian Dr Ashokan went to the spot and did a post-mortem. It revealed that the dead elephant was a male and aged about 35 years, and that its death was possibly caused by intestinal worm infection. After removing its two tusks, the carcass was left there for other animals and birds to feed upon, said sources.

# TN asks doctors to resume work

Chennai, Oct 29: Asking striking doctors to resume work, the Tamil Nadu government on Tuesday assured them that it would consider their "fair" demands but warned of action if they failed to pay heed to its appeal.

More than 15,000 government doctors affiliated to the Federation of Government Doctors Association had on October 25 launched an indefinite strike across the state pressing a 4-point charter of demands, including time bound promotions.

Five doctors have embarked on an indefinite fast here. As their protest entered the fifth day, health minister C. Vijayabaskar said though FOGDA was not a recognised body, the government had held talks with its representatives last week. The talks had, however, failed. The state government accords top priority to



Striking doctors in Chennai.

doctors and therefore was providing them with Dynamic Assured Career Progression-DACP, which was not available to any other government employee, he said in a statement. Among others, the government was considering providing the doctors with special allowances keeping in mind qualifications and difficulties related to postings, he added. "This government often takes action on fair demands and doctors striking work in that backdrop was not proper," he said.

The government will look into all fair demands of the doctors but will not accept any protest that would impact the people, the minister said. "Therefore, keeping in mind patients' welfare and to ensure that services in government hospitals are not affected, I appeal to the government doctors to withdraw the strike and resume work," he said. However, if the protest continued, the government will take "all necessary steps" to protect people's interests, — PTI

## Karate teacher held under Pocso Act in Ooty

DC CORRESPONDENT OOTY, OCT. 29

A karate teacher attached to a karate training centre at a church in Vimalagiri area in Gudalur, was arrested under the Pocso Act for sexually harassing a minor girl.

A 15-year-old girl's mother lodged a complaint with the Gudalur police alleging that Sabu Abraham (55), the Karate teacher, was sexually harassing her daughter. She also lodged a complaint against a few others, including her husband, who barged into their house and attacked her and her daughter on Sunday evening for raking up this issue involving the St. Mary's church administration at Vimalagiri area for not taking any action against Sabu Abraham, though it was reported to the church administration earlier.

Though initially the police were on slow pace on this issue, it

picked up when the matter was taken up with higher police officials.

The Gudalur police who investigated this issue said that the minor girl who is studying at a school at Gudalur town was harassing karate both at the school as well as the training centre at St. Mary's parish at Vimalagiri. In both the places Sabu Abraham is working as Karate teacher. After investigation, the police arrested Sabu Abraham under Pocso Act. The police also arrested seven others, including the girl's father, for attacking the girl and her mother for dragging parish administration into this issue.

Sources alleged that the girl's father and others in a bid to save the reputation of the parish, tried to threaten the girl and her mother to withdraw the complaint. When the duo refused, they attacked them, the sources explained.

## Fishers protest advisory against fishing

SP. LOGANATHAN | DC RAMESWARAM, OCT. 29

A piquant situation has arisen for the State Fisheries department here in the wake of a weather warning issued by the Meteorological department and advising fishermen along Ramanathapuram coast not to put out to sea in the wake of a 'distant cyclone' warning, following formation of a low pressure over the Southeast Bay of Bengal adjoining South Sri Lanka coast.

Since the weather warning was given, the Fisheries department refused to give daily token to the local fishermen as they have been told not to venture into the sea. The temporary fishing ban has been clamped for coastal Ramanathapuram district as it is the closest to northern Sri Lanka.

But local fishermen protested against this 'denial of token' which they need to put out to sea, asking why they should be curbed from fishing for a 'distant cyclone' warning. Mr. Balan, a fishermen and president of the mechanised boats fishermen's association at Mandapam said weather warnings



The North Coimbatore Flyover park is illuminated with decorative lights by Kirtilal Kalidas Jewellers to mark the Diwali celebrations. The sparkling lights, an annual feature, will be on display for few more days even after the festival. — DC



A group of protesting fishermen at the fisheries department office in Rameswaram, demanding they be issued tokens to put out their boats at sea on Tuesday. — DC

should be more area specific instead of a blanket ban on Ramanathapuram coastal fishermen. The brief fishing bans every now and then, citing weather reports not specific to the area "is further hitting fishermen here facing dwindling income," said Balan. There was no fishing ban on Thanjavur and Pudukkottai districts coastal fishermen, but why only on Ramanathapuram

district fishers, asked Balan. But Fisheries department officials do not wish to take any chances for any loss of life or mishap otherwise would put them in a dock from higher-ups from the safety point of view and hence no token was issued to Ramanathapuram fishermen's boats on Tuesday to go for fishing. However, protesting against the Fisheries

department's action, fishermen marched to its office to present petitions, seeking issuance of tokens to the fishers. Already the number of fishing days in a year "has come down a lot for us and to stop us from putting into the sea based on distant cyclonic system developments" was unacceptable, according to Mr. Balan. The sudden protest by the fishers has foxed officials.

## Gobi man dies lighting kerosene stove to make tea

ZAKEER HUSSAIN | DC ERODE, OCT. 29

In a heart-wrenching tragedy, a 75-year-old man near Gobichettipalayam in Tamil Nadu's Erode district died of severe burn injuries he sustained while lighting a kerosene-powered stove to make tea at his home on Tuesday.

V. Perumal of Kullanaickenpalayam village, was lighting a kerosene stove to prepare tea when it accidentally fell on him, setting the poor man ablaze.

Others at home immediately tried to douse the fire but it spread rapidly, said police sources.

The fire brigade was alerted who rushed to Perumal's house, doused the flames, retrieved and rushed him to the Gobichettipalayam government hospital.

However, doctors who examined him pronounced Perumal as brought dead to the hospital. The Bangalapur police have registered a case and are investigating what led to the tragedy.

## Japanese maker ties up with LMW

S. KATHTHASAMI | DC COIMBATORE, OCT. 29

In a first of its kind, the DMG Mori, Japan-based CNC machine manufacturer, launched local production of 'CMX 600 Vi' vertical machining centre at Lakshmi Machine Works (LMW) unit in Coimbatore on Tuesday.

The president of DMG Mori, Mr. Masahiko Mori and chairman and managing director of LMW, Mr. Sanjay Jayavarthanavelu launched the production at LMW Tools division on the outskirts of Coimbatore. Speaking at the launch, Masahiko Mori, said, "the



Sanjay Jayavarthanavelu and Masahiko Mori (right) at the launch function in Coimbatore. — DC

CMX 600 Vi vertical machining centre, which is specialized for Indian customers, is manufactured at LMW's factory with an initial production volume of ten units per month. The new investment and production volume would be increased based on demand and

growth." According to him, sectors including automotive, aircraft, die and mold, industrial machinery, electric, medical and communication equipment are the major market for the machine. "The machine can handle a wide range of work pieces

including pump body, pump housing, adapter plate, connector plate, scroll for all kinds of fields. The benefit of local production is the Indian customers can get the machine at lower price by 25 per cent with avoiding import duties."

While detailing on production process, Sanjay Jayavarthanavelu said, "the spares and tools would be imported from DMG Mori in Japan and assembled and value-added at LMW unit in Coimbatore as a 'Made in India' product. The new venture will help to bridge the gap in LMW's product range for Indian industry."

## BOUNTIFUL RAINS



Water gushing through Perur at a check dam on the outskirts of Coimbatore on Tuesday. — R. Balu Mahendran

## GOVARDHAN PUJA



Hare Krishna Movement Chennai celebrates Govardhan Puja commemorating the pastime of Lord Krishna lifting the Govardhan Hill on Tuesday. At the Sri Krishna Balaram temple in Thiruvanniyur, go puja was performed for 5 cows. — DC

## Oil PSU ropes in students for anti-graft drive

DC CORRESPONDENT SALEM, OCT 29

Mr. T Varaprasada Rao, general manager (Vigilance), Southern Region - IndianOil and Mr. BabuNarendra, chief divisional retail sales manager, Salem divisional office, lead a human chain formation here on Tuesday, organised to create vigilance awareness over the theme "Integrity - A Way of Life".

Gathering of over 500 people including school students, IndianOil officials, dealers, customer attendants and common public participated in the 'IndianOil's Vigilance Awareness Week Human Chain' starting from Government Boys Higher Secondary School, Ammapettai, Salem.

The school students carried placards and raised slogans disseminating the message of vigilance awareness.



Students with placards join the IndianOil rally at Salem on Tuesday. — DC

Mr. T Varaprasada Rao, general manager (Vigilance), Southern Region - IndianOil, addressing the gathering stressed on the importance of creating awareness against corruption to spotlight attention for prevention of corruption and its practices. He further said, "the Vigilance

Awareness Week provides us an apt opportunity to re-look at our systems and process to ensure that we maintain the highest standards of transparency and fairness in public dealing and I am happy IndianOil is involving school students in various outreach activities to create the

awareness on anti-corruption. "Corruption is a state of mind resulting in economic losses impeding the progress of the nation. Hence, we should decide to act for building a corruption free India," urged Mr. A R Sivakumar.

In order to reach out the message of "Vigilance Awareness Week" to members of the public, a 'SMS blast' was done to Indane customers with the motto of creating awareness on anti-corruption and vigilance among the masses.

Drawing and essay competitions on the topic "Eradicate Corruption & Build a New India" were held at various schools across Tamil Nadu to ignite the young minds to build a corruption-free India. Later, an 'online integrity pledge' was administered to customers, a press release from the public sector oil company here said.



### election stunt

BJP's Delhi unit president Manoj Tiwari on Tuesday scoffed at Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's promise of the free bus ride for women in state-run buses, calling it an 'election stunt'.

## NAGA TALKS 22 more NSCN(I-M) leaders desert outfit Govt sticks to Oct. 31 deadline

**MANOJ ANAND | DC GUWAHATI, OCT. 29**

The government of India is reluctant to extend the deadline of October 31 to conclude the ongoing Naga peace talks, which is delayed due to the unresolved demand of the NSCN (I-M) for the inclusion of Naga flag and constitution in the agreement.

Informing that the Prime Minister's envoy for Naga talks Mr R.N. Ravi was determined to meet the deadline set for concluding the peace-talks, security sources, however, admitted that NSCN(I-M) was insisting on extending the deadline but Mr Ravi has turned down the plea.

Pointing out that collective leadership of NSCN(I-M) and NNPGs had another round of talks with Mr Ravi on Tuesday in New Delhi, security sources said that Mr Ravi told the Naga leadership that the time-frame of October 31st stands.

Indicating that the government of India is confident to resolve the differences, security sources said that if the demand of Naga

**It may be recalled that NSCN(I-M) has raised the demand for Naga flag and constitution and made it clear there would be no going back on this**

flag and constitution is shorted out, the interlocutor would convene a joint meeting with NSCN(I-M) and NNPGs to work out the modalities before signing the final agreement. Security sources also hinted that the ministry of home affairs is confident to take all the groups including NSCN(I-M) on board in signing the peace accord.

It may be recalled that NSCN(I-M) has raised the demand for Naga flag and constitution and made it clear there would be no going back on this. On the other hands, the government of India had made it clear that these demands were unacceptable as they were not included either in the Framework Agreement or in the Preamble (with NNPGs).

However, a section of civil society groups questioned the stand of NNPGs for giving up the demand of flag and constitution, the group (NNPGs) has clarified that they have not given up yet and these issues would be pursued through a democratic political process, post solution.

It is significant that Mr Ravi had a public consultation meeting with 14 Naga Tribes of Nagaland, all minority non-Nagas, Nagaland GB Federation, Church and other civil society organizations on October 18 in Kohima.

In a press statement issued on the same day, Mr Ravi had appreciated the "political maturity and wisdom of the Naga leaders who expressed their overwhelming support in favour of a settlement without any further delay".

Mr Ravi had also stated that a mutually agreed draft comprehensive settlement, including all the substantive issues and competencies, was ready for inking the final agreement. However, in the same statement the interlocutor

also lamented that at such auspicious juncture, the NSCN(I-M) has adopted a "procrastinating attitude to delay the settlement raising the contentious symbolic issues of separate Naga flag and constitution".

In a significant development, at least 22 more NSCN(I-M) leaders have left the organisation to join the NNPGs on Tuesday. This has come close on the heels of 16 NSCN(I-M) leaders including former 'kilo kiloniser' (home minister) and current member of negotiating team of the Naga insurgent group NSCN-IM with the Centre, Hukavi Yephomi, leaving the group to join the working committee of the Naga National Political Groups (NNPG) on Thursday.

The decision of the senior member of the NSCN-IM negotiation team to leave the organisation and join the NNPG, an umbrella organisation of seven insurgent groups, assumes significance as the ongoing Naga talks have been inconclusive despite several rounds of meetings held in New Delhi.

## 40 injured during Hingot fest in Indore

**Indore, Oct. 29:** At least 40 people were injured during hurling of a charred local fruit at each other while celebrating the annual 'Hingot Festival' in Madhya Pradesh's Indore district, a police official said on Tuesday.

The festival was celebrated in Gautampura area, located around 55 km from here, on Monday, he said.

During the event, held traditionally a day after Diwali, people of two villages here attack each other with Hingots, a local forest fruit, by removing its pulp and stuffing it with gunpowder, coal and brimstone.

The groups from Gautampura and Rungi villages then ignite the fruit's stem attached to a rope (like a cracker) and throw them at each other like rockets, as part of what locals call the "Hingot war".

— PTI

## Courage helps overcome hurdles: Bikram Singh

**AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO BHUBANESWAR, OCT. 29**

The first-ever edition of TEDxXUB, a special TED talk programme, was conducted by IlluminatiX, the media and public relations cell of Xavier University-Bhubaneswar (XUB), on Monday evening.

The theme for the TED talk was 'Mind and Matter'. The theme brought focus on how the internal and external factors blend to shape one's life. While 'mind' focuses on all the internal struggles, battles, and confrontation; 'matter' talks about all the external factors and the environment that human beings live in.

The event, among others, was graced by the presence of eminent speakers namely General Bikram Singh, retired Chief of Army Staff (COAS) and General Officer Commander-in-Chief of the Army's Eastern Command, Ms Bhavya Arora, mental health professional and trainer, Ms Dimple Parmar, founder and CEO of Love Heals Cancer and ZenOnco.io and Dr Amrit Pattojoshi, consultant neuro-psychiatrist at The Healing Touch.

General Bikram Singh threw light upon "post-traumatic stress disorder." He compared people's lives with a battlefield and urged the audience to build courage and have faith in

overcoming all hurdles with a never to give up attitude.

Ms Bhavya Arora shared her ideas on "navigating conflict inside to build peace on the outside" and shared her liking for interacting with people that gave her a reason for becoming a therapist. She spoke about how she started experimenting with work, people around her and social work to learn more about analyzing human behaviour and providing simple solutions.

She also emphasised on three steps to solve the conflicts with each other and within through observation, reflection and awareness.

## Kedarnath shrine closes for winter

**Dehradun:** The sacred portals of the Himalayan shrine of Kedarnath were closed on Tuesday for the winter season. Around 1200 devotees attended the ceremony as the gates of the Himalayan shrine

were closed at 8.30 am, temple committee sources said. An idol of the presiding deity Lord Shiva was taken in a flower bedecked palanquin after the closure of the portals to be carried to the Omkareshwar Tem-

ple at Ukhimath where he will be worshipped during the next six months. Chants of "Jai Baba Kedarnath" filled the air as the procession left for Ukhimath to a tune played by the Jammu & Kashmir Light Infantry band.

### TENDERS / NOTICES

**KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice**  
Tender No.20/2019-20/KWA/PHC/D4/TVM, AMRUT 2017-18- Supplying and erection of pumps, transformer and electrical accessories in the Akulam Pumping station Block. K. EMD : Rs. 50000/- Tender fee : Rs. 5000/- Last Date for submitting Tender 11-11-2019 03:00:pm, Phone : 0471 2322303, Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in (Sd/-) Superintending Engineer PH Circle, Thiruvananthapuram

**PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited**  
Regd. Office: PSPCL Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001  
Corporate Identity Number: U40109PB2010SGC033813  
Website: www.pspcl.in  
Tender Enquiry No. 03/1920/CD  
Short Description:- Manufacturing Testing, Supply & Delivery of 4mm diameter Indented HT Steel Wire conforming to IS: 6003-1983 (Re-affirmed 2010), for use in Pre-stressed Concrete Poles at PSPCL Pilot Workshops Mohali, Muktsar & Sarma-Quantity = 1120 MT  
Last Date and Time of downloading of Tender Documents:- 25.11.2019 at 15:00 hrs.  
Last Date and Time of uploading of Tender Documents:- 29.11.2019 at 15:00 hrs.  
Last Date and Time of opening of Tender (Part I & II):- 29.11.2019 at 15:30 Hrs.  
Tender specification can only be downloaded from https://pspcil.abcpocure.com.  
Note:- In case of any difficulty regarding uploading of the tender, the prospective bidders are requested to get clarification from this office or M/s e-procurement Technologies Ltd. contact number +91-9646980011, 9904407996, 9904407989. It is also requested to get their digital Signature issued well in time so as to submit tenders through e-tendering only.  
It is informed that in case tender process is not completed due to any reason, no corrigendum will be published in newspapers. Details regarding corrigendum may be seen on official, PSPCL website, www.pspcl.in.  
C-433/19 Dy. CE/Civil Design, RO : C-7627 PSPCL, Patiala.

**TAMILNAD MERCANTILE BANK LTD**  
(Regd. office at 57, V.E.Road, Thoothukudi)  
**AMBATTUR BRANCH**  
No.8/7, Redhills Road, Ambattur, Chennai-600 053.  
**POSSESSION NOTICE**  
Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd., Ambattur Branch under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a demand notice dated 20.07.2019 calling upon the borrower **Mr.D.Munivel (S/o.P.Devarajan), Prop. M/s. R.K.R.Fabric and Engineering, No.825/5, Anna Salai, Vijayalakshimpuram, Ambattur, Chennai-600 053 / No.2, Anuraha Apartments, 3rd Street, Udaya Nagar, Porur, Chennai-600 116 and Guarantor Mrs.L.Anitha (W/o.D.Munivel), No.2, Anuraha Apartments, 3rd Street, Udaya Nagar, Chennai-600 116 / No.3, 9th Cross Street, Thirumalaipaya Nagar, Ambattur, Chennai-600 053.** to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs.24,53,900/- (Rupees Twenty Four Lakhs Fifty Three Thousand Nine Hundred only)** with subsequent interest and expenses, within 60 days from the date of the said notice.  
The Borrower and Guarantor having failed to repay the entire amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower, Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on the undersigned, Authorized Officer of the secured creditor Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd., under sub-section (4) of section 13 of act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, on this 24th day of October of the year 2019.  
The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.  
The borrower and guarantor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd., Ambattur Branch, for a total amount **Rs.25,46,275/- (Rupees Twenty Five Lakhs Forty Six Thousand Two Hundred Seventy Five Only)** as on 30.09.2019 with subsequent interest and expenses thereon.  
**DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**  
Land to the extent of 2650 Sq.ft Comprised in S.No.16/2 Part -1, Plot No.218, Kundan Nagar, No.15, Kannivakkam Village, Chengalpattu Taluk, Kancheepuram District-603 202. Standing in the name of Mrs.L.Anitha **BOUNDARIES** : North By : Plot No.219, South By : Vacant land, East By : 23 ft wide Road, West By : Plot No.216 & 217  
Place : Kannivakkam Village (Chengalpattu Taluk) Authorized Officer Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd., (For Ambattur Branch) Date : 24.10.2019

**TAMILNAD MERCANTILE BANK LTD**  
(Regd. office at 57, V.E.Road, Thoothukudi)  
**THIRUVALLUR BRANCH**  
No.120, J.N.Road, Thiruvallur – 602 001.  
**POSSESSION NOTICE**  
Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd., Thiruvallur Branch under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a demand notice dated 30.07.2018 calling upon the borrower **Mr.M.Ethiraj (S/o.Murugesan), Old No.206/1B, New No.11 - 71, Vinayagar Koil Street, Kaivandur Village and Post, Thiruvallur 631203, Mrs.S.Tharakeswari (W/o.Santhanakrishnan), Old No.206/1B, New No.11 - 71, Vinayagar Koil Street, Kaivandur Village and Post, Thiruvallur 631203, Mrs.S.Tharakeswari (W/o.Santhanakrishnan), Old No.206/1B, New No.11 - 71, Vinayagar Koil Street, Kaivandur Village and Post, Thiruvallur 631203, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs.6,95,001.50 (Rupees Six Lakhs Ninety Five Thousand and One paise fifty only)** with subsequent interest and expenses, within 60 days from the date of the said notice.  
The Borrower and Guarantor having failed to repay the entire amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower, Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on the undersigned, Authorized Officer of the secured creditor Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd., under sub-section (4) of section 13 of act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, on this 24th day of October of the year 2019.  
The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.  
The borrower and guarantor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd., Thiruvallur Branch, for a total amount **Rs.7,01,750.50 (Rupees Seven lakhs One Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty and Paise Fifty Only)** as on 30.09.2019 with subsequent interest and expenses thereon.  
**DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**  
Land to the extent of 4450 sq.ft with Residential Building in Grama Natham New S.No.473/4, Old S.No.153/2, New D.No.II-71 & 72, Old D.No.206/1B, (GF-1207 Sq.ft and FF-357 sq.ft) Vinayagar Koil Street, Vill.No.58, Kaivandur Village, Poonchi panchayat union, Thiruvallur Taluk, Thiruvallur District standing in the name of Mr.M.Ethiraj. **BOUNDARIES** : North By : Mr.Manicka Reddialar's House back yard, South By : Mr.Arnumuga Reddialar's House back yard, East By : Street, West By : Padappai Channel  
Authorized Officer Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd., (For Thiruvallur Branch) Date : 24.10.2019 Place: Thiruvallur**

## HDFC HOUSING DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CORPORATION LTD.

Second Floor, ITC Centre, 760, Anna Salai, Chennai – 600002.

### DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13 (2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Housing Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (HDFC Limited) under Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued Demand Notices under Section 13 (2) of the said Act, calling upon the Borrower(s) listed hereunder, to pay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice/s, within 60 days from the date of the respective Notice/s, as per details given below. The undersigned have, caused these Notices to be pasted on the premises of the last known respective addresses of the said Borrower(s) Copies of the said Notices are available with the undersigned, and the said Borrower(s) may, if they so desire, collect the respective copy from the undersigned on any working day during normal office hours. In connection with the above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said to pay to HDFC Limited, within 60 days from the date of publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated hereinbelow in their respective names, together with further interest @ 18% p.a. as detailed in the said Demand Notices from the respective dates mentioned below in column (c) till the date of payment and / or realisation, read with the loan agreement and other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following Secured Asset(s) have been mortgaged to HDFC Limited by the said Borrower (s) respectively. Borrower(s) attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured asset(s).

Sl. No	Name of Borrower(s) / Co-borrower(s)	Total Out standing	Date of Demand Notice	Description of Secured Assets (Immovable Property)
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
1.	<b>Borrower : Mr. Sridhar Rajendran, No 133, 4th Floor, Santhome High Road, Santhome High Road, Mylapore, Chennai- 600004. Co-Borrower : Mr.S.Gopalakrishnan, New No 12, Old No AP 654, 48th Street, 9th Sector, KK Nagar, Chennai - 600078. Co-Borrower : M/S CSK Valves Private Limited No. 9/10 Ground Floor, Gokul Towers, CP Ramasawamy Road, Chennai - 600018.</b>	<b>Rs.1,04,48,493/-</b> As on 31-Aug-19*	<b>15-Oct-19</b>	All that piece and parcel of Residential Flat situate in the Fourth Floor in the Eastern side of the building known as 'OPG TOWERS, bearing Municipal Door No.133/11 (Part), (Earlier Door No.42), Santhome High Road, Chennai-600004, having a built up of 1613 Sq.ft., inclusive of common area along with one car parking area, together with 591 Sq.ft. Undivided share of land out of 2 Grounds and 1635 Sq.ft., comprised in New R.S.No.2537, Block No.51, corresponding to Old Survey No.806 of Mylapore Village, Mylapore Taluk, Chennai District, and the entire land bounded on the North By: Door No. 134, Santhome High Road (R.S.No.2538), South By: Door No.132, Santhome High Road (R.S.No.2536/1), East By: Santhome High Road & West By: R.S. Nos.2561 / 53 and 2561/54. The said property is situated within the Sub - Registration District of Mylapore and Registration District of Chennai Central.
2.	<b>Borrower : Mr.R.Anandan, Co - Borrower : Mrs Keerthi, Co - Borrower : Mrs Malleeswari, G281, Manam Enclave, Velalliar Street, Mogappair West, Chennai - 600050.</b>	<b>Rs.98,91,169/-</b> As on 31-May-19*	<b>18-Oct-19</b>	All that piece and parcel of Residential Apartment in the 13th Floor of Block AC of the building named "METROZONE-PHASE-I" bearing Apartment No.AC 1303 having a builtup area of 1555 Sq.ft.along with 426 Sq.ft.of undivided share in the land measuring an extent of 33 Acres and 18 Cents (Forming part of 42 Acres 53 Cents of Land comprised in T.S.Nos.1/1, 1/2, 2/3, 2/4, 4/2, 3/2, 3/3, 4/3 & 7/2) inclusive of common areas along with 2 Nos car parking spaces comprised in T S Nos.1/1, 1/2 & 2/4 of Block No.26 and T.S.No.3/2 of Block No.27 situated in Koyambedu Village (Formerly Thirumangalam Village), Egmore-Nungambakkam Taluk, Chennai, Bounded on the North by-CPWD Quarters, South by-12 Meters Public Road gifted by the Vendor (abutting Coovum River), East by- Pillayar Koil Street and Jawaharlal Nehru Salai & West by-Padi Village. The said property is situated within the Registration District of Chennai North and Sub Registration District of Anna Nagar.
3.	<b>Borrower : Mr. A. Pugazhendhi, Plot No-53, Door No-13, 2nd Main Road, Senthil Nagar Annex, Chinna Porur, Valsaravakkam, Chennai - 600087.</b>	<b>Rs.80,93,837/-</b> As on 31-Jul-19*	<b>27-Aug-19</b>	Schedule 'A' Property : All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Door No.3, Plot No-118, Chowdhary Nagar, 11th Street, Valsaravakkam Village, Ambattur Taluk, Thiruvallur District, Madhuravoyal Taluk, land measuring 1 Ground and 600 Sq.ft., (3000 Sq.ft) Comprised in Old Survey No.163, New Survey No.163/3 part, as per patta 163/9, and the land being bounded on the North by: Plot No.117, South by: 30 feet Road, East by Plot No.119 & West by: Plot No.118-A and measuring on the North 50 feet, on the South 50 feet, on the East 60 feet & on the West 60 feet, in all admeasuring 3000 Sq.ft., and the property situated within the Sub-Registration District of Virugambakkam and Registration District of South Chennai. Schedule 'B' Property : 50% of Undivided of land in entire schedule 'A' mentioned property. Schedule 'C' Property : Flat No.F-2, in First Floor, and the Total Construction of the Plinth Area and 20% Common Area of the Flat measuring an extent of 1432 Sq.ft., along with One Car Parking.
4.	<b>Borrower : Mr.M.Nagaraja, 2, E. V. R. Periyar Street, New Perungalathur, Chennai - 600063.</b>	<b>Rs.79,80,723/-</b> As on 31-Jul-19*	<b>15-Oct-19</b>	All that piece and parcel of vacant house site, bearing Plot No.3, Sri Nagar Colony Annex, 1st Street, Kolathur, Chennai - 600 099, measuring an extent of 2370 Sq.ft., comprised in Survey No.58/4, situated in Kolathur village Pursalwalkam-Perambur Taluk, now Ayanavaram Taluk, Chennai District, Bounded on the North by: Plot No.2, South by: Door No.4/15, Road, East by: Rangasamy Naidu's Land & Measuring on the North by: 60 feet, South by: 60 feet, East by: 39 feet, and West by: 40 feet. The above mentioned property is situated within the Registration District of Chennai North and Registration Sub-District of Sembiam.
5.	<b>Borrower : Mr.V.K.Gunaratnam, V37, 102, Pudupakkam, Abdulkalam Salai, Pudupakkam, Chennai-603103. Co-Borrower : M/s. G. Ratnam Innovations, 41/A, Pudupakkam, Pudupakkam Main Road, Chennai-603103</b>	<b>Rs.59,89,188/-</b> As on 31-Jul-19*	<b>18-Oct-19</b>	Schedule 'A' - All that piece and parcel of land, situated at No. 41, Pudupakkam Village, Thirupurur Taluk, Kancheepuram District, Old Patta No. 582, New Patta No. 3372, comprised in Survey No. 155/2C, measuring an extent of 52 Cents (22672 sq.ft.) and sub division of Plot bearing Plot No. 5, measuring an extent of 1938 sq.ft. vide sub division approval from Mahabalipuram Local Planning Authority (MLPA) vide DTCP No. 22 (R)/2017, and the land being bounded on the North By: Survey No: 155/2B, South By: Private Common Passage, East By: Plot No. 6 & West By: Plot No. 4 & Measuring on the:- Northern side: 38 feet 0 inches, Southern side: 38 feet 0 inches, Eastern side: 50 feet 3 inches & Western side: 52 feet 0 inches. In all measuring an extent of 1938 sq.ft., or thereabouts within the Registration District of Chengalpattu and Sub Registration District of Thirupurur. Schedule 'B' - 977 sq.ft. of undivided share land out of the Schedule 'A' property together with 357.56 Sq.ft. undivided share of common passage in all totaling 1334.56 sq.ft. together with a residential Villa, having super built up area of 1618 sq.ft. consisting of 689 sq.ft. in Ground Floor, 753 sq.ft. in First Floor, and 176 sq.ft. in Terrace Floor and one covered car parking, bearing Villa No. 5A. Schedule 'A' - All that piece and parcel of land, situated at No. 41, Pudupakkam Village, Thirupurur Taluk, Kancheepuram District, Old Patta No. 582, New Patta No. 3372, comprised in Survey No. 155/2C, measuring an extent of 52 cents (22672 sq.ft) and lying within the Registration District of Chengalpattu and Sub Registration District of Thirupurur. Schedule - 'B' : All that piece and parcel of sub division of plot, bearing Plot No.6, vide sub division approval from Pudupakkam Panchayat, measuring an extent of 2304 sq.ft. situated at No. 41, Pudupakkam Village, Thirupurur Taluk, Kancheepuram District, Old Patta No. 582, New Patta No. 3372, comprised in Survey No. 155/2C, and the plot being bounded on the North By :Survey No. 155/2B, South By : Private Common Passage, East By: Plot No. 7 & West By: Plot No. 5 and Measuring on the:- Northern Side: 47 feet 0 inches, Southern Side: 47 feet 1 inches, Eastern Side: 46 feet 10 inches & Western Side: 50 feet 4.5 inches. In all measuring an extent of 2304 sq.ft. or thereabouts within the Registration District of Chengalpattu and Sub Registration District of Thirupurur. Schedule - 'C' : 1864 sq.ft. of residential villa consisting 824 sq.ft. in Ground Floor, 900 sq.ft. in First Floor, and 140 sq.ft. in Terrace floor and one covered car parking, bearing Villa No. 6B along with 1489.56 Sq.ft. undivided share land (i.e. 1132 sq.ft. of undivided share in Schedule 'B' property and 357.56 sq.ft. undivided share of common passage in Schedule 'A' property)
6.	<b>Borrower : Mr.Syngie Thomas, O/No 3/142, N/No 4/233, Kamarajar Salai Manjambakkam, Chennai- 600060.</b>	<b>Rs.51,13,608/-</b> As on 31-Aug-19*	<b>18-Oct-19</b>	Schedule 'A' - All that piece and parcel of land, situated at No. 41, Pudupakkam Village, Thirupurur Taluk, Kancheepuram District, Old Patta No. 582, New Patta No. 3372, comprised in Survey No. 155/2C, measuring an extent of 52 cents (22672 sq.ft) and lying within the Registration District of Chengalpattu and Sub Registration District of Thirupurur. Schedule - 'B' : All that piece and parcel of sub division of plot, bearing Plot No.6, vide sub division approval from Pudupakkam Panchayat, measuring an extent of 2304 sq.ft. situated at No. 41, Pudupakkam Village, Thirupurur Taluk, Kancheepuram District, Old Patta No. 582, New Patta No. 3372, comprised in Survey No. 155/2C, and the plot being bounded on the North By :Survey No. 155/2B, South By : Private Common Passage, East By: Plot No. 7 & West By: Plot No. 5 and Measuring on the:- Northern Side: 47 feet 0 inches, Southern Side: 47 feet 1 inches, Eastern Side: 46 feet 10 inches & Western Side: 50 feet 4.5 inches. In all measuring an extent of 2304 sq.ft. or thereabouts within the Registration District of Chengalpattu and Sub Registration District of Thirupurur. Schedule - 'C' : 1864 sq.ft. of residential villa consisting 824 sq.ft. in Ground Floor, 900 sq.ft. in First Floor, and 140 sq.ft. in Terrace floor and one covered car parking, bearing Villa No. 6B along with 1489.56 Sq.ft. undivided share land (i.e. 1132 sq.ft. of undivided share in Schedule 'B' property and 357.56 sq.ft. undivided share of common passage in Schedule 'A' property)
7.	<b>Borrower : Mr. C.Rajesh Kumar, No. 69/36, Ponnambalam Salai, KK Nagar, Chennai-600078. Co - Borrower : RK HR Services, New No -13, Old No -7, Dhandapani Street, T.Nagar, Chennai - 600017.</b>	<b>Rs.29,08,926/-</b> As on 31-Jul-19*	<b>27-Sep-19</b>	All that piece and parcel of Residential Flat in the 1st Floor of Block C, Terra No.3 of the building named "VERTERRA" bearing Flat No.106 having a super builtup area of 1179 Sq.ft (inclusive of proportionate share in common area and a covered car park in still floor) along with 628 Sq.ft. of undivided share in the land measuring an extent of 159671.26 Sq.ft., comprised in S.Nos.66/2, 69 (Part), 67/1, 62/2, 64/1, 66/1, 69 & 70/2 situated at Kolapakkam Village, Previously Sriperubudur Taluk, now Alandur Taluk and Kancheepuram District. Bounded on the North by-S.No.68, Land gifted to CMDA, S.Nos.67/2B, 65 & 63, Road and Project by M/s.Malles & S.No.2/4, South by- Survey Nos.71, 44 & 47, East by- Survey No.62/1, Land gifted to CMDA, S.Nos.67/2A & 67/2B & West by-Link Road, S.No.68 & 63. The said property is situated within the Registration District of Chennai South and Sub Registration District of Pammal.

\*with further interest @ 18% p.a. as applicable, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc incurred till the date of payment and / or realization. If the said Borrower (s) shall fail to make payment to HDFC Limited as aforesaid, then HDFC Limited shall proceed against the above Secured Asset(s) / Immovable Property (ies) under Section 13 (4) of the said Act and the applicable Rules entirely at the risk of the said Borrower(s) as to the costs and consequences. The said Borrower (s) are prohibited under the said Act to transfer the aforesaid Secured Asset (s) / Immovable Property (ies), whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of HDFC Limited. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the Act or Rules made thereunder shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

**Date: 30 - October - 2019**  
**Place: Chennai**  
**SD/-**  
**Authorised Officer**



## 'Curbs averted terror'

Internet suspension averted major terror incidents in J&K, says Union minister Jitendra Singh

## Modi to review progress of 117 districts in Nov.

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, OCT. 29



Narendra Modi

In what can be termed as a dilution in its agenda, the monthly Pragati meeting which the Prime Minister normally conducts to discuss delayed or stuck infrastructure projects, will this time review the progress of the 117 aspirational districts.

According to sources aware of the developments, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) directed the Niti Aayog to include in Pragati's agenda for the first time, the performance of aspirational districts.

Though the meeting is normally held on the last Wednesday of every month, it is likely to take place early next month this time.

During the forthcoming meeting of Pragati, the Prime Minister is likely to review those districts, which have shown the least progress, sources told this newspaper.

Pragati was envisioned with the aim of reviewing and fast tracking those infrastructure projects across the country, which have been stuck for a long time owing to various reasons like lack of funds or lack of coordination among various states or departments.

The aspirational districts programme, which was envisioned by Mr Narendra Modi in January 2018, is aimed at improving the socio-economic parameters in the most backward districts of the country.

Under this, 117 districts were identified by the states, Union home ministry as well as Niti Aayog, where various indicators like health, nutrition, education and agriculture were to be improved.

On October 6, the PDP announced that it had got permission from Governor Satya Pal Malik to visit Mehbooba, but within hours deferred the visit after several senior leaders came out in open and challenged the authority of those who had sought permission from the administration at that time. — PTI

## Ultras kill 5 non-Kashmiri labourers

Police says labourers were abducted from a brick kiln and shot dead

YUSUF JAMEEL SRINAGAR, OCT. 29

Five non-local labourers were killed and another wounded in a militant attack in Jammu and Kashmir's southern Kulgam district on Tuesday, the police said.

A report from Kulgam said that unidentified gunmen opened fire at a non-local brick kiln worker identified as Zahooruddin, a resident of West Bengal, in the district's Kathraason village on Tuesday evening, leaving him critically injured. As his colleagues rushed to the spot to evacuate him to hospital, the gunmen hiding in a nearby alley again opened fire, killing five of them, the report said.

However, the police sources said that the labourers were abducted by a brick kiln and subsequently shot at. All the slain men were residents of West Bengal, the sources said.

This was the latest in a series of such attacks on non-local labourers and truck drivers by suspected militants in south Kashmir since October 14. In earlier incidents, four truck drivers, an apple trader and a labourer were killed and a few others wounded in neighbouring Pulwama, Shopian and Anantnag districts.

On October 28, a truck driver Narayan Dutt, a resident of Katra in J&K's Reasi district, was shot dead by suspected militants in Kanilwan village of Bijbehara area of Anantnag.

On October 23, two more truck drivers were killed and a crew member was critically wounded in a similar attack Shopian's Chittergam Kalan village.

On October 16, two apple buyers from Punjab's

## Militants fire at CRPF bunker in Pulwama

Srinagar, Oct. 29: Terrorists attacked a bullet-proof CRPF post in Pulwama near here on Tuesday but there were no casualties, said officials.

The paramilitary force officials said the militants fired multiple gun shots at a bunker of the 72nd battalion of the Central Reserve Police Force at about 3:30 pm in the Drappam area of Rajpora in Pulwama.

At least six to eight bullets were fired by unidentified terrorists at the CRPF post with the personnel deployed on law and order duty in the area, they said.

The CRPF troop too opened fire in retaliation, they said, adding no casualties have been reported on the either side. — PTI

Fazilka district were shot by suspected militants in Tranz area of Shopian. While one of them Charanjit Singh was brought dead at a government-run hospital in neighbouring Pulwama district, the condition of the other identified a Sanjiv Kumar who is admitted in a Srinagar hospital continues to be critical. The assailants had also torched the truck in which the apple boxes bought by the duo were being loaded.

On October 14 night, gunmen had shot dead a truck driver from Rajasthan identified as Sharief Khan in Shopian's Sindhoo-Shirmal village. The gunmen had also torched his truck loaded with apples which were to be transported out of the Valley.

## PDP delegation denied nod to meet Mehbooba

Jammu, Oct. 29: The Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) said on Tuesday that the administration had denied permission to its delegation to meet party president Mehbooba Mufti, currently under detention in Srinagar.

On Monday, the PDP leadership in Jammu had forwarded a letter to the Deputy Commissioner of Srinagar seeking permission afresh to meet the detained leader on October 30.

The administration had earlier given permission to a delegation of PDP leaders to meet the former chief minister, but the party deferred the



Mehbooba Mufti

proposed visit following serious differences within its camp over the visit.

"A request by PDP leaders to meet party chief and former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti has been turned down by the administration," senior party leader and former legislator Ved Mahajan said.

He said there was no official response to the party's communication. "We have though been unofficially told that permission at this stage will not be granted," he added.

Ms Mehbooba, along with

other prominent mainstream leaders in Kashmir Valley, have been under detention since August 5 when the Centre announced its decisions to abrogate Jammu and Kashmir's special status under Article 370 of the Constitution and split the state into two Union Territories.

On October 6, the PDP announced that it had got permission from Governor Satya Pal Malik to visit Mehbooba, but within hours deferred the visit after several senior leaders came out in open and challenged the authority of those who had sought permission from the administration at that time. — PTI

Ms Mehbooba, along with

## 'Pak-based groups may attack forces in Kashmir'

New Delhi, Oct. 29: Pakistan-based terror groups may target security forces and government installations in Jammu and Kashmir in the coming days to create a prolonged hostage-like situation to draw international attention, according to intelligence inputs.

Quoting the inputs, officials said the information has also indicated about plans of terrorists belonging to the Jaish-e-Mohammed, Lashkar-e-Taiba and the Hizbul Mujahideen to target security personnel in the general areas of Zonakar, Rainawari, Safakadal and Dharamshah in Srinagar district. According to the intelligence inputs, terrorists are likely to target installations of the security forces and government offices in Srinagar with an aim to create a prolonged hostage-like situation to draw international attention, the officials said.

Likelihood of grenade attacks on security forces in a district headquarters town to create fear psychosis and threaten civilian authorities outside the mini secretariat in another district have also been reported. Terrorist outfits have been using posters in various parts of the Kashmir Valley to disseminate threat messages to scare shopkeepers against defying call for a shutdown. — PTI



woman stone pelters runs away for cover during a clash between protesters and security personnel in Srinagar, Tuesday.

## Militant attack on Army convoy creates commotion in Pulwama

## 65K kids appear in Class 10 exam

DC CORRESPONDENT SRINAGAR, OCT. 29

In spite of persisting tensions and the stalemate over the abrogation of Article 370, board examinations for Class 10 were held on schedule in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday.

However, worried parents could be seen waiting outside exam halls for their children. The non-availability for transport facility only added to their woes.

A statement issued by J&K Board of School Education (JKBOSE) said that around 65,000 students

of Kashmir division (including Ladakh) and 24,000 students of winter zone Jammu appeared for the first paper of the Class 10 examination.

It said that 615 and 296 centres were set up in these regions, respectively, besides a special centre for differently-abled students at the JKBOSE campus in Srinagar. The statement further said that 99 percent students appeared in the examination which remained incident free.

Meanwhile, panic gripped Drabam area of southern Pulwama district on

Worried parents could be seen waiting outside exam halls for their children. The non-availability for transport facility only added to their woes

Tuesday after the militants attacked a foot patrol of Army's Rashtriya Rifles. The attack was promptly retaliated by the troops. No one was injured, the police sources said.

The incident also created commotion at a nearby

school. The police officials denied an earlier report which said that the militants had tried to target children by firing at a school building in the area. The incident, they said, took place half a kilometer away from the school.

The government had impressed upon the JK State Board of School Education, College and University authorities to ensure the conduct of all ensuing examinations before the onset of winters in Kashmir region and also in winter Zone of Jammu region.

## Naidu describes Jaitley as man of many facets

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, OCT. 29

Describing "parliamentary form of government" as one of the features of the "basic structure of the Constitution," vice-president and chairman, Rajya Sabha, M. Venkaiah Naidu on Tuesday said that the feature is "beyond the power of Parliament to be amended as per the settled position in the matter." Delivering the first Arun Jaitley Memorial lecture on strengthening of parliamentary institutions, Mr Naidu pitched for simultaneous polls and said the idea needs to be seriously considered and discussed by all stakeholders. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also raised the issue on various occasions and asked for a debate on it.

Lauding the contributions of late Union minister and BJP leader, Mr Naidu said that Jaitley was a "multi-tasker" and "multi-faceted genius." The Rajya Sabha chairman said that Jaitley, as both the leader of the Opposition and leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha played a significant role in several landmark legislations being passed



Arun Jaitley

and also resolving stalemates on several occasions. Mr Jaitley had passed away in August this year after a long illness.

Accepting that 'First Past The Post (FPTP)' system of electing people's representatives is "faulty" to the extent that MPs and MLAs are being elected with substantially less than 50 percent of voter support, Mr Naidu however, said that there is no alternative at present.

Mr Naidu said that the Constitution continue to strengthen the democracy despite naysayers casting doubt over its efficacy in the initial days. He also called for anti-defection law to rectify the grey areas and pitched for a "special bench" to expedite criminal cases against politicians fighting elections.

## UP man dies in police custody, kin allege torture

Amethi, UP: A man detained in connection with a case of loot died in police custody after allegedly consuming poison, officials said on Tuesday. Satya Prakash Shukla (50) and his sons were detained by police on Monday night in connection with a loot of Rs 26 lakh from a bank employee in Peeparpur area. Additional Superintendent of Police Dayaram said. — PTI



Milk traders try to tame a bull during 'Sagar' festival in Ganeshpeth area of Pune on Tuesday.

## Prez attends to 'injured' policewoman

New Delhi, Oct. 29: President Ram Nath Kovind on Tuesday attended to a policewoman who slipped and apparently twisted her ankle during an awards function here.

The Delhi policewoman was standing in front of the dais at Vigyan Bhawan during the first National CSR Awards function. She fell and sat on the carpet when the national anthem was being played, according to a PTI photographer who was present.

Soon after the national anthem was over, Kovind was seen talking to ministers Nirmala Sitharaman and Anurag Singh Thakur. Then the president along



President Ram Nath Kovind interacts with a woman security staff during an awards function in New Delhi on Tuesday. Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman is also seen.

with security walked down from the dais and had a brief conversation with the policewoman after Thakur offered her a bottle of water. Ms Sitharaman asked a security person to assist

## Manmohan in 1st jatha to Kartarpur

New Delhi, Oct. 29: Former prime minister Manmohan Singh, Punjab chief minister Amrinder Singh and Union minister Hardeep Puri are among the 575 people who will be part of the inaugural jatha to Gurudwara Darbar Sahib in Pakistan through the Kartarpur corridor, central government sources said Tuesday.

India on Tuesday shared with Pakistan the list of 575 people.

Union minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal and

MPs and MLAs from Punjab will also be part of the group, the sources said.

It is learnt that Pakistan has denied permission for a composite delegation led by the Punjab government, along with representatives of SGPC (Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee) and DSGMC (Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee) to organise "akhand path" (recital of holy scripture) and hold "nagar kirtan" (religious procession) at Nankana Sahib. — PTI

## Railways introduces OTP-based refunds

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, OCT. 29

Getting refunds from Indian Railways will be much easier now as the Railways has initiated a new OTP (One Time Password) based refund system for reserved e-tickets which are cancelled or which are fully waitlisted tickets. Under this new process, whenever a ticket booked through authorised IRCTC agent is cancelled by the customer, an OTP SMS will be sent to customer or passenger mobile number which was provided at the time of booking along with the refund amount.

The customer or passenger will be required to share the OTP with the agent who booked the ticket, for getting the refund amount. This system is applicable to only those e-tickets which are booked through IRCTC authorised agents, the Railways said while adding that this is a more transparent and customer friendly system. "OTP based refund process will ensure more transparency in the system to the advantage of the customer," Railways officials said.

Constitution continue to strengthen the democracy despite naysayers

— Venkaiah Naidu, Vice-president

## SHORT TAKES

### Irani on 2-day visit to Amethi today

Amethi (UP): Union Minister Smriti Irani will be on a two-day visit to her Lok Sabha constituency Amethi from October 30 and take part in a series of programmes, a BJP leader said on Tuesday. During her visit, the Union textiles minister will interact with party leaders and workers, BJP district unit chief Durgesh Tripathi said. She will also take part in "Gandhi Sankalp Sandesh Padyatra", he added. The "padyatra" (foot march) was launched by Union home minister and BJP president Amit Shah on the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on October 2. — PTI

### 40-kg tumour removed from womans uterus

Cuttack: In a rare surgery, a tumour weighing 40 kg was removed from the uterus of a woman at Acharya Harihar Regional Cancer Centre in Cuttack recently. As per reports, the tumour was growing inside the body of a woman identified as Shakuntala Majhi, a resident of Angul district, for last 10 years. After a primary health check-up, a 5-member team of doctors including Dr Manoranjan Mohapatra of maternity ward had conducted the surgery successfully on October 25 which continued for 2 hours. Dr Mohapatra informed that after the surgery, Majhi was completely healthy.

### 3 trampled to death by jumbos

Jalpaiguri, West Bengal: Three persons have been trampled to death by elephants in two incidents in West Bengal's Jalpaiguri district, a forest official said on Tuesday. Both the incidents occurred at Ramsai adjoining Gorumara National Park on Monday night, Assistant Conservator of Forests, Janmejaj Pal said. "Gaona Oraon and his wife Kumari Oraon were trampled to death by elephants near Jadavpur tea garden. Another person, who is yet to be identified, was also killed by the pachyderms at Kalamati locality," he said. The couple is survived by three children aged four, six and eight. — PTI

## NATH UNDER PRESSURE TO EXPAND CABINET

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY BHOPAL, OCT. 29

Madhya Pradesh chief minister Kamal Nath is under pressure from ministerial aspirants in the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) to go for the long-awaited expansion of his cabinet post. Mr Nath who has held back the expansion of the state cabinet so far fearing backlash from the ministerial hopefuls who could not be accommodated in the proposed expansion of his cabinet may now have to give in to the pressure in the wake of victory of Congress in the just concluded by-elections in Jhabua



Kamal Nath

(ST) Assembly constituency, sources said. "Mr Nath has been able to contain dissidence in Congress by throwing bait of berths in his cabinet at ministerial aspirants. Post Jhabua by-poll victory, the chief minister may not be able to delay expansion of his ministry further," the Congress leader said to be close to Mr Nath indicated. Sources said Mr Nath was likely to hold discussion with the Congress leadership on the proposed expansion.

There's no such thing as bad weather, just soft people

There is no higher value in our society than integrity

# DECCAN Chronicle

30 OCTOBER 2019

## Euro MPs in Srinagar was a sorry spectacle

The Kashmir Valley's residents may wonder why the Narendra Modi government bothered sending a group of members of the European Parliament (MEPs) to Srinagar on Tuesday if the MEPs wouldn't be allowed to meet ordinary folk, and merely take shikara rides on Dal Lake, and attend a military briefing.

The likely truth is that the handpicked MEPs (it must be stressed that it was not a European Parliament delegation) got their crucial briefing and imparting of the official line in New Delhi on Monday. Srinagar was just for the joyride and to grab the dateline.

The exercise was shabby from the start. An NGO no one has heard of played host. And yet, the vice-president of India, the PM, the external affairs minister and the national security adviser fawned on this gaggle of foreigners, whose distinguishing feature was that they mostly belong to far-right parties (subscribing to ideologies that discriminate on the basis of religion or colour) and were not above cadging a trip to picturesque Kashmir. It will be interesting to see on what octave they sing their paean of praise. It is not even clear if the NGO in question had the wherewithal to host 27 European guests. Is it, then, a RSS or BJP front which hobnobs with like-minded entities internationally — a sort of Ultra-Right International? It may be interesting to probe the NGO and its other activities.

**Of the 27 MEPs invited, four declined to go to Kashmir with the rest of the group. They apparently asked to be permitted to meet people more generally in the Valley and steer away from the guided tour in a limited way.**

Of the 27 MEPs invited, four declined to go to Kashmir with the rest of the group. They apparently asked to be permitted to meet people more generally in the Valley and steer away from the guided tour in a limited way, and weren't allowed to do so. This must be the ultimate ignominy for the government.

New Delhi has been made to look small by the US, Europe and the UN who have raised questions in public more than once about the shocking goings-on since August 5, when J&K's constitutional status was

revoked, all mainstream politicians locked up, and a communications and media gag imposed on the Valley. The government was getting marginalised in public perception — its only supporters being a clutch of police states in West Asia. But to come out of the hole that it dug for itself, did it need this? Whose bright idea was it? And who are the real funders? The questions are pertinent.

The vulgarity of the show put on for a few Europeans as a mark of supplication flags a few points: The MEPs were not permitted to meet any of the jailed politicians in the Valley; they were not even allowed to meet sitting Kashmir MPs; and that New Delhi feted a few European politicians in the Valley while having earlier turned back Indian political leaders and MPs, including a former J&K chief minister. A prominent BJP MP, Dr Subramanian Swamy, has said that the visit of the MEPs "lacked a moral basis".

## Borewell tragedy shames India

The death of a two-year-old boy who fell into an abandoned borewell in Tamil Nadu is a national tragedy as it's a recurring theme of carelessness that causes such events and the inability to rescue victims in time. India may have the ability to send spacecraft to the moon and Mars, but seems unable to deal with subterranean territory like mines and borewells. Ham-handed rescue efforts may have led the boy to slip from an initial sub-30 feet to 80 feet. There were no dearth of expert opinions on how to extricate children from such predicaments. Neither was there any limit to a perverse kind of voyeurism that television media seems to revel in, selling tragedy in 24x7 news cycles. Politicians try to use the optics to project themselves but come out only as grandstanding spectators.

That such incidents routinely occur in India reflects a national lack of concern over safety. Scores of deaths are recorded annually with children dying in wells, ponds and lakes, either through misadventure or, more excruciatingly, in falling through holes in the ground. There's also a terrible lacuna in our work culture that allows such leeway in not finishing a task properly. Does it cost too much to place a concrete slab over disused borewells when people spend tens of thousands of rupees in digging holes in divining water? The Supreme Court issued guidelines a decade ago and the Madras high court mandated the sealing of such borewells four years back. Not many bothered about minimum safety requirements. Not a thought is lent to adults being responsible for creating a safe environment for children to play in. As a society, we fail each time we lose a Sujith to our own callousness.



Subhani

## Baghdadi, ISIS and US: The mystery to endure



Indranil Banerjee

The meteoric rise and violent demise of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, head of the egregious Islamic State (ISIS), who attained notoriety as the world's most vicious Islamist villain, is destined to remain an enduring mystery despite the incredible hype about the manner of his death.

His death might have been described in considerable detail by US President Donald Trump, who has taken credit for ridding the world of an obvious evil, but the circumstances of his rise from obscurity to the head of an Islamic "caliphate" created with the help of invisible forces and formidable military capabilities will remain a matter of conjecture. So will the timing of his killing and how US special forces managed to penetrate a hostile ISIS-controlled area, hemmed in all sides by several military powers.

The world will never know for sure which powers secretly supported al-Baghdadi, hoisted him onto the centrestage in the strife-torn Middle East, funded his considerable military operations or provided his fighters routes of ingress into Syria and Iraq.

He will merely be reviled and quickly cast into the dustbin of history heaped with infamous figures such as Osama bin Laden, Saddam Hussain, Muammar Gaddafi and others.

Millions will now sigh in relief, especially those whose lives were torn asunder by the depredations of Baghdadi's ISIS, which controlled much of Iraq and Syria for several years. Hundreds of thousands of Syrians and Iraqis have been killed, displaced or tortured by his fanatical forces. The extent of his barbarity has horrified most Muslims and fuelled Islamophobia across the world.

To be sure, his death in

a US military raid on his compound in Idlib in northern Syria is a matter of rejoicing. One can even empathise with President Trump's relish when he declared: "Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi is dead... He died like a dog, he died like a coward, he was whimpering, screaming and crying."

The US forces were apparently led to Baghdadi's hideout by the Kurdish-controlled Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF). An SDF undercover operative who penetrated the ISIS leader's security stole his underwear, which was used to determine his DNA print.

Once identified and located, a US military team, along with a military dog (made famous by President Trump's repeated mentions of a "beautiful dog"), were sent in to eliminate him. Baghdadi, according to President Trump, was chased down a tunnel where he apparently detonated a suicide vest he was wearing, killing himself and three of his children.

The United States can now wash its hands off the disagreeable al-Baghdadi affair, withdraw its military from Syria and call the entire Syrian episode a mistake.

Yet, the US-led intervention in Syria, which saw the rise of al-Baghdadi and his Islamic caliphate, will continue to dissonate for years to come. The US in the ultimate analysis was responsible for unleashing, or at the least, encouraging jihad in Syria in order to destroy the Bashar al-Assad regime, which was considered hostile to Western interests in West Asia.

This was a repeat of US policy in Afghanistan during the 1980s, when the Afghan jihad was created to counter the Soviet occupation of that country. Numerous radical Islamist Afghan groups were established

with the help of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) directorate to be trained in arms and dispatched across the border.

The Soviets were ultimately defeated by the Afghan mujahideen, aided in no small measure by the sophisticated and vast quantities of arms provided by the United States and Saudi Arabia. However, the Mujahideen victory set in motion a cycle of unending warfare in Afghanistan, which continues to this day and which incidentally has caused the deaths of thousands of American combatants.

A similar dynamic is inevitable in the Syria-Iraq region where the destruction or weakening of existing regimes has released competing forces, invited outside intervention and added the influence of radical Islam. This, most strategists will acknowledge, is a cocktail for catastrophe.

A number of analysts have suspected but never proved Washington's complicity in aiding the ISIS in its initial days. The main enemy at that time was the Syrian regime of Bashar al-Assad, which was considered hostile to most US allies in West Asia including Israel, Turkey and the Arab monarchies of Saudi Arabia and Qatar. The destruction of the Assad regime was an avowed aim of the US and its allies.

It is widely believed that a number of countries massively aided the ISIS and al-Baghdadi because they were viewed as staunch Sunnis best suited to bring down the hated Assad regime of the Alawites (a Muslim sect closer to the Shias than the Sunnis).

Turkey covertly supported the ISIS and

**The world will never know for sure which powers secretly supported al-Baghdadi, hoisted him onto the centrestage in the strife-torn Middle East and funded his considerable military operations**

other jihadists for two reasons: one, because it despised the Assad regime and two, because it hoped the jihadists would also consume the hated Kurdish fighters in Syria and Iraq.

Several Western commentators have written about the covert support given by West Asian powers to ISIS and how Washington was fully aware of what was going on. One article in the *Independent* quoted a leaked 2014 US state department memo which admitted Saudi Arabia, Qatar (as well as Turkey and Pakistan) were supporting ISIS and other jihadi groups in the region.

"At the time, the US government was not admitting that Saudi Arabia and its Sunni allies were supporting ISIS and al-Qaeda-type movements. But in the leaked memo, which says that it draws on 'Western intelligence, US intelligence and sources in the region' there is no ambivalence about who is backing ISIS, which at the time of writing was butchering and raping Yazidi villagers and slaughtering captured Iraqi and Syrian soldiers", the article added.

Turkey has offered — and continues to do so — free passage to jihadists in Syria, opposes any attack on the last remaining ISIS stronghold of Idlib and has stepped up efforts to exterminate Kurdish groups, who are bitter opponents of the jihadists.

Today, the very Assad regime which was accused by the Western powers of being an unmitigated evil, has emerged as the sole sane regime in the region. Helped by Russia's unstinting diplomatic and military assistance, President Assad has narrowly survived the invasion of the jihadist barbarians. President Trump's decision to end the Syrian intervention will be best for the world but will leave many murky secrets locked up forever in government crypts.

*The writer is an independent commentator on political and security issues*

## LETTERS

### MYSTERIES OF LIFE

In spite of challenging rescue efforts available to collective human intelligence and despite fervent all-faith prayers, the Almighty has taken the life of innocent two-year old child. Of course, the believer of faith has all right to fix his opinion that the power of creator, protector and destroyer who or which determines the format of how 'life' is to begin and end in concurrence with human definition of life. But can we push the trapped child in the abandoned-uncapped borewell as Vis Major, an act of god? It is an act of gross negligence by careless fellow human beings, not only in the case but in several cases of different origins. We commit errors, mistakes and blunders to play with other lives, knowingly or unknowingly, and seek miracle to happen through prayers. How irrational are we?

Victor Frank A, Chennai

### SIGNALS FROM TWO STATES

This is with reference to article *Maha, Haryana signals: Lesson of half-full glass* (Oct. 29). The BJP, after failing to secure at least a simple majority on its own to form government, independent of support of other parties in both Maharashtra and Haryana, is now resigned to fate to be at the mercy of Shiv Sena and Jannayak Janta Party respectively, to save its face and form the governments there. The Amit Shah's Chanakya tricks, his organisational skills, the talk on nationalism and patriotism, the boasting of abrogation of Article 370 and 35A, the 24x7 diatribe against Pakistan, had not all worked this time. It is no win-win situation in Maharashtra where BJP is confronted with its ally, Shiv Sena, demanding 50:50 share in power, and in Haryana where it has to yield to the demands of an infant political party, Jannayak Janta Party.

M.Y. Shariff, Chennai

### REMARKABLE WIN

Tiger Woods once again showed that he is second to none by bagging his 82nd US PGA Tour victory at the Zozo Championship in Inzai, Japan (*Tiger out of woods*, Oct. 29). The historic milestone helps him draw level with Sam Snead's 54-year old record and add to his long list of accolades. The US golfer held off the challenge of home favourite Hideki Matsuyama to win by three shots and move to number six in the world rankings from 10 at present. The win is all the more remarkable as the champion golfer was coming back from arthroscopic left knee surgery and several other complications. Carry on Tiger; you have earned your stripes!

N.J. Ravi Chander, via-email

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Arifa Noor

## View from Pakistan

## Vendetta politics by Pak leaders a repeat of history

Nawaz Sharif's illness managed to overshadow the Azadi march temporarily. The bail in quick succession from two quick courts — the Islamabad high court only granted bail till yesterday when the case would be heard again — has been a source of relief for many concerned about his health and safety, as well as about the political system being driven by vengeance.

The post-2008 configuration offered a chance to move ahead. But this was not to be; it all went downhill from the moment Pervez Musharraf was tried for treason. The split it caused between the PML-N and the establishment was the beginning of the fight we are now caught in the middle of. But it would be an oversimplification to say that this treason trial was triggered simply by the anger and personal vendetta of Nawaz Sharif.

History is rarely as simple as that. The process kicked off earlier — in the effort to remove Musharraf, who by 2006 had become a liability for players within and without. And so, began the process of demonising him; he (along with his policies) was painted as the source of all evil and all that was wrong in Pakistan. And it was convenient for everyone to buy into this because it then appeared that his removal was the only hindrance to elections and democracy.

From the privatisation of the Steel Mills to the removal of the Chief Justice to the operation in Balochistan to the militancy in tribal areas, he was the villain of all tales and the only one behind all the dark deeds. And dark they all were; for by then it had become kosher to criticise and question any policy of his regime including

the Lal Masjid operation. State decisions were reduced to individual actions (and even criminal acts) in the hysteria. And now in the present dispensation, Imran Khan and the establishment are behaving no differently.

But he too is not operating alone. Alongside are those who have their own agenda against Sharif as well as the ill-equipped institutions being used to curb corruption. However, in the process, each time we do nothing more than turn the justice system into a vengeful campaign and flawed politicians into heroes and saviours. At the same time, institutions are further weakened as those who have held the highest positions are hounded and vilified. There is a reason more mature democracies are reluctant to punish their office holders — for they realise its adverse impact on the offices themselves.

But as pointed out earlier, this streak of vengeance doesn't just stop with trials and prison terms. It creeps over to policies; hence, it's not enough to send Musharraf home without reversing policy decisions because they too become equally illegitimate, regardless of the costs involved. For example, the campaign against Musharraf began with the Steel Mills decision, the sale of which was declared void.

Reko Diq's agreement too was reversed — at great cost — by those who followed Musharraf and while we condemn it furiously now few are willing to realise that the policy reversal was partly made easy because of our habit of demonising leaders. Once they have been tarred as villains, their policies are easy to dismiss or overturn too. But the cost of these policy reverses are rarely ever seen as a cost of our political blundering.

A recent article in the *News* argued that our consistent efforts to sensationalise excessive profits charged by the IPPs has convinced everyone of the wrongdoing involved but somehow it has not convinced the investors of the attractiveness of the energy sector. Not a single investor has reinvested under a following energy policy offered by a later government. If the profits were all that great, what kept them from reinvesting for a second whirlwind? Could it be the demonising of the policymaker?

But who has time for such boring questions when we can embroider tales of evil with nasty villains who must be punished? Unlike what George Santayana said, Pakistanis are condemned to repeat history because they refuse to forget the past.

By arrangement with Dawn



# It's time to remind children they have duties too!



Devi Kar

Those of us who are in school education are constantly reminded about children's rights — and rightly so. Everyone below the age of 18 has the same rights as adults, but children have special needs which require to be recognised. It is accepted that they are neither the property of their parents nor of the State, and they are certainly not "objects of charity". In fact, the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, 1959, was adopted unanimously by all member states of the UN General Assembly at the time.

Subsequently, in 1989, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child was signed and the nations that ratified it are bound to it by international law till date.

It is a reality that most of India's children do not enjoy even the basic rights that have been set out by the UN, leave alone the ones that were added later such as giving cognisance and importance to children's views "even in the political process". Unfortunately, successive governments have not been able to safeguard the rights of most children in our country. However, our "privileged" children not only have their basic rights assured but they also enjoy all kinds of

facilities that are required to develop their potential and thus ensure a secure and prosperous future. These are the children who must be especially reminded of their duties and responsibilities regularly because the axiom that "where there are rights, there are bound to be responsibilities" must be applied to children as well.

Many of the "privileged" children that I come across have a well-entrenched sense of entitlement. This is largely because they are aware that their parents have deep pockets, out of which they can pay for quality education for their offspring in the best of institutions within the country and outside. The route to success is laid out for them well in advance and these children become immediate "achievers" merely because they can avail of exclusive, top-class education and later they are perceived as "achievers" if and when they do well in their studies. But are they ever told about their responsibilities to

**Young people must not get into the groove of the pursuit of individual success only, as this is what makes them self-centred and self-absorbed. They must not feel satisfied until they have given of themselves to society.**

society? Perhaps they are conscious that they have to "live up to the family name" and do all the things expected of them. They will dutifully land good jobs or join the family business and eventually add to the family wealth while performing all the customary social duties. In school, it is compulsory for them to do "socially useful productive work and community service". So, all the boxes are ticked as required.

It is high time that we looked beyond these narrow goals and mechanical routines and instil in our children a sense of pur-

pose — a much bigger one than the "run-of-the-mill" successful career. Trite as it sounds, every child must know that he/she must make the world a better place than he or she found it. Young people must not get into the groove of the pursuit of individual success only, as this is what makes them self-centred and self-absorbed. They must not feel satisfied until they have given of themselves to society at large. I feel sure that if we had a whole generation of considerate, committed and "giving" young people, our social and natural environment would be radically transformed for the better. First of all, this cut-throat competition to outdo one another would be replaced by a collective will to improve global conditions. This is not a naive proposition nor is it a cry to demolish capitalism. Indeed, it is not about any "ism", excepting that of humanism. The world must have a new definition of "success", and school education should gear itself towards a

new, safer and less selfish world. There would still be many opportunities for personal glory, but the over-arching need for everyone to work for the world and its people is imperative. In India, it should be the duty of every citizen to contribute towards resolving the staggering discrepancy between the rich and the poor — between privileged children and those who don't have access to any kind of reasonable education.

This is why there must be a code of duties for children. The child has the right to education, but the child also has the duty to attend school regularly. The child has the right to good health, but the child also has a duty to look after his/her own health. The child has the right to not being discriminated against, but he/she also has a duty of treating all children as equals and extend help to those children who need special support. Respect for adults, for the environment and for other cultures are important for all children to learn and act upon. The

child has a duty to learn to respect and protect the environment, respect adults and work with them to do what is best for his/her own care. Children have the right to choose their own friends, but they have a duty to treat all others fairly.

If we start instilling a sense of duty in our children, we will eventually have citizens who will not only insist on rights but will also do their bit for the country. Millennials have already been called the selfish or the "me" generation and described, perhaps a bit unfairly, as "entitled and narcissistic". It is not too late for Generation Z to be different. Perhaps we should consciously teach them to be selfless and raising selfless children begins with instilling an awareness of duty. It must be kept in mind that we cannot expect to succeed in this venture unless we are conscious of our own duties.

*The writer is a veteran school educator based in Kolkata*

# Bomb blasts, gang attacks in Sweden are directly linked to immigration

Paulina Neuding

One night last fortnight, explosions took place in three different locations in and around Stockholm. There were no injuries this time, just the usual shattered windows, scattered debris and shocked people woken by the blast.

The police bomb squad was already on its way to the first explosion in the district of Vaxholm when it had to turn around and prioritise the detonation at a residential building in the more densely populated city centre. Residents whose doors had been deformed by the shockwave had to be rescued. The third target (seemingly unrelated) was a facility belonging to a Syrian Orthodox church, which had already been bombed twice in the past year. "Normalisation" is a term that we have come to associate with domestic violence: the victim begins to think of abuse as a part of everyday life. Explosions have become so normalised in Sweden that SVT, Sweden's equivalent of the BBC, did not even mention the three explosions in the country's capital on its national news programme that evening. Instead, the main domestic story was the purported censorship of "big female bodies" on Instagram. Apparently, we mustn't be referred to as "women" any more, but "female bodies", lest anyone's gender be assumed. The explosions were left to the local news.

To understand how Sweden arrived at this degree of normalisation, consider the statistics: between January and June this year, more than 100 explosions were reported in the country, up from about 70 in the same period last year. A total of more than 160 suspected attacks with explosives were reported last year. There are no comparable figures available for earlier years

because it's such a recent phenomenon. Until recently no one would have thought of adding a column on bombings to the national Swedish crime statistics.

Wilhelm Agrell, professor of intelligence analysis at Lund University, has warned that the situation has become so dire that the integrity of the Swedish State is in jeopardy. "The State's monopoly on violence, the actual token of a sovereign government, has been hollowed out bit by bit and no longer exists," he wrote a few weeks ago. "The armed criminal violence is having effects that are increasingly similar to those of terrorism."

A new report from the Swedish Defence University warns that the clan structure of gangs in some immigrant areas is putting the Swedish justice system under "severe stress". In these parallel societies, the Swedish State is weak, witness intimidation is systematic and ordinary citizens are pressured to submit to clan rule.

Sweden's gangs, which mainly operate out of the country's socioeconomically weak immigrant neighbourhoods, do not only use explosives to assert their dominance. Sweden had 45 fatal shootings in so-called criminal environments last year — a tenfold increase in one generation.

By contrast, Norway has fewer than three such shootings a year. According to the newspaper *Dagens Nyheter*, nine out of ten perpetrators of Sweden's gang shootings are either first- or second-generation immigrants. The country has gone from having among the lowest rates of violent crime in western Europe to one of the highest. When it comes to bombings, no other developed country in the world which is not at war has experienced anything like Sweden's epidemic.

**It's tough for everyone to come to terms with the new reality. Gang violence is intimately tied to the issue of immigration and failed integration, so those who highlight the problem have often been smeared as bigots.**

At first, it was argued that these are just wars between gangs: awful, but avoidable if you just steer clear. But the bombings have now increased to such an extent that it's impossible to ignore the collateral damage. The biggest blast so far, which took place in the university town of Linköping in June, demolished two residential buildings and damaged more than 250 apartments. A police spokesman called it a "miracle" that no one was severely injured.

A bombing in the university town of Lund in September left a female student with severe facial injuries. She was passing by a shop on her way home after a night out when an explosive device detonated. Witnesses saw people jumping out of windows. Just weeks before, a young woman was murdered in an affluent neighbourhood in Malmö, in an attack which police believe was aimed at her boyfriend, Karolin Hakim, a doctor, was carrying her young child when she was gunned down. As she was lying on the ground, the shooter put a bullet in her head. Her baby is now in a government protection programme.

As inured as Sweden has become to gang violence, the country was shaken by this cold-blooded murder of a mother with a baby in her arms. Justice minister Morgan Johansson declared on Twitter that the State would chase Ms Hakim's killer "to the ends of the earth". But gang violence has severely strained police resources. A month after the murder, more than a hundred witnesses are yet to be heard. So much for chasing anyone to

the ends of the earth: there weren't even enough police to knock on doors around Malmö.

Only days after the murder of Karolin Hakim, another young woman fell victim to the gang wars. Eighteen-year-old Ndella Jack was killed as someone fired an automatic weapon into her flat in western Stockholm, probably aiming for her husband, a well-known figure in Stockholm's gang scene. Less than a week after the murder, associates of Ms Jack's husband were lured to a middle-class suburb of Stockholm, where they had been promised information about her killer. Shots were fired, missing the targets and hitting instead a taxi driver and a resident in a nearby building. One victim, also a university student, lost his sight in an eye after it was hit by a bullet.

When to draw a line? The Swedish government — a coalition between Social Democrats and Greens with the support of the Left, Liberal and Centre parties — presented a long list of new policies this summer intended to curb gang violence. Its focus has clearly shifted to repressive measures, such as more effective laws to permit wire tapping, search warrants and CCTV surveillance. No one wants to be reminded of Sweden's failed attempt at an "amnesty for explosives" which was introduced at the end of last year, and which meant that those in possession of explosives could hand them in without facing prosecution. (Sweden's police stations were plastered with posters warning citizens not to bring their

explosives into just any police stations, only the designated ones.)

Three years ago, when the migration crisis was at its peak, Sweden started identity checks on the Oresund bridge with Denmark in the hope of stemming the influx of migrants. Now the Danes are starting to worry too. After two recent bombings in Copenhagen, both linked to gangs in the south of Sweden, the Danish government has declared that it will introduce checks at the border next month. Two Swedish nationals are being held in relation to a bombing outside the Danish tax agency.

It's tough for everyone to come to terms with the new reality. Gang violence is intimately tied to the issue of immigration and failed integration, so those who highlight the problem have often been smeared as bigots. Only a few years ago Sweden's leading daily, liberal *Dagens Nyheter*, came up with the phrase "safety deniers", which it compared to looney climate deniers. The government has invested in a PR campaign for the "image of Sweden" — but every grenade attack makes it trickier.

After a bombing in Malmö this summer which forced families with children to flee through their balconies, an eight-year-old girl was approached by the newspaper *Sydsvenskan*. "I don't want it to be like this. I want it to be calm. I don't want any bombs here," she said.

By arrangement with the Spectator



'I'm not sure about this new weather forecaster.'

# 5G tech will pave way for new applications, services & solutions

Pradeep S. Mehta and Sidharth Narayan

The fifth generation of mobile communication i.e. 5G is not going to be a mere traditional upgradation of Internet speeds from the already available 4G mobile communication technology. But it is expected to be the key to unlocking the future wave of disruptive innovation in a digital economy. Known to propel the Internet of Things (IoT), and be a catalyst for a world of interconnected devices, 5G is set to upscale the impact of digital technology driven products and services on a variety of stakeholders, in multifaceted ways. Some of them, we do not even know today, but will happen tomorrow due to ingenuity and need. Therefore, we need to welcome it in India as well.

Looking at the history of the telecom sector, every transition from 1G till 4G mobile communication brought with it various benefits. This evolution not only marked a growth in mobile technology, but also demonstrated how the technology underwent a shift in terms of its utility functions. It was around two decades ago that mobile Internet was introduced through 2G. Despite the breakthrough, it served limited purposes due to its various capacity constraints. It was 3G which gave a thrust to the development of mobile apps, such as for urban mobility, instant digital communication, e-commerce, mobile banking, etc. This was especially beneficial for developing countries such as India, which had missed the bus for adopting fixed line broadband services. 4G bolstered these use cases, with its advanced capabilities in terms of better speed and reduced latency, thereby opening the doors to high definition (HD) video streaming and communication, along with many other data driven use cases.

It's safe to say that starting from a point where voice calls were so expensive that one would be conscious of the duration of the call, to reaching a point where video calls are virtually free with mobile data being cheaper than ever before. The lives of modern consumers have been made much easier today, with constant upgrades in mobile communication technology. So what more will 5G do for consumers, and how will it disrupt business as usual, is what needs to be understood.

5G is being seen as more than just a mobile communication service for consumers, but instead as an advanced technology acting as the backbone for integrating several other technologies for simplifying mechanical functions, as well as large scale industrial applications. Not only will its enhanced speed enable Ultra HD video streaming and lightning fast downloads, its capability of Machine to Machine (M2M) communication is set to transform businesses as we know it. The three specifications of 5G, i.e. Enhanced Mobile Broadband

(eMBB), Ultra-Reliable and Low-Latency Communications (uRLLC) and Massive Machine Type Communications (mMTC), will enable a host of nuanced use cases, which are set to impact a variety of stakeholders.

Seen from the lens of consumers, 5G is set to bring real-time augmented reality and virtual reality services, enable massive content streaming and real time HD gaming, introduce smart retail and also bring autonomous vehicles to life. Many social and public utility services such as health monitoring systems/tele-health services, Public Protection and Disaster Response (PPDR) services, smart grids and metering, mission critical security and safety services, etc. are also some of the known use cases which would be reliant upon the successful deployment of 5G.

Moving onto a business perspective, various industrial applications are likely to open up with 5G. These include smart logistics and smart factories, robotic applications and industrial automation, etc. which are believed to lead to operational efficiency, cost and time saving for businesses, improve manufacturing productivity, etc.

Apart from these already known use cases, 5G will also present various opportunities for start-ups for devising new business models and services in various sectors such as entertainment, transportation, healthcare, education, etc. Advanced services such as remote surgery, smart interconnected cities, value added services permeating through big data analytics, content creation, etc are areas in which start-ups may act as intermediaries or even lead innovation.

Notably, one needs to remember that 5G is not the mere end, but the means to an end. It may not be considered as a standalone technology, but as the bedrock of future innovative technologies, which paves the way for new services, solutions and applications.

Recognising this potential, leading US-based chip designer, Qualcomm, whose chips are most popular in mobile phones, will be investing \$200 million in looking at the range of utility of 5G technology beyond mobile phones. This will help us in India too. Summing up, if no 3G would have meant no mobile apps, no 4G would have meant no HD video calling, then no 5G would mean no M2M communication and no IoT. However, there are various policy and infrastructural roadblocks in releasing what a 5G future holds for us. Overcoming them would be crucial for the successful commercial deployment of this G!

*The writers work for CUTS International, a leading global public policy research and advocacy group*

# Disengage the 'troublemaker' in your mind



Rajgopal Nidamboor

The philosopher Aristotle, who is regarded as the father of psychology, thought of the mind as a distinct entity endowed with collective active and passive abilities that permitted expansive thinking and moral, upright behaviour. In contemporary thought, Aristotle's philosophy of the mind and its interpretation align just as strikingly for active and passive mind dualism, including its nature of progression in logical thinking. In

other words, the new potential reality of Aristotle's "old" metaphysics provides a sublime (re)construction of the mind-body "connect" than what was earlier thought to be less implicit in such philosophical contexts.

Our mind isn't just a thing. It is more than a heightened aspect of our being. It is also a tangible, yet intangible, motif for understanding our being through our soul — from the inside out. It rejoices the essence of life from its depths; it connects us to the outward realm of our being too. Our mind mirrors our values and beliefs, including the essence of our existence. It articulates our principles; it connects us to the universe in a manner born. What you are is what you are with your mind. When you comprehend your mind,



not just in full measure, but also substantially in its expanse, you begin to experience your complete being as also your empathy with and through it.

Most of us tend to imbibe the nourishing inner wisdom of our mind, not so much when the going is good, but during difficult times. This isn't the right thing to do. It's only when you listen to the innermost facet of your mind in either circumstance, you reach a higher plane and savour each moment of your life. You'll also, in so doing, become fully mindful of oneself and the cosmos — the hub and nucleus of our being. This leads us to a state of synchronous serenity from where you will be able to face life and its vicissitudes with amplified equanimity. The more open you are with your mind, the

more progressive you will be — so much so, that all the monotonous, also irrelevant, configurations of life's realities will not upset the apprecart of your essential inner and outer core, the keynote of one's existence.

It's aptly said that our mind is, at times, a baboon. The moment you unfetter such a natural "mischief-maker" in your psyche, it could goad you to dance to your wonky, unmindful jingle. You'll now prod yourself with negative gusto. You will, likewise, provoke yourself and others who are not part of your internal "tizzy-go-round". The outcome is wobbly confusion, perplexity and lack of focus. When you disengage the "troublemaker" in you, the spin-off, on the contrary, is not just serenity, but also harmonious balance.

*The writer is a wellness physician, independent researcher and author*



Major loss

**Japan's Sadako Ogata, the first woman to head UN's refugee agency, dies aged 92**



It is no longer acceptable for the dispute with Qatar to continue

— Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad Al-Sabah Kuwait's Emir

**Lanka court blocks move on hangings**

**Colombo:** Sri Lanka's Supreme Court on Tuesday extended the stay order till November 10, against a move by President Maithripala Sirisena to reinstate capital punishment in the country for the first time since 1976, before he leaves office next month. Sri Lanka has maintained a 43-year moratorium on capital punishment. However, Sirisena in June this year announced that he has signed the death warrants of four drug convicts and that the executions will take place soon. Later, the move was stayed till October 29 by the Supreme Court after it took into consideration a number of petitions filed against the President's order, that termed the order a violation of the fundamental rights.

**Strong quake kills 7 in Philippines**

**Manila:** A powerful earthquake struck southern Philippines on Tuesday, killing seven people, cracking buildings and injuring dozens in a region still reeling from a previous deadly tremor. Terrified locals ran into the streets after the 6.6-magnitude quake, hit the island of Mindanao as schools and offices opened for the day. The shaking lasted up to a minute in some areas, damaging homes, multi-storey buildings and classrooms in a region where hundreds are still displaced by a quake that killed at least five earlier this month.

**Wildfires ravage Los Angeles**



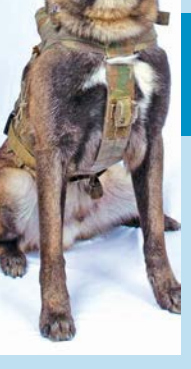
A helicopter drops water as fire burns on Mandeville Canyon Tuesday, in Los Angeles. A fast-moving wildfire destroyed at least five multimillion-dollar homes in one of the wealthiest neighborhoods in the city and forced celebrities to flee in the middle of the night. Basketball superstar LeBron James, Hollywood actors, including former California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, wealthy producers and media company executives were among thousands of people who had to evacuate overnight. The fire also forced schools to close in several areas.

**Baghdadi given Osama-like burial**

**Washington, Oct. 29:** US officials have said the body of the Islamic State group chief, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, was buried at sea, as fresh details surfaced about the US special forces operation that led to his death over the weekend. Syrian Kurds claimed to be a key source of the intelligence that led Americans to Baghdadi after years of tracking the man behind a five-year reign of terror across much of Iraq and Syria. The US military basked in success on Monday after eliminating the founder and spiritual guide of the Islamic State (IS) group, capping a year-long campaign to crush the Sunni Muslim extremist organisation that had at one point created a "caliphate" the size of England. "His death marks a devastating blow to the

**DOG BECOMES HERO OF THE RAID**

An unnamed US military dog grabbed attention after it incurred injuries as it chased Baghdadi down during the high-profile operation.



- The dog chased the IS leader until the dead-end of a tunnel underneath his Syria hideout, where the jihadist blew himself.
- The Belgian Malinois breed is preferred by the military and police for its compact size, making it ideal for fast-roving or jumping.
- After Pentagon officials declined to provide any details of the canine to protect its identity, Trump has shared the picture of the dog.
- The animal reportedly 'performed a tremendous service' and was slightly wounded but is now recovering.
- Neither Trump nor the Pentagon officials revealed the name, whereabouts and other details of the service dog.

**PM RESIGNS AS LEBANON CRISIS TURNS VIOLENT**

**Beirut, Oct. 29:** Saad al-Hariri resigned as Lebanon's Prime Minister on Tuesday, declaring he had hit a 'dead end' in trying to resolve a crisis unleashed by huge protests against the ruling elite and plunging the country deeper into turmoil. The move by the leading Sunni politician points to rising political tensions that may complicate the formation of a new government able to tackle Lebanon's worst economic crisis since its 1975-90 civil war. The resignation of Hariri, who has been traditionally backed by the West and Sunni Gulf Arab



allies, raises the stakes and pushes Lebanon into an unpredictable cycle. Lebanon could end up further under the sway of the Iranian-backed Hezbollah, making it even harder to attract badly-needed foreign investment. — Reuters

**UK opposition agrees to Dec. poll**

**London, Oct. 29:** Britain was heading towards a December election on Tuesday after Prime Minister Boris Johnson's bet on breaking the Brexit deadlock with an early vote gained support from Opposition parties. As the European Union finalises a third delay to the divorce that was originally supposed to take place on March 29, the United Kingdom, its parliament and its voters remain divided on how or indeed whether to go ahead with Brexit. Johnson, who had promised to deliver Brexit on October 31 'do or die', has repeatedly demanded an election to end what he casts as a nightmare paralysis that is sapping public trust by preventing any Brexit outcome at all. In a move that raises the chances of a rare parliamentary success for Johnson, the opposition Labour

Party's leader, Jeremy Corbyn, said its condition of ruling out a no-deal Brexit had been met, so it would support an election. "Labour will back a general election," said Corbyn, a veteran socialist campaigner. "The Labour Party loves a debate but they also love the end of the debate, and this is the end of the debate. We are going out there to win." Lawmakers could bring significant changes to Johnson's bill. Opposition parties are squabbling over which day in early December is best for an election and whether to allow settled European Union citizens a vote. Meanwhile, the legislation enacting Johnson's Brexit deal has been put on hold, pending an election, said Jacob Rees-Mogg, who oversees the government's legislative agenda in the House of Commons. — Reuters

**Nepal man becomes world's fastest climber**

**Kathmandu, Oct. 29:** A 36-year-old Nepali became the fastest climber to summit the world's 14 highest mountains on Tuesday, scaling all the mountains in just over six months, his hiking agency said, a feat other climbers have taken several years to complete. Nirmal Purja scaled Mount Shishapangma at 8,027 metres (26,335 feet) in Tibet, six months and one week after he climbed his first in the campaign, Mount Annapurna I, kicking off his 'Project Possible.' Mingma Sherpa of the Seven Summit Treks agency that provided logistics to Purja's team said he was accompanied by three sherpa climbers to the Shishapangma summit. "Mission achieved," Purja posted on his Instagram from the summit in Tibet, the world's 14th highest mountain. Agency official, Sherpa, said all summiters were on their way to base camp and expected to return to Kathmandu this week. "This is world record," he said. After climbing Annapurna, the tenth highest peak, on April 23, Purja took on the other "8,000ers," climbing Dhaulagiri, Kanchenjunga, Everest, Lhotse and Makalu in the following month. He then went to Pakistan, where he climbed Nanga Parbat, Gasherbrum I, Gasherbrum II, K2, and the Broad Peak. Purja climbed another two peaks in Nepal — Cho Oyu and Manaslu, before heading to Tibet, climbing officials said. Of the world's 14 highest peaks, eight are in Nepal, five in Pakistan and one in Tibet. Climbing experts say barely over three dozen mountaineers have climbed all the 14 peaks so far. — Reuters

**TENDERS / NOTICES**

**PARADIP PORT TRUST**  
Corrigendum- 1 to e-TENDER CALL NOTICE  
Name of the work: Construction of 4-Lane road from L&T Junction at Fishery Harbour Road to Gate No.1. Estimated cost Rs. 4,75,72,335/- Last Date & time of submission: 01.11.2019 upto 17:00 hrs. Refer our website for details: eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app Executive Engineer, PRD, PPT PPT/PR/415/19-20 Dt. 28/10/2019

**GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU Sirkali Municipality TENDER NOTICE (Two Cover System)**  
Roc.No.2583/2019/E1 Dated: 29.10.2019  
The Commissioner, Sirkali Municipality inviting (Two cover system) sealed Tenders for Tamil Nadu Urban Road Infrastructure Programme 2019-2020 fund for road works.  
Bid documents Web site address : <https://ttenders.gov.in>  
Tender Schedule download from : 06.11.2019 at 11.00 am  
Pre bid meeting : 08.11.2019 at 11.00 am  
Tender Submitted : 15.11.2019 upto 3.00 pm  
Technical Bid opened : 15.11.2019 at 3.30 pm  
All the scan copies should be enclosed in Technical Bid cover with attested by Notary Advocate.  
Commissioner (i/c), Sirkali Municipality. DIPR/3914/TENDER/2019

**Coal India Limited A Maharatna Company**  
Notice for Domestic Open e-Tender  
1. Domestic Open e-Tender with Reverse Auction No. CIL/C2D/IC-28/19-20/Hiring of Ambulance/353 dated 25.10.2019  
2. Item description: Hiring of Ambulances with basic life support on monthly rental basis for a period of three Years  
3. Estimated Tender Value: Rs.131.35 lakhs (Approx.).  
4. Tender Document: There will be no physical sale of tender document. The complete tender documents can only be downloaded from Coal India Limited website ([www.coalindia.in](http://www.coalindia.in)), Central Public Procurement Portal ([www.eprocure.gov.in](http://www.eprocure.gov.in)) and CIL's e-Procurement Portal (<http://coalindiaticnders.nic.in>). All necessary details may be seen from the tender document available in the above websites.  
General Manager(MM)-HOD

**PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited**  
Regd. Office: PSEB, Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001 Corporate Identity No.: U40109PB2010SGC033813 (GST PROV ID: 03AACP5120Q12C) Website: [www.pspcl.in](http://www.pspcl.in)  
E-Tender Enquiry No. 02/SE/MHP/2019-20/P-399 dated: 25.10.2019  
Short Description: Procurement of Lubricating Turbine Oil Servo Prime-57 or equivalent grade for Mukerian Hydel Project, PSpCL, Talwara, Distt-Hoshiarpur, Punjab.  
Date & time up to which tender shall be received 04/12/2019, 11:00 Hrs.  
Date & time of opening of tender: 04/12/2019, 11:30 Hrs.  
Tender Specifications can be downloaded from PSPCL website <http://pspcl.abcpocprocure.com> and no hard copy of the same will be issued by the office.  
Note: 1) The prospective bidders are requested to get clarification from this office and/or M/s e-procurement Technologies Ltd. Contact number +91-(79)-40016866/40/38/18/21 in case of any difficulty regarding uploading of the tender well in time. It is also requested to get their digital signature well in time as to submit tenders through e-tendering only.  
2) It is informed that in case tender process is not completed due to any reason, no corrigendum will be published in newspapers. Details regarding corrigendum may be seen on official PSPCL website [www.pspcl.in](http://www.pspcl.in).  
C-429/19 RO: C-7614  
SE&O&M Circle, MHP, Talwara.

**TAMIL NADU FOREST DEPARTMENT DISTRICT FOREST OFFICE, CHENNAI FOREST DIVISION, CHENNAI-06**  
Ref. No. 2850/2019/D Dated 04.10.2019  
On behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu sealed tenders are invited by the District Forest Officer, Chennai Forest Division, Chennai from the registered contractors of this division for taking up the works annexed to this tender notice in Tambaram Range of Chennai Forest Division during 2019-20. The bidders can download the tender document from the website <http://www.tenders.in.gov.in> before 5.00 PM on 04.11.2019. For any reason if the tender date for receiving the tender is declared as a holiday, the tenders will be received on the next working day and opened on the same day at the same time mentioned originally. The tenders received will be opened on 05.11.2019 at 3.30 PM in the presence of available bidders/representatives. The District Forest Officer can reject or cancel any tender without assigning any reason. Regarding details in tender conditions the bidders can contact the O/o the District Forest Officer, Chennai Forest Division, either by phone or in person on all working days between office hours.  
Name of the work, Approximate value of the work and EMD: Construction of Compound wall in Unnamachery Reserved Forest, Tambaram Reserved Forest and Vandalur Reserved Forest in Tambaram Range during 2019-20. Item 1: Construction of Compound wall in Unnamachery Reserved Forest along Vandalur Kolambakkam Road 1160 mts - Rs.71.71 lakhs. EMD - 0.72 lakhs. Item 2: Construction of Compound wall in Tambaram Reserved Forest along Old State Bank Colony Road 1300 mts - Rs.88.23 lakhs. EMD - 0.805 lakhs. Item 3: Construction of Compound wall in Tambaram Reserved Forest along Tambaram-Thirunelvali Road on the Right side of Range Office Building 300 mts - Rs.18.53 lakhs. EMD - 0.186 lakhs. Item 4: Construction of Compound Wall in Vandalur Reserved Forest along Nedukundram Lake 1000 mts - Rs.61.71 lakhs. EMD - 0.82 lakhs.  
Where tender documents can be obtained: District Forest Officer, Chennai Forest Division, Chennai - 06 by paying the cost of Rs. 15000 + GST 18% towards cost of each tender schedule. Period of supply of tender documents (on all working days between office hours): 28.10.2019 to 04.11.2019. Website for obtaining tender schedule: [www.tenders.in.gov.in](http://www.tenders.in.gov.in). Date of receipt of tender documents: Upto 3.00 PM on 05.11.2019. Date of opening of tender: 05.11.2019 at 3.30 PM. Period of completion: 60 days  
Phone No.044-24321471 Email: [dfou6@yahoo.in](mailto:dfou6@yahoo.in) DIPR/3918/Tender/2019 District Forest Officer, Chennai Division, Chennai

**GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT Buildings (C&M) Circle, Tirunelveli - 627 002**  
Notice Inviting Tenders (Lumpsum Contract Rate Tender System)  
Tender Notice No: 3/2019-2020 / Dated: 25.10.2019  
For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu sealed tenders are invited from the contractors registered in Public Works Department in the appropriate class to the office of Superintending Engineer, PWD, Buildings (C&M) Circle, Tirunelveli upto 3.00 PM on 15.11.2019. Received tender will be opened at 3.30 PM on the same day in the reference to the contractors of their authorized representatives who chose to be present at time. The tender schedule can also available in office at 31.10.2019 to 14.11.2019 upto 5.45 pm  
Kanniyakumari District (3 Slices - Electrical Works) Package No.1: Provision of Air Conditioning facility to the Various Court Halls at Judge Chambers in the Combined Court Buildings in Kanniyakumari District. Slice No.1: Padmanabhapuram, Slice No.2: Eraniel, Slice No.3: Kuzhithurai, Package No.1: Total Value of Slices Rs.67.62 Lakhs  
Tirunelveli District (Electrical Works) Package No.2: Providing lighting arrangements for the construction of ROB at Km.0/8 of palayamkottai - Sivanthipatti road in Liew of LC 6 @ Railway Km 6/600-700 in between palayamkottai and seydinganallur Railway Stations in Tirunelveli District Package No.2 Total Value Rs.36.30 Lakhs  
For further details and tender documents visit the website [www.tenders.in.gov.in](http://www.tenders.in.gov.in) and [www.tntenders.gov.in](http://www.tntenders.gov.in).  
DIPR/3912/Tender/2019 Superintending Engineer, PWD., Buildings (C&M) Circle, Tirunelveli.

**GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT Buildings (C&M) Circle, Tirunelveli - 627 002**  
Notice Inviting Tenders (Lumpsum Contract Rate Tender System)  
Tender Notice No: 2/2019-2020 / Dated: 25.10.2019  
For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu sealed Tenders are invited from the contractors registered in Public Works Department in the appropriate class to the office of Superintending Engineer, PWD, Buildings (C&M) Circle, Tirunelveli upto 3.00 PM on 15.11.2019. Received tender will be opened at 3.30 PM on the same day in the reference to the contractors of their authorized representatives who chose to be present at time. The tender schedule can also available in office at 31.10.2019 to 14.11.2019 upto 5.45 pm  
Package No: 1 Virudhunagar District: Construction of Veterinary Dispensary Buildings at Various Places Slice No.1: Narayanapuram, Slice No.2: Srivilliputhur West, Package No.1: Total Value of Slices Rs.67.00 Lakhs  
Package No: 2 Tirunelveli District Upgradation of School Building in Government High School at Kasthuriengapuram in Tirunelveli Package No.2: Total Value of Slices Rs.94.00 Lakhs  
For further details and tender documents visit the website [www.tenders.in.gov.in](http://www.tenders.in.gov.in) and [www.tntenders.gov.in](http://www.tntenders.gov.in).  
DIPR/3911/Tender/2019 Superintending Engineer, PWD., Buildings (C&M) Circle, Tirunelveli.

**IT Expressway Ltd. NOTICE INVITING TENDER** Dated: 24.10.2019  
Tender Notice No: ITE/CD/008/2019  
Bids are invited by M/s. IT Expressway Ltd. (ITE), R.A.Puram, Chennai-600 029 for implementation of the following work in Outer Ring Road, Chennai, Tamil Nadu on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2019 upto 3.00 PM  
S.No. Description of Works Indicative value of work inclusive of GST (Rs.) EMD/Bid Security value (Rs.) Period of Completion  
1 Development of Urban Forestry in the Island portion of the flyover at Nazarethpet Ch: 19/650 of Chennai Outer Ring Road(CORR) 69.33 Lakhs 69,400/- 15 Months  
Bid document can be obtained between 10.00 hrs and 17.00 hrs on all working days from 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019 to 14<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at the address for communication mentioned below on payment of Non-refundable fee of Rs.16,800/- (Rupees Sixteen Thousand Eight Hundred Only) in the form of a Demand Draft drawn in favour of M/s. IT Expressway Ltd. (ITE) payable on any scheduled bank in Chennai. Alternatively, the bid document can also be downloaded from the website [www.iteltd.com](http://www.iteltd.com) and in such cases, the bidders will be required to pay the non-refundable fee as mentioned above, at the time of submission of bids. The bids shall be submitted through Single Cover System.  
Sealed bids should reach at the following address not later than 15.00 hrs on 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2019 which will be opened on the same day at 15.30 Hrs  
Address for Communication  
Chief General Manager, M/s IT Expressway Ltd., No.171, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Tamil Nadu Maritime Board Building, South Keesavaipuram Palam, Pasampalayam, Chennai-600 028 (Near Greenways Road MRT'S Station), Raja Annamalai Puram, Chennai 600 028  
Phone: 91-44-2495 2800 / 3800 | Fax: 91-44-2493 3800 | E-Mail: [tenders@iteld.com](mailto:tenders@iteld.com) | Web: [www.iteltd.com](http://www.iteltd.com)  
DIPR/3917/TENDER/2019

**TAMILNADU MERCANTILE BANK LTD (Regd. Office at 57, V.E.Road, Thoothukudi) AVADI BRANCH**  
Plot No.7, G.D.Nadar Complex, 60 Feet Road, TNHB, Avadi-600 054.

**Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties through E- Auction**  
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) & 9 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.  
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrowers Mr.M.Mohamed Hussain (S/o.Mr.Mohamed Ibrahim), Prop.Ms.Abrami Silks, 62, Nehru Bazaar, Chennai- 600 054 No.30, Divan Narayanaswamy East Street, Ramanaapuram District, Ramanaapuram - 623 501, Mrs.S.M.Mariyam Siddhika (W/o.Mr.Mohamed Hussain), Prop.Ms. Abrami Niagara No.19/1, Periyar Street, Kannigapuram, Avadi, Chennai - 600 054, and Mr.S.M.Hasan Ibrahim (S/o.Mr.Mohamed Hussain), Prop. Ms.Abrami Mens Wear, No.19/1, Periyar Street, Kannigapuram, Avadi, Chennai - 600 054, that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Limited Avadi Branch, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 05.12.2019 for recovery of Rs.5,54,13,616.90 (Rupees Six Crore Fifty Four Lakhs Thirteen Thousand Six Hundred Sixteen and paise Ninety only) (for M/s.Abrami Silks -Rs.3,21,56,779.04, for M/s.Abrami Mens Wear: Rs.1,10,98,506.20, for M/s.Abrami Readymade and Matching Centre -Rs.1,09,88,644.30, M/s. Abrami Niagara - Rs.1,11,69,687.36) as on 30.09.2019 due to the Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Limited Avadi Branch. The reserve price will be Rs.3,50,00,000/- (Rupees Three Crore Fifty Lakhs only) and the Earnest Money deposit will be Rs.35,00,000/- (Rupees Thirty Five Lakhs only).

**Description of the Property:** Land to the extent of 2030 Sq.ft (850 Sq.ft + 700 Sq.ft + 480 Sq.ft) situated at Gramanatham S.No.53, No.25, Paruthipattu Village, Poonamalle Taluk, Tiruvallur Dist., and commercial building constructed thereat to the extent of 8372 Sq.ft (Silt G F 2030 Sq.ft + FF 2030 Sq.ft + S.F 2030 Sq.ft + TF 2030 Sq.ft + RCC Toilet 252 Sq.ft) bearing D.No.62, Nehru Bazaar Road, Avadi, standing in the name of Mr.S.M.Hasan Ibrahim, Mr.S.M.Ansar Ali Khan and Mrs.S.M.Mariam Siddhika.  
**BOUNDARIES for 850 Sq.ft:** North By: Palani Chettiar Property, South By: Nehru Bazaar Road, East By: Vacant Land, West By: Munusamy Property.  
**BOUNDARIES for 700 Sq.ft:** North By: S.M.Ansar Ali Shop, South By: Nehru Bazaar Road, East By: Mahaveer Jain Property, West By: Abrami Mens Wear.  
**BOUNDARIES for 480 Sq.ft:** North By: Kanchana Property, South By: Property of S.M.Mariam Siddhika, East By: Venkateshwar Property, West By: Dhanasekaran Property.

Terms & Conditions	
E- Auction website	<a href="https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net">https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net</a>
Upset Price	Rs.3,50,00,000/- (Rupees Three Crore Fifty Lakhs only)
Date and time of E- Auction	05.12.2019 between 12:30 Pm and 01:00 Pm with auto time extension of 5 minutes each, till sale is concluded.
Earnest Money Deposit	Rs.35,00,000/- (Rupees Thirty Five lakhs only)
Last date for submission of bid form with EMD	Bid form along with Demand Draft in favour of Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd, should be submitted on or before 04.12.2019 within 06:00pm.
Place of Submission of Bid Form and EMD	TAMILNAD MERCANTILE BANK LTD., Avadi Branch, Plot No.7, G.D.Nadar Complex, 60 Feet Road, TNHB, Avadi - 600 054.
Bid Multiplier	Rs.1,00,000/- (Rupees One lakhs Only)
Other Terms & Conditions	
1.	The successful bidder shall have to deposit 25% of the Bid Amount (less EMD) on the same day or the next working day without fail and EMD shall be adjusted towards 25% of the bid amount immediately, on the sale being knocked down in his favour. In case of default in deposit of 25% of the bid amount as stated above, the EMD will be forfeited and the property shall forthwith be sold again.
2.	The successful bidder shall deposit the balance 75% of the bid amount within 15 days of the sale or such extended period as agreed upon in writing by the Authorized Officer/Secured Creditor at his discretion. In case of any default in depositing the amount within the stipulated period, the deposit will be forfeited as per sub Rule (3) of Rule (9) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and the property shall be resold and the defaulting purchaser will forfeit all his/her claims to the property or to any part of the sum for which it may be subsequently sold.
3.	No interest shall be payable on any amount deposited for participation in the bid under the SARFEESI Act.
4.	To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorized Officer, the properties are not subject to any encumbrance.
5.	The Authorized Officer will not be held responsible for any charge, lien, encumbrances, property tax or any other dues to the Government or anybody in respect of the properties under sale.
6.	The successful bidder should bear the charges/fee payable for conveyance such as registration fee, stamp duty etc., as applicable as per Law.
7.	The Authorized Officer has absolute right to accept/reject/postpone or cancel the sale without assigning any reason, whatsoever.
8.	The property/proposal will not be sold below the reserve price fixed above.
9.	The intending bidders should submit photo copy of any of the proof of identity, i.e., adhaar card, passport, driving license, ration card, Voter ID, PAN Card etc., along with the bid form.
10.	The sale certificate shall be issued in the name of the purchaser/bidder and will not be issued in the any other name. The purchaser shall bear stamp duty, registration charges and all other connected fees, duties, taxes etc. in relation to the execution of the sale certificate.
11.	The successful bidder should deposit the balance 75% of the bid amount within 15 days of the sale or such extended period as agreed upon in writing by the Authorized Officer/Secured Creditor at his discretion. In case of any default in depositing the amount within the stipulated period, the deposit will be forfeited as per sub Rule (3) of Rule (9) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and the property shall be resold and the defaulting purchaser will forfeit all his/her claims to the property or to any part of the sum for which it may be subsequently sold.
12.	No interest shall be payable on any amount deposited for participation in the bid under the SARFEESI Act.
13.	To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorized Officer, the properties are not subject to any encumbrance.
14.	The Authorized Officer will not be held responsible for any charge, lien, encumbrances, property tax or any other dues to the Government or anybody in respect of the properties under sale.
15.	The successful bidder should bear the charges/fee payable for conveyance such as registration fee, stamp duty etc., as applicable as per Law.
16.	The Authorized Officer has absolute right to accept/reject/postpone or cancel the sale without assigning any reason, whatsoever.
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States hold growth levers: US think-tank

Liquidity crunch hits mining & construction equipment industry



Overleaf

## quick BITES

INDICATORS	%
Sensex	39,831.84 +1.48
Nifty 50	11,786.90 +1.37
S&P 500	3,044.30 +0.16
Dollar (₹)	70.74 -0.32
Pound Sterling (₹)	90.92 -0.32
Euro (₹)	78.75 +0.01
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	37,916.6 -0.02
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	\$61.82 +0.25
IN 10-Yr bond yield	+6.679 +0.009
US 10-Yr T-bill yield	+1.837 -0.016

\* As of 9:30 pm IST

## Aramco to make stock market debut on Dec. 11

Saudi Aramco will make its long-awaited debut on the Riyadh stock market on December 11, Al-Arabiya television said. The broadcaster said the Saudi exchange will announce on Nov. 3 a timetable for the initial public offering, including the release of 10% of the targeted share price. "Aramco IPO will begin on December 4," sources said.

## Tata Sons stake in Tata Motors to rise to 43.73%



Tata Sons will increase its shareholding in Tata Motors to 43.73 per cent after the proposed Rs 6,500 crore preferential issue by the automaker. Last week, Tata Motors' board had approved raising of Rs 6,500 crore via preferential allotment of securities to Tata Sons. Tata Motors earlier said as on Sept. 30, 2019 Tata Sons held 35.3 per cent stake in it.

## Amazon pumps in over ₹4,400 cr in India business

The US-based Amazon is pumping in over Rs 4,400 crore (over \$600 million) in its various units in India, including marketplace and food retail, to help them compete against Flipkart. Amazon had registered cumulative losses of over Rs 7,000 crore across various units in 2018-19. But the fresh funding indicates Amazon's confidence in the Indian market.

## Adani partners with US firm for data centres

Adani Group said it is partnering with San Francisco-based Digital Realty to develop and operate data centre infrastructure across India. Under the agreement between Adani Enterprises and Digital Realty, the two parties will "jointly evaluate developing and operating data centres, data centre parks and cultivating undersea cable provider communities of interest across India," a release said.

## Order is worth \$33 bn at recent catalogue prices IndiGo places order for 300 Airbus planes

ADITI SHAH &amp; TIM HEPHER NEW DELHI/PARIS, OCT. 29

Budget carrier IndiGo has placed an order for 300 Airbus A320neo-family jets worth at least \$33 billion at recent catalogue prices, handing the European planemaker what could be its biggest ever order from a single carrier.

The mammoth deal includes Airbus's newest jet, a long-range version of the single-aisle A320neo family called the A321XLR, the country's biggest airline said in a statement on Tuesday.

This will take IndiGo's total A320neo family aircraft orders to 730, making it the world's biggest customer for these planes.

"This order is an important milestone, as it reiterates our mission of strengthening air connectivity in India," said Ronjoy Dutta, Chief Executive Officer, IndiGo.

The deal follows a fierce contest between Airbus and Boeing, which is seeking a new endorsement for its competing 737 MAX, grounded following two fatal accidents. Airbus' A320neo family competes directly with the 737 MAX and the European planemaker has a strong grip on the Indian market.

IndiGo's announcement came days after IndiGo reported biggest quarterly loss, with the company hurt by issues surrounding engines from a former supplier on A320neo-family jets already in the airline's fleet.

In June, IndiGo dropped its original engine supplier, United Technologies unit Pratt & Whitney, in favour of French-US engine venture CFM by agreeing a record \$20 billion deal for more than 600 engines to power Airbus jets already

## GoAir, IndiGo asked to replace PW engines

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, OCT. 29

The Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has asked GoAir to replace Pratt & Whitney (PW) engines which have been used for over 3,000 hours from its 13 A320neo aircraft within the next 15 days or face grounding of airplanes. The order comes a day after the DGCA had asked IndiGo to replace its 16 A320 NEO aircraft's PW engines, used for more than 3,000 hours.

"We had day-long checks and deliberations and based on that we have decided that all aircraft which have unmodified LPT (low-pressure turbine) engines, and have done more than 2,900 hours in each case, have to be fitted with one modified LPT engine in next 15 days failing which all these aircraft shall be grounded. This has been done after studying the pattern and evaluating the risk," a DGCA official had said on Monday.

This month, there have been three in-flight engine shut downs on the A320 (neo) fitted with Pratt and Whitney engines of Indigo, the official added.

"These shut down were commanded shut down, however, due to the fact that they occurred on consecutive days — 24th, 25th and 26th October a DGCA team visited Indigo prem-

ises on 28th October to review the maintenance and safety data. A meeting was chaired by DG(CA) later in the day with senior Indigo team members including COO, Safety and maintenance heads. Subsequent to the discussions, Indigo has been instructed to ensure that no such Neo aircraft should be operated which has two Pratt and Whitney 1100 series engine of more than 3,000 hour's engine life each. Indigo has been given a fortnight to comply with the instructions," the official added.

IndiGo and GoAir are the two airlines that have been facing glitches in PW engines.



on order.

CFM is jointly owned by France's Safran and General Electric of the United States. The choice of engine manufacturer for this order will be made at a later date, said Riyaz Peermohamed, IndiGo's chief aircraft acquisition and financing officer.

A new deal for 300 A320neo-family aircraft worth \$33 billion at the most recent list prices, published in 2018, but a deal of this scale would come in well below half that after discounts,

according to aircraft valuation experts.

Airbus stopped publishing list prices earlier this year. In Paris, shares in Airbus rose as much as 1.4 per cent after Reuters reported of the expected order.

Many of the latest batch of aircraft are not expected to be delivered until mid-way through next decade.

The carrier is known for turning over aircraft quickly to keep its average fleet age low, but such a strategy depends on overall demand in the jet market.

## CCI to open probe against MMT-Go, Oyo

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, OCT. 29

The Competition Commission has found a prima facie case for investigation against MakeMyTrip-Go and Oyo for alleged violation of the Competition Act, 2002. It has asked the Director General to investigate the matter and submit report within 150 days.

The Federation of Hotel and Restaurant Associations of India had alleged malpractices including predatory pricing, charging of exorbitant commissions from hotels, providing on its platform illegal and unlicensed bed and breakfast and misrepresentation. It had also alleged that the companies charge excessive commissions from the hotel partners and provide deep discounts which have led to the destruction of competitive pricing in the market.

The FHRAI had alleged that the companies have been offering the hotel rooms at less than the "average room rate". Further, the chain hotels/hotel aggregators namely Treebo and Fab Hotels have been denied market access. It was stated that MMT charges a service fee from the customers at the time of booking the rooms in the name of the Hotels, which is pocketed by it and never passed on to hotels. They also allegedly cartelize for charging a commission higher as compared to the usual commissions charged by



other online travel agencies (OTAs.)

MMT-Go and Oyo contested the allegations and described them as contractual disputes. MMT-Go objected to the allegation of collective dominance stating that Oyo deals with limited number of hotels and follows a standardised mode of operation while MMT and Goibibo operate as travel agents which offer listing services. As they have been following different business models, as recognised by the Commission, they cannot be alleged to have entered into any horizontal arrangement.

MMT-Go contended that it does not hold a dominant position in the market. Further, MMT-Go objected to the allegations of charging exorbitant commission as they are charging commission of less than 25 per cent from most hotel partners.

Oyo submitted that it is not an OTA, rather it provides hospitality services itself and competes with other hotels in the market.

## Market abuzz with tax cut rumours

GURDIP SINGH SINGAPORE, OCT. 29

Following the surprise move to cut corporate taxes last month, speculation is high that a reduction in personal income taxes is on the cards in India, a report by Singapore's DBS Bank said on Tuesday.

With the all-in corporate tax rate at 25 per cent, it is likely that personal income tax rates, which are at 30 per cent plus levels, will also be lowered, surcharges notwithstanding, it suggested.

"Markets are divided on the timing of such a move," added DBS in the Flash report 'India: Personal income tax cuts likely in the pipeline'.

A combination of an increase in the basic exemption limit and introduction of a differentiated



tax rate structure for higher income might be on the cards—for instance, the minimum tax slab could be raised to Rs 5 lakh vs Rs 2.5 lakh at present, according to DBS.

Tax rate on incomes over Rs 5 lakh might be lowered and subjected to differentiating rates (10 per cent, 20 per cent, 30 per cent etc.).

Such an arrangement will lower the burden on smaller taxpayers, modestly better for mid-tier but raise tax incidence on higher tiers.

Speculation is that the announcement is imminent, but the authorities might also prefer to bide time and announce any rework in the personal income taxes at the budget due in February 2020, according to the report.

Any increase in the basic exemption limit will be beneficial for the small taxpayers whose total income is below Rs 5 lakh, said DBS, noting that the February 2019 Budget had already provided rebate relief for Rs 5 lakh and

below. Estimates of the likely cost of a review of the existing income tax slabs range from Rs 11akh crore to Rs 1.5 lakh crore. Considering the revenue arrangements with the states, the impact on the Centre's finances could be to the tune of 0.3-0.5 per cent of GDP, DBS said.

The share of direct taxes to India's total tax revenues peaked at 61 per cent in FY09-10 and has since stabilised around 55 per cent last year.

As a percentage of nominal GDP, tax revenues make up around 11 per cent, within which the share of direct taxes has hovered around 5.5-6 per cent of GDP in the past three-four years. Income tax collections amounted to Rs 4.7 lakh crore last year i.e. 2.5 per cent of GDP. —PTI

## Three Indian-origin CEOs among global best 10

New York, Oct 29: Three Indian-origin CEOs—Shantanu Narayen, Ajay Banga and Satya Nadella—are among the world's top 10 best-performing chief executives, featured in a list compiled by the Harvard Business Review (HBR).

The Best-Performing CEOs in the World, 2019' list by the HBR features 100 CEOs and has been topped by American technology company NVIDIA's CEO Jensen Huang.

Among the top 10 chief executives on the list, three spots have been occupied by the Indian-origin CEOs. On the 6th spot is Adobe CEO Narayen, followed by MasterCard

CEO Banga, ranked 7th and Microsoft chief Nadella on the 9th spot. The list also features India-born CEO of DBS Bank Piyush Gupta on the 89th spot. Apple CEO Tim Cook is ranked 62nd.

The list also includes Nike CEO Mark Parker ranked 20, JPMorgan Chase chief Jamie Dimon (23), Lockheed Martin CEO Marillyn Hewson (37), Disney CEO Robert Iger (55) and SoftBank head Masayoshi Son (96).

The HBR said since 2015, its ranking has been based

not only on financial performance but also on environmental, social, and governance (ESG) ratings. Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos, who has been the top CEO every year since 2014 on the basis of financial performance alone, failed to make this year's list owing to Amazon's relatively low ESG scores.

To compile the list of the world's best-performing CEOs, HBR said it began with the companies that at the end of 2018 were in the S&P Global 1200, which is an index that reflects 70

## Secretaries panel to look at telecom financial stress

New Delhi, Oct 29: The government has constituted a committee of secretaries to explore a financial bailout package for the telecom sector by lowering spectrum charges as well as ending the era of free mobile phone calls and dirt cheap data as companies look at the government for avoiding payment of thousands of crores of rupees in overdue statutory levies.

The Committee of Secretaries, headed by Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba, has been asked to examine "all aspects" of "financial stress" faced by service providers such as Bharti Airtel and Vodafone-Idea and suggest measures to mitigate them, sources in the Department of Telecom-munications (DoT) said.

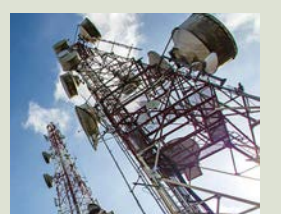
The panel, which will comprise secretaries to the ministries of finance, law, and telecom, has been asked to look at the demands of telecom service providers (TSPs) for deferment of payments they had promised for the spectrum won through auction as well as consider lowering airwave usage charge.

It has also been asked to consider lowering the obligation of TSPs for providing 5 per cent of their annual revenues for the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), they said.

In parallel, sector regulator Trai is expected to examine prescribing minimum charge for voice and data services, which according to old telecom operators will ensure long-term viability and robust financial health of the sector, they said.

The panel was set up a day after an unsigned paper seeking a waiver of interest and penalties on the unpaid amount, as well as staggering payment of principal licence fee over 10 years was submitted to the DoT. Bharti Airtel Chairman Sunil Bharti

## Airtel postpones Q2 results



New Delhi, Oct 29: Bharti Airtel has deferred the release of its second-quarter earnings report till November 14 as it sought clarity and "support" from the government on Rs 42,000-crore statutory dues it owes to the exchequer following the Supreme Court judgment. It was scheduled to announce earnings for July-September quarter on Tuesday but in a notice to the stock exchanges, it said the same is being deferred till November 14.

"The company is approaching the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) to seek clarity on the total amounts involved and request for their support to deal with this adverse outcome," it said in the notice.

Airtel, Vodafone-Idea and other telecom operators may have to pay the government a whopping Rs 1.42 lakh crore following the Supreme Court order last week that sent shock waves through an industry already grappling with billions of dollars in debt and an intense tariff war to retain customers.

By the DoT's calculations, Bharti Airtel faces a liability of around Rs 42,000 crore after including licence fees and spectrum usage charges, while Vodafone-Idea may have to pay about Rs 40,000 crore. Jio may have to pay around Rs 14 crore.

Though the matter had been in courts for over a decade, the companies had not made any provisions for potential liability in its books of accounts and in absence of which it is now knocking on government doors for relief.

diately welcomed the constitution of the CoS, saying the panel must work out a relief package within 60 days. The CoS, which is expected to meet shortly and submit recommendations in a time-bound manner, will consider the demand of TSPs to defer spectrum auction payment for 2020-21 and 2021-22 in order to ease cash flow and lowering USOF charge to 3 per cent, sources said.

While older TSPs such as Bharti Airtel and Vodafone-Idea have been talking of financial stress, the matter has assumed greater importance after the October 24 judgement of the Supreme Court. —PTI

## Govt set to order SFIO probe into DHFL affairs

New Delhi, Oct 29: The government will soon order an SFIO probe into alleged financial irregularities at debt-ridden mortgage firm DHFL after a report by the Registrar of Companies indicated fund diversion, a source said.

The Mumbai office of the Registrar of Companies (RoC) earlier this year had initiated a detailed examination into alleged financial irregularities, including fund diversion, by DHFL promoters.

The RoC Mumbai submitted its report on Dewan Housing Finance Corporation (DHFL) to the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) a couple of days ago, an official said.

There is a good enough reason to refer the matter of DHFL to the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO), the official said, adding the report indicates diversion and siphoning of funds.

The matter will be referred to the agency under the MCA in the next few days, the official added. DHFL came in the eye of storm after a report suggested that the company through layers of shell companies siphoned off Rs 31,000 crore out of total bank loans of Rs 97,000 crore. Following the allegations, the RoC Mumbai started looking into the matter. —PTI

**OPENING BELL**  
PROJECTION FOR TODAY

### Nifty finally crosses a stubborn hurdle

Positive domestic and global cues led to huge rally in the market as it opened after a long weekend. The Sensex gained 1.48 per cent, or 581.64 points, closing at 39,831.84. The Nifty-50 gained 159.7 points, or 1.37 per cent, to close at 11,786.85. Foreign portfolio investors were net buyers of equities worth Rs 876.64 crore while domestic institutions bought equities worth Rs 144.75 crore.

The broader market too rallied with the BSE Mid Cap Index up 1.12 per cent and BSE Small Cap Index up 0.55 per cent.

Among the sectoral indices the BSE Auto and Metal indices gained 4.25 per cent and 4.19 per cent respectively reacting to good Diwali sales and US-China trade deals moving in a positive direction. Other sectoral gainers included BSE IT (1.70 per cent), Capital Goods (1.45 per cent), Oil & Gas (1.23 per cent) and Bankex (1.09 per cent).

Telecom shares fell, leading to 4.39 per cent fall in the BSE Telecom index, over the recent Supreme Court judgement imposing Rs 92,000 crore burden on telecom companies.

Analysts said the market rallied on good demand during Diwali sales reported by retailers and automobile firms as well as news flowing in that government is reviewing equity-related tax rate rationalisation. On the global front too, several positive developments were seen on the horizon like US-China trade deal optimism, Brexit deadline extension, good earnings show by S&P companies, interest rate cut expected by the US Fed in the upcoming meeting.

#### Technical View

Sameet Chavan, chief analyst-Technical and Derivatives, Angel Broking said, "Since last few sessions days, the Nifty has been struggling to surpass the sturdy wall of 11,700 and on Tuesday finally, we managed to see a decisive price action beyond this crucial hurdle. Undoubtedly, it was evident to have such intraday rally after crossing 11,700 and within no time, we hastened towards the next psychological junction of 11,800. We remain sanguine for the next immediate level of 11,900 first and then a march towards 12,000 is very much on cards now." "Technically, the short term uptrend of the Nifty still remains intact. Further upsides are likely once the immediate resistance of 11,824 is taken out. Crucial supports to watch for resumption of weakness are at 11,708-11,632," HDFC Securities said.

#### Market View

Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities said, "Markets ended with hefty gains on Tuesday, with the Nifty breaking out of its recent highs after a period of consolidation, to close above the 11,700 levels. Sources indicated that the government is reviewing equity-related tax rate rationalisation. This boosted investor and trader sentiments."

Ashish Nanda, executive vice president & business head - PCG, Kotak Securities said, "Globally, trade deal between US and China is increasing optimism, delay in Brexit decision till January will also remove uncertainties in the medium term, one more rate cut expectations from Federal Reserve during this week's meeting and above expectations quarterly performance from S&P companies could cheer the market sentiment."

—RAVI RANJAN PRASAD

## Hiring in telecom seen coming to a standstill

SANGEETHA G  
CHENNAI, OCT. 29

The Supreme Court verdict on the Adjusted Gross Revenue case can bring hiring in telecom sector to a standstill for the next one year, find experts.

The telecom sector has been going through tough times for the past three years and the SC judgement could lead to further worsening of situation on the hiring front. "Supreme court judgment on AGR case has far-reaching implications. The adverse SC judgment on the longstanding AGR case is a massive body blow for telecom service providers," finds Kotak Institutional Equities.

"A decade back telecom was one among the top-five sectors in terms of hiring. But the sector has not been in best of shape for the past five years. More specifically, hiring has been subdued in



the sector for more than 36 months with telecom providers facing issues on multiple fronts," said Rituparna Chakraborty, EVP and co-founder of TeamLease Services.

The frontline jobs in sales and marketing has especially been under pressure. "We expect hiring to come to a standstill for the next one year" she added. "We would see only replacement hiring in critical functions," she added.

Aditya Narayan Mishra, director and CEO of CIEL HR Services too finds the

same. "We will see a decline of about 10 per cent in the overall employment figures of the sector in the next 12 months," he said.

However, as far as network operations are concerned India is still underpenetrated and hence this could be one area where some activity can be expected. Even here, minimal hiring could happen at the entry level.

However, experts do not expect any massive retrenchment due to the recent development. "The service providers have become quite lean in the past two years. So we do not expect fresh layoffs," said Chakraborty.

But the sector need not look forward for increments and salary hikes in the next one year. "We anticipate tough times for the sector in the next 12 months. Salary hikes for the senior levels aren't likely to happen," said Mishra.

## Bandhan fined for not cutting stake

Mumbai, Oct 29: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has slapped a fine of Rs 1 crore on private sector Bandhan Bank for non-compliance of its guidelines on promoter holding requirement.

The RBI has, by an order on Thursday, imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 1 crore on Bandhan Bank for non-compliance with the guidelines on promoter holding contained in 'Guidelines for Licensing of New Banks in Private Sector', the central bank said in a release.

This penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers vested in the RBI under the provisions of Section 46A(1)(c) read with Section 46A(4)(i) of the Act, taking into account the default committed by the bank in complying with the aforesaid licensing guidelines and conditions, it said.

"This action is based on the deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the bank," the RBI said further.

As per the required guidelines, the bank was required to bring down the shareholding of its non-operative financial holding company in the bank in excess of 40 per cent of the total paid-up equity capital to 40 per cent within three years from the date of commencement of business of the bank.

However, the bank failed to comply with the said licensing guidelines.

The RBI said a show cause notice was issued to the bank as to why penalty should not be imposed for non-compliance. —PTI

## States hold growth levers: US body

LALIT K JHA  
WASHINGTON, OCT. 29

Asserting that India's growth rate is more a product of its 29 chief ministers, a top American think-tank on Tuesday said that states do not feel the pressure or urgency to take important steps to revive the economy.

Weeks after the International Monetary Fund slashed India's growth rate projections for the year 2019 to 6.1 per cent, the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)

said that precious little attention is paid to the role India's state leaders must play in facilitating growth.

"Most of the areas where economic reforms are most pressing are primarily controlled by India's state leaders. So instead of focusing solely on a 'Modi Plan' for growth, we should also be pressing for the 'Fadnavis Plan', the 'Yeddyurappa Plan', the 'Nath Plan', and the

'Adityanath Plan' for an economic resurgence," Richard M Rossow, senior advisor and Wadhwani Chair in US-India Policy Studies at CSIS said.

In an op-ed released on Tuesday, Rossow said state governments have primary control over many potential levers for growth. These include: the issuance of most industrial licences; control over various inspections that can cripple pro-

ductivity when abused; pricing and availability of electric power; and pricing and availability of clean water and effluent disposal.

Other potential levers of growth include building most infrastructure; land clearances for industrial development; labour regulation and policy continuity, he said. States can be leaders in sparking growth by taking steps to expand access to quality infrastructure, cut unnecessary licences and make land acquisition a transparent. —PTI

## Yuvam seeks to boost teenage entrepreneurship

MICHAEL GONSALVES  
PUNE, OCT. 29

YUVAM, a fund for teenage entrepreneurs, started by a Chennai student himself last year, has managed to raise \$1,00,000, or Rs 75 lakh, till date, to boost entrepreneurship in the 13-19 age group.

It has already evaluated and identified five viable projects by teenagers, two each in the US and India and one in Indonesia out of the top 50 projects shortlisted for their business viability. Yuvam had received over 100 projects for entrepreneurship from teenagers.

"We have already raised \$1,00,000 in the first round from angel investors from India and Singapore and

plan to raise it to \$5,00,000, or Rs 3.50 crore, by September 2020," Hiteshwar Kochhar, Chief Collaborator at Yuvam and an MBA from ISB-Hyderabad told Financial Chronicle.

Yuvam's focus is to bring about change and help build a better world for our collective future, he said.

Kochhar said the investment size in these entrepreneurship projects will range from \$10,000-\$30,000, or Rs 7 lakh-Rs 21 lakh, for seed stage equity investments and \$5,000-\$10,000, or Rs 3.50 lakh- Rs 7 lakh, for one-time grants.

"The corpus fund will look at investing in ideas

across India, US and Indonesia and the first cohort will include at least one beneficiary from each country," he pointed out.

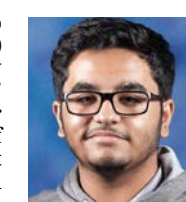
According to Kochhar Yuvam aims to be a catalyst in building a movement by investing in the mission to support teenage social entrepreneurs across the globe.

"We are doing this through an impact investment fund exclusively for teenage social entrepreneurs," he said.

He said Yuvam is hoping to get eminent industrialists Ratan Tata and Anand Mahindra, investors in start-ups to boost teenage



Little attention is paid to the role state leaders must play in growth



Pranav Unni

## FinMin seeks PSU land parcel details

New Delhi, Oct 29: The Finance Ministry has written to all ministries asking them to seek details of land parcel from CPSEs under their administrative control for monetisation, according to sources.

The exercise is part of the government's efforts to meet disinvestment target of Rs 1.05 lakh crore for the current financial year.

The Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (Dipam) has already empanelled 11 consultancy firms for monetising land and properties of central public sector enterprises (CPSEs), public sector undertakings (PSUs) and other government organisations.

The list of empanelled firms includes Rites, Bostan Consulting Group, Anarock Property Consultants, Cushman & Wakefield and Feedback Infra.

Dipam has asked all ministries and departments to get details from CPSEs under their administrative control of those land parcel for monetisation.

## PMC depositors protest outside RBI office

Mumbai, Oct. 29: Harried depositors of Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative (PMC) Bank continued with their protests by agitating outside an office of the Reserve Bank here on Tuesday, to demand a payback of their stuck money.

A depositors' delegation also met a Chief General Manager-rank officer after the protest in suburban Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC), and submitted a memorandum.

The depositors, majority of them senior citizens and women, gathered at the RBI building which houses the offices of the chief general manager for cooperative banking regulation, with banners like it being a "Black Diwali" because of the PMC crisis.

Later, a five member delegation went to meet senior RBI officials and submitted a memorandum.

After its meeting with RBI officials, Jitshu Seth, one of the delegation members, said they requested the RBI to assure them that their money lying with the bank was safe.

## Menon quits Quess Corp board

New Delhi, Oct. 29: Travel services provider Thomas Cook India on Tuesday said its Chairman and Managing Director Madhavan Menon has resigned from the board of Quess Corp Ltd with immediate effect.

Thomas Cook India Ltd (TCIL) owns 48.57 per cent stake in integrated business services provider, Quess Corp Ltd. Madhavan Menon was a non-executive director at Quess Corp. "In light of the fact that the composite scheme has been approved by the Hon'ble Mumbai NCLT Bench dated Oct 10, 2019, I would like to tender my resignation from the board of Quess Corp Ltd with immediate effect," Menon said in a letter.

In an earlier regulatory filing, the company had said the NCLT Mumbai bench has, on October 10, allowed the Composite Scheme of Arrangement and Amalgamation among TC Forex Services Ltd, Travel Corporation (India) Ltd, TC Travel Services Ltd, SOTC Travel Management, TCIL and Quess.

—Agencies

## Mining, const. equipment contracts 16-17%

# Liquidity crunch hits MCE industry

RITWIK MUKHERJEE  
KOLKATA, OCT. 29:

Here's yet another sector that is limping from the demand dearth. The domestic demand for mining and construction equipment (MCE) industry has contracted sharply by 16-17 per cent year-to-date (YTD) in August 2019 year-on-year. This can be attributed to the tight liquidity conditions in the market, delayed payment to contractors and an overall slowdown in government spent on infrastructure activity.

"Overall, barring few select top-north pockets, demand has fallen significantly despite sizable discounting in the market. Our extensive channel check, pan India has revealed the depth of demand decline across states like Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and NCR. Immediate-term demand outlook in the dealer community too is negative, although few expect a recovery in Q4 FY2019. Further, lack of liquidity on account of delayed payment by contractors coupled with slowdown in project execution is a cause of concern.

Equipment utilisation in few markets is down almost 50 per cent. Consequently, delinquencies which were holding largely steady for the construction equipment asset class until Q1 FY2020 too are expected to have increased in the past two months," said Pavethra Ponniah, Vice President and Sector Head, Iera.



Experts are of the view that while a revival in demand is expected during CY2020 to about 5-10 per cent, the October 2019 (post which production of BS III vehicles are not allowed) transition to the next emission norm is a potential headwind given the changes in the equipment and its substantial cost implications.

According to the latest Iera study, economic indicators also confirm this broad-based slowdown in capital expenditure with gross fixed capital formation (GFCF) growth having worsened considerably to 4 per cent in Q1 FY2020 from 13.3 per cent in Q1 FY 2019. The Centre's capital expenditure, an important indicator too has grown by a muted 3 per cent during YTD Aug-2019.

"Demand slowed down from Q1 CY2019 in light of the general elections which took place in Q2 CY2019. Even after the elections, delays in flow of funds to the contractors have not improved leading to significant de-growth in sales volumes during YTD CY2019. Majority of the pan-India dealers are cautiously optimistic on demand picking up post-monsoon during the on-going festive season; but they expect overall CY2019 volumes to be significantly lower than CY2018 levels. However, most dealers expect CY2020 to be a healthy year in terms of volume growth. That said, awarding of new projects and flow of funds from government to contractors would be key to demand picking up during CY2020," said Ponniah.

## PERFORMANCE STREET

### Hindustan Zinc net up 14.6%

Vedanta group firm Hindustan Zinc Ltd (HZL) posted a 14.6 per cent increase in net profit at Rs 2,081 crore for the quarter ended on September 30, 2019.

The company had posted a net profit of Rs 1,815 crore in the year-ago period, HZL said in a filing to the BSE.

However, total income of the company declined to Rs 5,101 crore during July-September 2019 from Rs 5,175 crore in the year-ago period.

Commenting on the performance, HZL

Chairman Kiran Agarwal said, "We are setting up Hindustan Zinc for 1.35 mtpa (million tonnes per annum) capacity in a phased manner over the coming years through focussed exploration, smart technology interventions and disciplined execution of expansion projects."

HZL Chief Financial Officer Swayambh Saurabh said investments in automation and digitisation were steadily delivering results and would support cost optimisation goals.

### Petronet net rises 90%

Petronet LNG Ltd, the country's biggest importer of liquefied natural gas, nearly doubled its net profit in the September quarter on the back of improved margins. Net profit in July-September at Rs 1,089 crore was 90 per cent higher than Rs 572.89 crore net profit in the same period, the company said.

Revenue from operations, however, slipped to Rs 9,361.18 crore from Rs 10,745.34 crore in the second of the previous fiscal year.

### SKF India Q2 net at ₹84.6 cr

Auto component maker SKF India Ltd on Tuesday reported a marginal increase in net profit to Rs 84.62 crore for the quarter ended on September 2019 compared to that of Rs 84.30 crore in the year-ago quarter.

Revenue from operations was down 2.45 per cent to Rs 747.20 crore during the quarter under review compared to Rs 766.04 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous fiscal, SKF India said in a BSE filing.

—FC BUREAU

# BRICS is about geopolitics, not economics

LEONID BERSHIDSKY

BRICS, one of the most powerful concepts to emerge in political economy this century, makes little sense today, S&P Global Ratings said in an emailed note last week. But even if that's true for economic analysis, the acronym coined by Goldman Sachs analyst Jim O'Neill has predicted the current geopolitical reality, which isn't served well by 20th century institutions.

The acronym stands for Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, the latter a late addition that wasn't in O'Neill's original 2001 paper or its 2003 sequel (which used BRICs, as a plural). Both reports predicted that the first four of the non-Western economies eventually would account for a much bigger share of global economic output, overtaking large European economies, and told investors they'd be wrong to

miss the opportunity to get involved in this global shift.

The idea often has been dismissed as a marketing tool, a way to put a flashy label on something no one could have missed, namely the growth of the big emerging economies. Those who see it that way could feel vindicated by the S&P note's suggestion that "the diverging long-term economic trajectory of the five countries weakens the analytical value of viewing the BRICS as a coherent economic grouping."

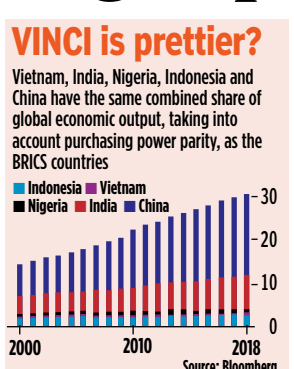
But, like many other serendipitous ideas, O'Neill's has been transformed by the way the world has changed since the early 2000s. It doesn't really matter that the BRICS aren't growing at the same pace. They're still all playing major roles in reshaping the world.

As the S&P note correctly points out, putting the five countries in the same basket

of the turn of the century — but only thanks to China and India. Brazil, Russia and South Africa's shares of global output have actually shrunk since 2000.

As the five countries' economic models and policies have diverged, so did the paths of their credit ratings. China's went up four rungs on the S&P ladder to A+, while the others never got that high: Russia and India are five steps below today, and South Africa and Brazil seven and eight below, respectively.

This divergence suggests that O'Neill made a mistake in betting on the future champions. He could have gone with Indonesia and Vietnam instead of Brazil and Russia (acronym VICI, "I conquered" in Latin) and then someone could have added Nigeria (VINCI, as in, you know, Leonardo da Vinci) — and it would have made



economically is increasingly questionable. India and China have consistently exceeded the rating firm's growth predictions since the turn of the century. Russia and South Africa have failed to meet them since about 2005, Brazil since 2010. Of course, the five nations have greatly increased their combined economic heft since



Column



SHORT TAKES

INDIANS LEAST ACTIVE, VERY SLEEP DEPRIVED

New Delhi: India has emerged as the least-active country among 18 countries including the US, the UK, Japan and Singapore, walking an average of 6,533 steps daily, according to a report by fitness solutions firm Fitbit.

Indians were also the second-most sleep deprived after Japan, getting an average night sleep of seven hours and a minute, the report said on Tuesday.

Based on aggregated and anonymised user data insights from 18 countries, the Fitbit report found that "Indians are the least active and log in only 6,533 steps daily, the least amongst all 18 countries which is 3,600 steps less than the average of the most active country — Hong Kong".

Average active minutes (32) also fare the lowest in the grid, it added. Indians also get the least amount of nightly sleep on average (after Japan) at 7 hours 1 minute, which is 48 minutes less than the average nightly sleep of users in the UK and 32 minutes less than average nightly sleep of Americans, the report said.

Ireland got the highest amount of average night sleep at 7 hours and 57 minutes. Indians get 77 minutes of REM sleep on average, which is the lowest in the world just like Japanese, who get the same amount of average REM sleep.

Rapid eye movement (REM) sleep is a crucial aspect for emotion regulation, memory, and the peak stage of protein synthesis at the cellular level that ensures that multiple processes in the body work properly.

—PTI

FB TO PUT OUT HEALTH CHECK SCHEDULES

San Francisco: Facebook is rolling out a new preventative health tool that will prompt you to book a flu shot, get your blood pressure tested and check your cholesterol. The rollout is beginning in the US, but may be extended elsewhere in the future, according to an Engadget report quoted by Techradar.

This follows the success of Facebook's blood donation feature, which matches donors with blood banks and was introduced in the US earlier this year after its launch in India in 2017, Techradar reported.

The new tool will encourage users to attend scans and tests that can detect potential problems early, enabling you and your doctor to take action before they become anything serious.

The recommendations can be tailored according to age and sex, and will focus on tests that can detect early signs of cancer and heart disease. The app will advise users when it's a good time to book a check-up, and send you a reminder close to the date. When it's done, you can tick it off until next time it's due, Techradar said. —Agencies

DRONE IMAGES HELP PREDICT DISEASE SPREAD

Washington: Satellite and drone images used to predict how a tropical disease spreads: Study

Researchers have used satellite images, drone photos, and even Google Earth to identify communities most at risk for contracting schistosomiasis — a parasitic disease that is second only to malaria in its global health impact.

The researchers, including those from the University of Washington (UW) in the US, used rigorous field sampling and aerial images to precisely map communities that are at greatest risk for schistosomiasis, and discovered clues in the environment that can help identify transmission hotspots for the disease.

The study, published in the journal PNAS, noted that more than 200 million people across the world have schistosomiasis — which is treatable but has been difficult to eliminate from some regions of the world.

The researchers said the worms that cause the disease — schistosomes — grow within freshwater snails, where they multiply and are released into the waters of rivers, lakes, and streams. —PTI

Live sports, hot in streaming war

Telecast tech is still dodgy but major players take the plunge into money-spinner market

New York, Oct. 29: Streaming services have long focused on series and movies, but as online TV competition heats up could live sports — historically a bit player on these platforms — change the game?

Amazon is the sole established player to have invested in sports so far, and it has done so only tentatively, buying some rights to the NFL, Premier League and ATP tennis.

Netflix and Hulu have yet to take the plunge.

"(Sports) generate the best audiences," said Patrick Rishie, professor of sports economics at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, describing it as one of the last "bastions" of live content.

Live matches are set to be key to platforms about to be launched by WarnerMedia and Disney.

WarnerMedia said in July that its HBO Max service will air NBA basketball and Major League



Baseball when it goes online, expected sometime early next year.

Randall Stephenson, CEO of parent company AT&T, one of the largest wireless operators and a major pay TV provider, said live sports would be "an important element" of the platform.

Walt Disney Co. already shook up the established order in April 2018 with ESPN+ — an on-demand version of its vast network of sports channels,

which is the largest in the world.

It is about to do so again when it launches a new platform on November 12 called Disney+.

There is also a technical reason for the cautious approach.

"It takes a lot of infrastructure and the infrastructure is not there right now. The ability to stream concurrently to a large number of people can only be done by a few services," Skipper, the

ex-ESPN head, told CNBC in November.

Technical glitches have impacted the screening of some sports. An ESPN live stream of a 2014 football World Cup match between the USA and Germany crashed due to high demand.

Disney, aware that problems occur, spent \$2.6 billion in 2017 to take control of BAMTech Media, a company that has expertise in streaming sport. —AFP

Netflix's speed button irks filmmakers, stars

Los Angeles, Oct. 29: Prominent Hollywood filmmakers, including Judd Apatow and Aaron Paul, are against Netflix's new test feature that enables the user to alter the playback speed of films and series.

Many Android phones users have noticed the feature on their Netflix app that allows them to rush through a film or a series. It provides the playback speeds of 0.5x, 0.75x, 1.0x, 1.25x and 1.5x.

Apatow reacted angrily to the news.

"Don't make me have to call every director and show creator on Earth to fight you on this. Save me the time. I will win but it will take a ton of time. Don't f\*\*k

with our timing. We give you nice things. Leave them as they were intended to be seen," he said.

Bird, best known for directing *The Incredibles*, said Netflix's new move goes against its principles of supporting filmmakers.

*Ant-Man* and the *Wasp* director Peyton Reed tweeted: "This is a terrible idea, and I and every director I know will fight against it."

Actor Aaron Paul, who recently featured in Netflix's *Breaking Bad* spin-off *El Camino*, also criticised the move.

"Stop... There is NO WAY @netflix

will move forward with this. That would mean they are completely taking control of everyone else's art and destroying it." A spokesperson of Netflix, however, said it is not yet final. —PTI



Judd Apatow

US plane ends 780-day test

Cape Canaveral, Oct. 29: The US Air Force's mystery space plane is back on Earth, following a record-breaking two-year mission.

The X-37B landed at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida early Sunday. The USAF is mum about what the plane did in orbit after launching aboard a SpaceX rocket in 2017.

The 780-day mission sets a new endurance record for the reusable test vehicle, after the 718 days in the previous mission.

It looks like a space shuttle but is one-fourth the size at 29 feet. Officials say this latest mission successfully completed its objectives. Experiments from the Air Force Research Laboratory were aboard.

This was the fifth spaceflight by a vehicle of this sort, the first was launched in 2010. The next one is planned next year with another launch from Cape Canaveral.

According to Air Force secretary Barbara Barrett, "Each successive

mission advances our nation's space capabilities."

It's unknown what the vehicle is for, but the USAF has previously stated that it carried small satellites into space. The satellites are not registered with the UN.

It is suspected that the X-37B is being used to test technologies and experiments meant to last for long periods in space.

"The safe return of this spacecraft, after breaking its own endurance record, is the result of the innova-

tive partnership between government and industry," Gen. David L. Goldfein, Air Force chief of staff, said in a statement.

"The sky is no longer the limit for the Air Force and, if Congress approves, the US Space Force."

Speculation has been rife that while it could be deployed for defence purposes, it could also be testing out technologies for a future hyperplane that can fly seven times the speed of sound. —Agencies



The US Air Force X-37B is parked at the Kennedy Space Centre shuttle landing facility of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) on Merritt Island, Florida. —AP

Oz sues Google over personal location data

Sydney, Oct. 29: Australia's consumer watchdog on Tuesday announced legal action against Google for allegedly misleading customers about the way it collects and uses personal location data.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) claims Google collected, kept and used "highly sensitive and valuable personal information" of Android phone and tablet users without giving

them an informed choice. The tech giant is accused of making misleading on-screen representations about the location data it was collecting and when certain Google Account settings were enabled or disabled.

ACCC chair Adam Sims said the watchdog was seeking "significant penalties".

"We're also alleging that some of the behaviour is continuing," he told reporters in Sydney. —PTI

FB staff stand against policy on political ads

San Francisco, Oct. 29: Hundreds of Facebook employees have signed a letter to CEO Mark Zuckerberg saying they oppose the social network's policy of letting politicians lie in advertisements.

The *New York Times* reported on Monday that more than 250 workers have signed the letter urging Facebook leaders to change the policy that they say is a "threat to what FB stands for."

While that's a small fraction of Facebook's workforce of more than 35,000, it's a rare showing of employee dissent generally more typical of Google and Amazon.

Facebook spokeswoman Bertie Thomson says the company appreciates its employees voicing their concerns "remains committed to not censoring political speech."

The employee letter follows widespread criticism of Facebook's ad policy, including Senator Elizabeth Warren. —PTI

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The employee letter follows widespread criticism of Facebook's ad policy, including Senator Elizabeth Warren. —PTI

Kids' online video time now 4.44 hrs

Washington, Oct. 29: The number of young Americans watching online videos every day has more than doubled, according to survey findings released on Tuesday.

They're glued to them for nearly an hour a day, twice as long as they were four years ago.

Ifen, the survey found, they're seeing the videos on services such as YouTube that are supposedly off limits to children younger than age 13.

"It really is the air they breathe," said Michael Robb, senior director of research for Common Sense Media, the nonprofit organisation that issued the report. The group tracks young people's tech habits and offers guidance for parents.

The survey of American youth included the responses of 1,677 young people, ages 8 to 18. Among other things, it found that 56 per cent of 8- to 12-year-olds and 69 per cent of 13- to 18-year-olds watch online videos every day. In 2015, the last time the survey was conducted, those figures were 24 and 34 per cent.

Overall screen time hasn't changed much, the survey found. The average tween, ages 8 to 12 for the purposes of this survey, spent four hours and 44 minutes with entertainment media on digital devices daily. —PTI

GOOGLE PAY GOES BIOMETRIC

After introducing biometric security Google with Android 10, Google has added the feature to its digital wallet platform Google Pay.

The feature will be available in the latest 2.100 version of the app. It will allow users to protect online transactions using fingerprint and facial recognition feature.

Previously, Google Pay only had a PIN to secure their transactions.

The biometrics API will accept the user's fingerprint or the face to authenticate money transfers.

The biometrics is said to work faster than the PIN security.

User can find the option under the 'Sending Money' section of the app. User can switch from PIN to biometric security or keep both options.

The biometric security feature works only for money transfers and not the NFC payments in stores.

NFC (near field communication) allows two devices - the phone and a payments terminal - to talk to each other.

Google Pay is launching notifications and SMS alerts to clarify the direction.

The biometrics is said to work faster than the PIN security.



An Android Police said the feature might come to Android 9 phones.

HUNGRY GIANT ■ Fitbit under threat from copycats, acquisition will fill gap in Google portfolio

Google owner Alphabet tries to buy Fitbit

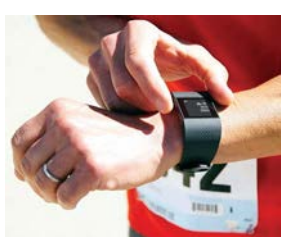
San Francisco, Oct. 29: Google owner Alphabet has made an offer to acquire US wearable device maker Fitbit, as it eyes a slice of the crowded market for fitness trackers and smartwatches, people familiar with the matter said on Monday.

While Google has joined other major technology companies such as Apple and Samsung in developing smart phones, it has yet to develop any wearable offerings.

There is no certainty that the negotiations between Google and Fitbit will lead to any deal, the sources said, asking not to be identified because the matter is confidential. The exact price that Google has offered for Fitbit could not be learned.

Google and Fitbit declined to comment.

Fitbit shares rose 27 per cent on the news, giving the company a market capitalisation of \$1.4 billion. Alphabet shares rose 2 per



Fitbit shares rose 27 per cent on the news, giving the company a market capitalisation of \$1.4 billion.

offerings from companies such as China's Huawei and Xiaomi.

Fitbit's fitness trackers monitor users' daily steps, calories burned and distance travelled. They also measure floors climbed, sleep duration and quality, and heart rate.

Fitbit, which helped pioneer the wearable devices craze, has been partnering with health insurers and has been making tuck-in acquisitions in the health-care market, as part of

efforts to diversify its revenue stream. Analysts have said that much of the company's value may now lie in its health data.

Fitbit cut its 2019 revenue forecast in July, blaming disappointing sales of its newly launched cheapest smartwatch Versa Lite.

The watch is priced at \$160, compared with \$200 for the full version. It can track workouts and heart rate but lacks features such as the ability to store music.

In August, Fitbit said it had signed a contract with the Singapore government to provide fitness trackers and services in a health programme it said could reach up to 1 million users.

Fitbit in August also launched its latest smartwatch, Versa 2, adding Amazon.com Inc's voice assistant Alexa, online payments and music storage to the device's capabilities.

—Reuters



## Big opportunity

Pakistan head coach Misbah ul Haq says the upcoming Australia tour is a big opportunity for his young side

# Party in pink

## Ganguly convinces Bangladesh for India's first ever pink-ball Test

Kolkata/Dhaka, Oct. 29: The Indian cricket team will play their first ever Day-Night Test match at Eden Gardens against Bangladesh next month. BCCI president Sourav Ganguly said on Tuesday, taking a path-breaking decision within a week into his nine-month tenure. The Test is scheduled to be held at the Eden Gardens from November 22-26 and will be the second game of a two-match series.

The development ended days of speculation after Ganguly first proposed the idea to the Bangladesh Cricket Board, which faced resistance from its players and sat for multiple meetings to convince them.

"The BCB has confirmed and we are having a pink-ball Test. It's a good development. Test cricket needs this push. Me and my team were bent on it and thanks to Virat (Kohli) also, he agreed," Ganguly said. Bangladesh's South African coach Russell Domingo conceded in Dhaka that there are concerns about how the match will pan out but the team has decided to accept the change and explore new avenues.

The match will start at 2pm (IST) and will comprise a Tea and Dinner break.

"We think it's a great opportunity. I don't think India has played a pink ball Test before. It's a massive occasion at Eden Gardens against one of the best teams in the world," Domingo said.

"We are looking forward to that challenge. There are some challenges as we will not have a lot of time to prepare but it's same for India. I don't think they have had a day-night Test match. So it will be same for both teams," he added.

"Since it's pink ball, both teams will be close to each other. Sometime change is the best," the former Proteas coach said. It was Ganguly, who was instrumental in organising the first ever pink ball match in India although it was a Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) Super League final between Mohun Bagan and Bhowanipore under lights in June, 2016. Ganguly headed the CAB at the time. Two players, who played that match — Wriddhiman Saha and Mohammed Shami — are expected to play the first ever pink Test.

The BCCI had introduced the pink ball in Duleep Trophy that same year and it continued for three seasons before the Board scrapped it this year due to lack of broadcast coverage. Mayank Agarwal, Ravichandran Ashwin, Kuldeep Yadav, Ishant Sharma have also played pink ball Duleep games among the current India players.

The spinners have expressed concerns about the dew factor, which they believe, puts them out of equation. Ganguly, however, assured that conditions won't be a problem. "We will sort this out and there would be no dew. We have day-night one-dayers after all and dew spray is used," he said.

There are plans to invite India's legendary Olympians like Abhinav Bindra, MC Mary Kom and P V Sindhu and felicitate them for their contribution to the country's Olympic movement during the match. Ganguly wants to make it an annual affair like Australia's Pink Test in which the national team raise breast cancer awareness.

You can't play cricket bitter, it detracts from yourself and makes you stop concentrating.

— Glenn Maxwell, Australia cricketer

### SHORT TAKES

#### Karthik to lead TN in Mushtaq Ali

Chennai: Wicket-keeper-batsman Dinesh Karthik was on Tuesday named to lead Tamil Nadu in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy Twenty/20 cricket tournament to be held at Thiruvananthapuram from November 8 to 17. All-rounder Vijay Shankar will be his deputy. The team includes international cricketers Ravichandran Ashwin, Murali Vijay and M S Washington Sundar, who will join the squad after the conclusion of the India-Bangladesh T20 series. Fast bowler G Periyaswamy, who impressed in this year's Tamil Nadu Premier League for Chepauk Super Gillies, is the only new face in the squad. The paceman with a slinging action similar to Sri Lankan legend Lasith Malinga, has overcome vision issues in his right eye, shone in the TNPL and has been rated highly.

— PTI  
Squad: Dinesh Karthik (captain), Vijay Shankar (vice-captain), M Vijay, N Jagadeesan, C Hari Nishaanth, B Aparajith, M Shahrulkhan, R Ashwin, M Ashwin, R Sai Kishore, T Natarajan, G Periyaswamy, K Vignesh, M Mohammed and J Kousik.

#### CAB wants to make it grand

Kolkata: Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) secretary Avishek Dalmiya on Tuesday said they will leave no stone unturned to make India's first-ever Day-Night Test, next month a success. "In one word, we are delighted. It's also a great news for all the cricket lovers. Eden has been privy to a lot of history. It would be another feather on its cap," Dalmiya said. "CAB would leave no stone unturned to ensure that it is a successful event. The presence of dignitaries and distinguished guests, cultural shows and felicitation of former players would add to the grandeur of the event."

"We would not waste any time and would start planning internally to make it a memorable occasion from tomorrow itself and to give it a carnival feel. Other steps would be taken in this regard," Dalmiya said. "We also intend to sit with the BCCI president to work out other modalities and also to ensure we are in sync with the plans of the Indian Cricket Board."

Internationally, there have been 11 day-night Tests so far since the first between Australia and New Zealand in 2015. The most recent day-night Test took place in January this year between Australia and Sri Lanka in Brisbane. — PTI

### FIRST DAY-NIGHT EXPERIENCE

INDIA AND BANGLADESH are the only Full Members apart from Afghanistan and Ireland to have not played a day-night Test yet.

THE EDEN GARDENS Test is scheduled to begin on November 22, with the first Test, in Indore from November 14, preceding it.

## India's inexperience could work in our favour, says Bangla coach

Dhaka, Oct. 29: Bangladesh head coach Russell Domingo on Tuesday welcomed the decision to play their maiden Day-Night Test against India, saying both team's inexperience of playing with pink ball might give the visitors an edge over the hosts.

"As a coach I think it's a great opportunity. I don't think India played a pink ball Test before, we too haven't played a pink ball Test either. It's going to be a massive occasion at the Eden Gardens. It will be a new experience for both teams. So we're very excited," Domingo said.

"We know India are a good Test team. Probably they are the number one team in the world, but there will be uncertainty among



Russell Domingo

players of both the teams of playing a pink ball Test. "Both teams don't quite know what to expect, so it could work in our advantage, could work in our favour," he added.

The South African further said it will be a level-playing field for both the teams in terms of preparation for their first-ever Day-Night Test. "It's going to be a great occasion under lights in Kolkata against one of the best team of all formats."

— PTI

## It will bring crowd to Test: Ganguly

It's just my job, that's what I'm here for... Because I've played this game for so long. It's great. I think common sense is important. And I think it's a great move for Test cricket and hopefully it will bring crowds back to the ground.

— SOURAV GANGULY

Kolkata, Oct. 29: BCCI president Sourav Ganguly on Tuesday said the historic decision to organise India's first-ever Day-Night Test is based on "common sense" as it is the only way to revive falling crowd interest in the traditional format. India's maiden Day-Night Test against Bangladesh, the second game of a two-match series, will be held at the Eden Gardens here from November 22-26 and will be a first for the visiting side as well.

Ganguly said he is happy that India skipper Virat Kohli as well as the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) have agreed on a historic first at such a short notice.

"It's just my job, that's what I'm here for... Because I've played this game for so long. It's great. I think common sense is important. And I think it's a great

move for Test cricket and hopefully it will bring crowds back to the ground," Ganguly said just after the landmark development.

It's been less than a week in office as BCCI chief and Ganguly had created something that will be his legacy even if his term ends in the next 10 months.

"Test cricket needs this push. Me and secretary Jay (Shah) and our new team were pretty hell bent on it. Thanks to Virat (Kohli) also, he agreed straightaway. And even more to Bangladesh Cricket Board

that they agreed at such a short notice. It's a good way forward," Ganguly said.

It wasn't an easy job but Ganguly managed to convince BCB mandarins after a lot of back channel talks. "Things change like this. I think it's a great start for Test cricket in the subcontinent. Our intentions have been good. It's going to be no problem at all. Everything will be fine don't worry," the former captain said in an assured tone.

In the Duleep Trophy games that were held in the

preceding years (2016, 2017 and 2018), when Ganguly was the technical committee chairman, dew was one issue that became problematic for the spinners.

"We will make sure there's no dew. After all day/night one-dayers are played here. There's this dew treatment spray and all. Nothing will happen," Ganguly said.

Ganguly also informed that BCCI will persist with 'SG Test' pink balls instead of Dukes or Kookaburra. "Hopefully SG... Because the first match will be with SG so the second Test will also have to be with SG."

Asked why Kookaburra balls can't be used, Ganguly said that two different balls (different companies) can't be used in the same series. "No, it can't be because the series has to be played with same ball. It can't be two different balls in the same series." — PTI



JAY SHAH Secretary of BCCI

It is a great day for Indian cricket. India will host Bangladesh in our first ever Day-Night Test match at Eden Gardens. Sourav, myself and our team had an idea of revolutionizing Test cricket and this is our first step towards it. It was very important to start the process now since India does not play a lot of Test matches after the Bangladesh series. We thank the Bangladesh Cricket Board for accepting our request for a Day-Night Test match on such a short notice.



NAZMUL HASSAN President of BCB

The BCB and BCCI share a very long history of support, co-operation and friendship. Ours is a bond of strength and it is very heartening and reassuring for the BCB to have someone like Mr Ganguly as BCCI President who has been an integral part of this journey. On that note, I am pleased that we have had a frank and constructive discussion with the players and the Team Management. I have received a positive response about playing the Day-Night Test in view of the BCB-BCCI relationship.

## Men-in-orange crush UAE to book a spot in World T20

Paris, Oct. 29: The Netherlands became the third team, after Papua New Guinea and Ireland, to book a place at next year's T20 World Cup after thrashing United Arab Emirates in Dubai on Tuesday.

UAE, who started the tournament with victory over Ireland, could only muster 80-9 in their 20 overs which the Dutch knocked off with 29 balls remaining.

The Netherlands, who face Ireland in the competition semi-final, won by eight wickets to progress to the eight-team first round of the World Cup in Australia in October 2020.

UAE have a final chance to reach the tournament when they face Scotland in a qualifying playoff on Wednesday.

UAE won the toss and chose to bat, but were quickly in trouble as Rohan Mustafa fell to Fred Klaassen in the first over. Things turned from bad to



The Netherlands players celebrate after beating UAE in the Qualifier. — ICC

UAE lost their first five wickets for just nine runs. Waheed Ahmed and Mohammad Boota went some way toward repairing the damage with a sixth-wicket partnership of 45 before both fell in the same over to Johannesburg-born Brandon Glover, whose 4-12 earned him the Player of

the Match award. Ahmed Raza top-scored with 22 from 24 balls, but a target of 81 was never likely to stretch the Dutch. Max O'Dowd fell early but Ben Cooper, with 41 not out, guided the Dutch to a victory that sends them to Australia as well as to the qualifying tournament semifinals. — AFP

## Shakib banned for failing to report approach

Dhaka/Dubai, Oct. 29: Bangladesh captain and star all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan was on Tuesday handed a two-year suspension by the ICC for failing to report three corrupt approaches, including one at the IPL, by a suspected Indian bookie, ousting him from the upcoming tour of India.

Twelve months of that ban is a suspended sentence which will come into effect if Shakib fails to comply with the anti-corruption code of the world body. The one-year ban that he has to serve will keep him out of next year's Indian Premier League (IPL) and also the World T20 to be held in Australia from October 18 to November 15 the same year.

"I am obviously extremely sad to have been banned from the game I love, but I completely accept my sanction for not reporting the approaches. The ICC ACU is reliant on players to play a central part in the fight against corruption and I didn't do my duty in this instance," Shakib said in a

media release given by the ICC.

In his absence, senior-most player Mushfiqur Rahim might lead the team in Tests while one among M a h m u d u l l a h R i y a d h M o s a d d e k H o s a i n is set to be the skipper in the three T20 Internationals. The 32-year-old was being kept away from team's ongoing practice sessions

before the India tour on ICC's instructions. The series against India comprises three T20 Internationals and two Tests and gets underway in Delhi with the shortest format games on November 3.

Shakib was spoken to by the ICC's Anti-Corruption Unit in January and August this year and he failed to report the approaches made to him by "an individual known to the ACU and suspected of involvement in corruption in cricket, D e e p a k A g g a r w a l."

The ICC said Aggarwal had asked Shakib to provide information on team composition and strategy on three separate occasions, one of them being April 26, 2018 when his IPL franchise Sunrisers Hyderabad was to take on Kings XI Punjab. Sunrisers won the game by 13 runs. "These messages on 26 April 2018 included a number of deleted messages. He confirmed that these deleted messages contained requests from Mr Aggarwal for Inside Information," the ICC stated.

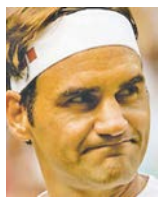
Aggarwal's other two approaches were during the Bangladesh Premier League when Shakib was playing for Dhaka Dynamites in 2017, followed by the tri-series against Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka in January 2018.

Aggarwal, the ICC said, wanted to meet Shakib but the cricketer didn't oblige as "he had concerns over Mr Aggarwal, feeling he was a bit 'dodgy', and that, following their con-

versations, he had the feeling that Mr Aggarwal was a bookie," it added. Shakib, who escaped the maximum punishment of five years for the offence, will not have the right to appeal as he accepted the ICC's investigation and charges. Shakib recently spearheaded a players' strike before calling it off after the BCB assured that their demands, including a pay hike, will be fulfilled. He is unarguably one of the greats of the game in Bangladesh with more than 11,000 runs and over 500 wickets across three formats. The ICC said while Shakib's voluntary admission, cooperation during interviews worked in his favour, the fact that he failed to report advances made over months was an "aggravating" factor. "Mr Al Hasan is an experienced international cricketer who, having participated in several anti-corruption education sessions, was fully aware of his responsibilities under the Code," the world body said in its judgement. — PTI



Shakib Al Hasan



## Cautious Roger

Roger Federer withdraws from the Paris Masters in order to "pace" himself for the next year

# Sedulous Simona

## Halep rallies from a set down to beat Andreescu in WTA Finals opener

Shenzhen, (China), Oct. 29: Simona Halep saved a match point before beating Canadian teen Bianca Andreescu 3-6, 7-6 (7-6), 6-3 Monday at the WTA Finals.

Halep, a former No.1 who won the Wimbledon title in July, saved the match point in the 12th game of the second set.

"Today was a challenge because she's almost 10 years younger than me," Halep said.

After the tiebreaker, both players sought medical treatment. Halep had her foot treated while the 19-year-old Andreescu, the U.S. Open champion, had a lower back problem. Andreescu also called for the trainer in the third set.

Earlier, defending champion Elina Svitolina stretched her unbeaten run at the season-ending tournament into a new year, beating Karolina Pliskova 7-6 (12), 6-4 in her opening match.

Svitolina, the only player in this year's field who has not won a title this season, was unbeaten in the tournament last year.

After exchanging service breaks in the first set, Svitolina converted her seventh set point. Pliskova also had a chance to take the first set, but she failed to take advantage of a set point at 9-8 in the tiebreaker.

"You tell yourself to stay in the moment," Svitolina said of the lengthy tiebreaker.



Simona Halep returns to Bianca Andreescu during their women's singles first round match in the WTA Finals tennis tournament in Shenzhen on Monday. Halep won 3-6, 7-6 (7-6), 6-3. — AFP



Jo-Wilfried Tsonga returns to Andrey Rublev during their men's singles tennis match at the ATP World Tour Masters 1000 - Rolex Paris Masters - indoor tennis tournament in Paris on Monday. Tsonga won 4-6, 7-5, 6-4. — AFP

# Tsonga rallies to win

Paris, Oct. 29: Former US Open champion Cilic was one of the first unseeded players to book his spot in the last 32 with a 7-6 (7/5), 6-4 win over Poland's Hubert Hurkacz.

Croatian Cilic, who has failed to reach a final this season and has slipped to 24th in the world rankings, will next face three-time Grand Slam title-winner Stan Wawrinka.

Tsonga, who was the last Frenchman to win the Paris Masters title in 2008, battled back from a set down to defeat in-form Russian Andrey Rublev 4-6, 7-5, 6-4.

The 34-year-old, who has risen to world number 35 after ending an injury-plagued 2018 at 239th, saved four break points in a dramatic deciding set in front of a partisan crowd.

There was more cheer for the home fans as Jeremy Chardy and Benoit Paire also progressed.

Chardy edged out big-serving American Sam Querrey 5-7, 6-3, 7-5 to set up a tie with world number four Daniil Medvedev, while Paire saw off Bosnian Damir Dzumhur 7-5, 6-4.

Paire will face fellow French hope Gael Monfils for a place in the last 16.

Elsewhere, Croatian Borna Coric lost 3-6, 6-4, 6-3 to Fernando Verdasco, and former Wimbledon finalist Milos Raonic cruised past Cameron Norrie 6-3, 6-2. — AFP

## Casper has had enough Kyrgios talk

Paris, Oct. 29: Norwegian Casper Ruud says that he is "done talking" about Nick Kyrgios' "behaviour" after the Australian said he was "boring" in a Twitter tirade.

The pair's first meeting at the Rome Masters earlier this year saw Kyrgios disqualified for throwing a chair onto the court in anger, with Ruud wildly celebrating his consequent win.

"The World No.63 told the *Tennisportalen* website last week that Kyrgios was an "idiot" and was "totally crazy" in the match against him.

"Hey @CasperRuud98 next time you have something to say, I would appreciate you say it to my face, I'm sure you wouldn't run your mouth so much after that," Kyrgios hit back on Twitter.

But Ruud says he will not be criticising the Australian Kyrgios for his antics any longer.

"I'm done talking about whatever he does and I'm not going to be commenting anymore on him or his behaviour," he said after losing 4-6, 2-6 in the Paris Masters first round to Frenchman Adrian Mannarino on Monday. — AFP

## Aiba to try new scoring system

Tokyo, Oct. 29: Olympic boxing officials will trial a new, more transparent judging system this week as the sport fights to "regain trust" after scandals that nearly saw it kicked out of the Games.

The new system, where judges' scoring is updated in real time on a screen, will be tested at the Ryogoku Kokugikan sumo stadium, where the Tokyo 2020 boxing competition will be held.

Amateur boxing body AIBA was stripped of the right to organise the Olympic competition, and replaced with a special taskforce, after a series of problems including a major judging scandal at the 2016 Rio Olympics.

Boxing is "on the verge of the crisis of elimination from the Olympics", Morinari Watanabe, a Japanese Olympic Committee official who heads the taskforce, said on Tuesday.

"We have to regain trust. That's the top priority," said the 60-year-old, who heads the International Gymnastics Federation.

Watanabe was tapped for the role after the International Olympic Committee (IOC) suspended recognition of AIBA after an investigation into mismanagement.

The decision raised fears that boxing might not feature at the 2020 Games, but the IOC opted to form a

**Under the new system, judges press a button when they mark blows and their decisions will be immediately shown on a screen.**  
**AIBA was stripped of the right to organise the Olympic competition, after a series of problems including a major judging scandal at the Rio Olympics.**

taskforce headed by Watanabe to resume preparations that were frozen during its investigation into crisis-riddled AIBA.

Under the new system, judges press a button when they mark blows and their decisions will be immediately shown on a screen, providing instant feedback and grounds for clarifying decisions.

Watanabe said they are considering whether the screen should be visible by the audience as well as judges and referees.

The system will be tried out this week at the stadium, where test boxing matches got under way from Tuesday in preparation for the Games.

The international boxing body is the first federation to have been stripped of the right to organise its own sport at an Olympics. — AFP

## Champions Dance



Brazil's Corinthians players celebrate after winning the Women's Copa Libertadores tournament following their 2-0 victory over Brazil's Ferroviaria at Arenal Stadium in Quito, Ecuador, on Monday. — AP

## Wada to decide on Russia in Nov

Montreal, Oct. 29: The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) said on Monday it expects to issue a ruling on allegations that Russia manipulated key data at the centre of its state-sponsored doping scandal by the end of November.

In a statement, WADA said it had received responses from Russian authorities to a series of "detailed and technical questions" by the agency's Intelligence and Investigations Department.

Russia handed over thousands of files and samples from its Moscow anti-doping laboratory in January, a key condition for its reinstatement in 2018.

However last month it emerged that some of the files had been manipulated, raising the prospect of fresh suspensions.

Last week Russia's anti-doping chief Yuri Ganus said he expected the country to be banned from next year's Olympics.

WADA said on Monday Russia's responses to its queries would be reported to the agency's Compliance Review Committee (CRC), which would in turn decide whether to recommend action against Russia.

WADA said while no "fixed timeline" could be given for the process, the CRC would likely consider the investigation team's findings "before the end of November".

WADA's executive committee would then meet "as soon as possible" thereafter to discuss what action to take. — AFP

## SHORT TAKES

### Tokyo miffed on marathon switch

Tokyo: Tokyo city officials are in a public feud with the International Olympic Committee over IOC plans — made without consulting the city or local organisers — to move next year's Tokyo Olympic marathons 800 kilometers (500 miles) north to Sapporo to avoid the capital's summer heat.

The abrupt decision to shift the marathons and race walks was announced almost two weeks ago by the IOC.

Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike is angry about it. Her allies say no change is needed and have raised questions about who will pay if the move goes through, and have not ruled out a lawsuit to recover damages.

Taro Shirato and Hiroshi Yamada, members of Koike's political party in the metropolitan legislature, told a news conference Tuesday that moving the marathons would cost at least \$34 billion yen, about \$310 million.

The IOC said it's making the change, thinking first of athletes' safety. — AP

### Feyenoord coach quits post 0-4 loss

Rotterdam: Jaap Stam has stepped down from his role as Feyenoord manager after less than five months in charge, the Dutch top-flight club has said.

Under former Manchester United defender Stam, who took over from Giovanni van Bronckhorst in June, Feyenoord have won just three of their 11 league games this season, leaving the Rotterdam club in 12th place.

The 47-year-old's last match in charge was a 0-4 defeat at Ajax Amsterdam on Sunday. "It certainly has not been an easy decision," Stam said in a statement on the club's website.

"I have thought about it long and hard. My ultimate conclusion is that it is better for the club, the players and myself if I step aside," he added.

Stam was previously manager of English club Reading, who he led to the second-tier Championship playoffs in his first season in charge. — Reuters

## WARRIORS HUNT DOWN PELICANS

Los Angeles, Oct. 29: Stephen Curry scored 26 points and Draymond Green bagged a triple double as the Golden State Warriors bounced back from successive thrashings to down the New Orleans Pelicans on Monday.

The reigning Western Conference champions, routed 120-92 by Oklahoma City on Sunday, rediscovered their scoring touch to claim a 134-123 win at the Smoothie King Centre.

After toothless displays against Oklahoma City and the Los Angeles Clippers, the Warriors rediscovered their offense in a high-scoring first half. A 45-point second quarter saw them surge into a 72-55 lead at half-time, giving them a comfortable 17-point cushion.

Another big third quarter extended their lead to 24 points heading into the final period, and although the Pelicans closed the gap, the result was never seriously in question. All five starters finished in double-digits for the Warriors, with Curry leading the scorers and contributing 11 assists.

Green's triple-double included 16 points, 17 rebounds and 10 assists, while new recruit D'Angelo Russell finished with 24 points, seven rebounds and eight assists.

Damian Lee added 23 points from the bench. Afterwards Green said the Warriors had been determined to raise their game after the debacles against the Thunder and the Clippers.

Meanwhile, the Philadelphia 76ers remain the only unbeaten team in the Eastern Conference after claiming their third win of

## Sports to be part of CBSE system: Kiren

Chennai, Oct. 29: Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports (independent-in-charge) Kiren Rijiju on Tuesday said the CBSE was preparing a system to ensure sports becomes a substantial part of education to determine the achievement of a student.

"Prime Minister has already announced setting up a Board for Sports Education. Now, under the new education policy, sports will become a part of education and the CBSE is preparing a system to ensure sports becomes a substantial part of education," Rijiju said.

He said this after inaugurating the Dr N P V Ramaswamy Udayar Hockey Centre at Sri Ramachandra Medical College and University here.

Rijiju said the move to induct sports in the new education system was because it has been treated as an extra-curricular activity.

"Earlier, sports was treated as extra-curricular activities. Sports was not part of education system and it was treated as an extra," he said.

Under the new initiative, the Minister said the Central Board of Secondary Education was preparing a system and sports would not be treated as an extra or just an option.

"Sports is the central part of education system now. There is a major shift we are taking forward. Prime Minister is very clear in that," he said.

Later talking to reporters, he said his Ministry was in touch with Human Resources Development Ministry in this regard.



Union minister of state for Youth Affairs & Sports Kiren Rijiju inaugurates a hockey astro turf at Centre for Sports Sciences, Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research at Porur, on Tuesday. Also seen are Dr. S. Arumugam, director of CSS, Olympian V. Baskaran, V.R. Venkatachalam, chancellor and R.V. Sengutuvan, pro chancellor of SRIHER.

cabinet meeting and I have already spoken there. Now, it is under preparation (to include sports in education system).

Policy has been accepted. How to implement, when to start, this will depend on the preparation.

Modi government is treating sports as greatest priority ever and that is how India will become a sporting powerhouse in future," he said.

he said it was just 10 months away and one cannot create a champion overnight.

"It takes years for a player to become a champion. So, we will go to the Tokyo 2020 Olympics with full preparation but with existing talents. We have decided to give the best possible support system, including creating an India House pavilion in Tokyo," he said.

The India House, he said, would offer complete support to Indian athletes like food, transport and provision of accommodation.

"Everything will be managed by India House and we must ensure full preparatory support to our team," he said.

He said the next big target for India was that it should be in the top 10 medal list in the world since in Rio de Janeiro olympics, India managed to secure only two medals.

He said the Olympics in Paris would be held in 2024 and in 2028 in Los Angeles.

"I met all heads of sports federations and the target in 2024 we have to cross double-digit medal tally and by 2028 Olympics, India must be in the top 10 medal list of the world. There is no second thought. We must be clear in our objective. Otherwise, how will India become a sporting powerhouse," he asked.

To a query, he said Tamil Nadu has a great sports culture and the state has huge potential to produce more talents in future.

"I want to promote traditional sports. There are many traditional sports in Tamil Nadu. Not only Olympics sports, we want to promote traditional sports which are played in villages," he said.

He said to nurture the sporting talents at the young age the Ministry under the 'Khelo India' initiative would scout for talents at a very young age across India on a massive scale.

"A total of 14,000 young boys and girls has been identified and put into various training centres under Khelo India schemes and through Sports Authority of India. We want to enlarge that," he said.



## Tough situation

Zinedine Zidane insists Gareth Bale was given permission by Real Madrid to travel to London on Monday, and claims the Welshman never talks about leaving the club



It's time to lift each other up, not to push each other away. We only win when we are together.

— Hector Bellerin, Arsenal veteran ahead of their League Cup match against Liverpool

## SHORT TAKES

### Ravinder in semis of U-23 Worlds

**New Delhi:** Ravinder was the shining star for the Indian contingent on Day 2 of the UWW Under-23 World Championships 2019 as he made it to the semi-finals of 61kg in Budapest, Hungary, on Tuesday. The 22-year-old put up a commanding display to notch up a 12-1 win over Hungary's Marcell Budai Kovacs in his opening bout. The Jhajar grappler then continued his heroics against 2019 Russian National Freestyle Wrestling Championships bronze medalist Dinislam Takhtarov and completed an 11-0 win to storm into the semi-finals.

Earlier in the day, Naveen was in action in 70kg repechage against Mongolia's Temuulen Enkhtuya, who edged past him 8-6. The biggest disappointment for the Indian squad was, however, the loss of Viky in 92kg. Having won the silver at the Senior Asian Wrestling Championships and a bronze at the Junior World Championships this year, a lot was expected of him. But he fell in his opening bout in 92kg when Switzerland's Samuel Scherrer dismissed him 7-1. — PTI

### Joshna out of squash Worlds

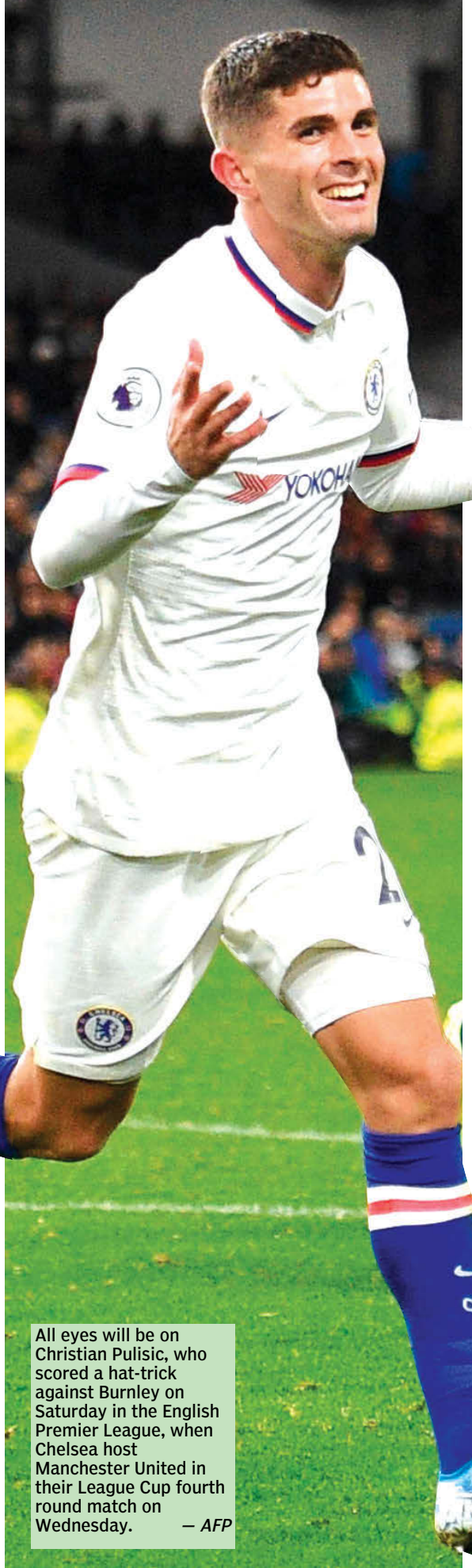
**Calcutta:** India's leading squash player Joshna Chinappa crashed out in the pre-quarterfinals of the CIB PSA Women's World Championship after a straight game defeat to top seed Nour El Sherbini here. Joshna, ranked 12th in the world, went down 5-11, 3-11, 6-11 in the round of 16 match on Monday night.

The three-time world champion El Sherbini produced a dominant performance to comfortably take the opening two games. Chinappa put up more of a fight in the third but the Egyptian sealed the match. It was Joshna's second consecutive loss to the Egyptian. She had gone down 1-3 at the JP Morgan China Squash Open in 2017. — PTI

## LEAGUE CUP FOURTH ROUND

# Red-hot Liverpool

### Liverpool look to extend good run against crisis-hit Arsenal



All eyes will be on Christian Pulisic, who scored a hat-trick against Burnley on Saturday in the English Premier League, when Chelsea host Manchester United in their League Cup fourth round match on Wednesday. — AFP

**London, Oct. 29:** Arsenal would probably have preferred an easier League Cup opponent than Premier League leaders Liverpool as they bid to regroup following captain Granit Khaka's tantrum and a poor run of form.

However, that is the task that faces the Gunners on Wednesday heading to Anfield for their fourth round clash.

Unai Emery's players have won just twice in their last eight Premier League games as opposed to Jurgen Klopp's

## XHAKA SHOULD APOLOGISE, SAYS ARSENAL MANAGER

**London, Oct. 29:** Granit Khaka has been left "devastated" by the confrontation with Arsenal supporters on Sunday but still should apologise said Gunners manager Unai Emery on Tuesday.

Emery, though, would not be drawn on whether the 27-year-old Swiss international midfielder will remain the captain following his tantrum on being substituted in the 2-2 draw with Crystal Palace.

Khaka — who was voted in as captain by secret ballot of his teammates in the close season — has enjoyed a fractious relationship

with the Arsenal supporters since he joined in 2016.

It reached its nadir on Sunday when they booed him as he walked off with him cupping his hand to his ear and then apparently mouthing "Fxxx off" in their direction before storming down the tunnel.

"Yes (he should apologise)," said Emery, speaking on the eve of the Gunners fourth round League Cup clash with Liverpool.

"We make mistakes, we need to apologise and we suggested for him to do that. Really, he knows he was wrong and he feels inside very deep." — AFP



Roberto Firmino (right) and Fabinho train ahead of their Carabao Cup match against Arsenal in Liverpool on Tuesday. — LIVERPOOL

storming down the tunnel after being substituted during the 2-2 draw with Crystal Palace.

Unlike Khaka Chelsea's Christian Pulisic enjoyed a memorable weekend in the best senses of the term scoring a hat-trick — his first goals for the club and a small initial repayment on the £58 million they paid Borussia Dortmund for him.

It was only his second start for the club since his arrival in August and the 21-year-old United States star should get another run out on Wednesday against Manchester United.

And that is certainly something he would relish.



## Ronaldo to return as Juve host Genoa

**Milan, Oct. 29:** Cristiano Ronaldo is in line to return from a brief rest on Wednesday as Serie A leaders Juventus host a Genoa side reinvigorated by the appointment as coach of former Italy midfielder Thiago Motta.

Ronaldo forward sat out Saturday's 1-1 draw at promoted Lecce with fatigue, although coach Maurizio Sarri refused to blame Ronaldo's absence for the dropped points.

Juve will face city rivals Torino this weekend before a trip to Lokomotiv Moscow in the Champions League on November 6, and defender Leonardo Bonucci urged his teammates to swiftly move on from the Lecce disappointment.

"We have to roll up our sleeves and be even more determined — and learn quickly too, otherwise we can end up dropping important points," said Bonucci.

"That's what happened (Saturday). Luckily we have a chance to get straight back to winning ways on Wednesday."

Motta's debut as Genoa coach ended in a 3-1 win over Brescia — a match where all three of his team's substitutes scored, a first in Serie A history.

"The lads were extraordinary from the first to the last minute," said Motta, who spent the 2008-09 season at Genoa before winning the treble under Jose Mourinho with Inter Milan the following campaign.

Inter remained a point behind Juve following a 2-2 home draw against Parma.

## FIXTURES

- Napoli vs Atalanta
- Cagliari vs Bologna
- Juventus vs Genoa
- Lazio vs Torino
- Sampdoria vs Lecce
- Sassuolo vs Fiorentina
- Udinese vs Roma

Antonio Conte's side could replace the defending champions at the top after Tuesday's visit to lowly Brescia.

While Atalanta's maiden Champions League voyage has run aground, Gian Piero Gasperini's free-scoring team is muscling its way into contention at the top.

Last year's third-place finish represented the highest in the club's 112-year history, and their 28 goals through the first nine games is the best return since AC Milan in 1992-93.

A 7-1 demolition of Udinese pushed Atalanta to within three points of Juve, and Wednesday's trip to fourth-place Napoli offers another chance to prove their mettle.

"The Scudetto is Juventus's to lose, then there are Inter and Napoli as well as other teams that have significant possibilities," said Gasperini.

"We're not deluding ourselves. It is very early days, only nine rounds."

AC Milan, who are struggling in 12th and desperate for a first win under new coach Stefano Pioli, visit second-bottom SPAL on Thursday. — AFP

## OLYMPIC TEST | BOXING EVENT

# Thapa eases into last 4

**Tokyo, Oct. 29:** Four-time Asian medallist Shiva Thapa (63kg) secured a medal at the Olympic Test event for boxing by winning his quarterfinal bout on Tuesday while six other Indians made the last-four stage without even stepping inside the ring here.

Thapa overpowered local favourite Yuki Hirakawa in a 5-0 verdict to fight his way into the medal rounds. The seasoned boxer from Assam claimed his third national title earlier this month. He will be up against another Japanese, Daisuke Narimatsu, in the semifinals on Wednesday. Narimatsu got a bye in the opening round.

However, for his six other compatriots, including former junior world champion Nikhat Zareen (51kg), a medal was guaranteed without a fight as they either got byes or were helped by the small size of their respective draws.

Apart from Zareen, Asian silver-medallist Sumit Sangwan (91kg), Ashish (69kg), Vanhlimpua (75kg), Simranjeet Kaur (60kg) and Pooja Rani (75kg) have made the semifinals.

Zareen, who hit the headlines recently for a bitter row over selection for next year's Olympic qualifiers where six-time world champion M.C. Mary Kom has been preferred over her without a trial, will face Japan's Sana Kawano on Wednesday.



Former Asian Games bronze-medallist Rani will be up against Brazil's Beatriz Soares. Rani had won a silver medal at the Asian Championships earlier this year. The only disappointment for the country's contingent was the quarterfinal exit of Anant Choapde, who went down 2-3 in a hard-fought contest against local hope Toshio Kashiwasaki. — PTI

## FOOTBALL

# BALA HAILS CHANGES IN NAT'L SET-UP

**New Delhi, Oct. 29:** Indian women's football team star Bala Devi has hailed the recent changes in the national set-up and said they have helped the players in innumerable ways.

The team is currently undergoing a camp for the forthcoming back-to-back international friendlies against Vietnam on November 3 and 6.

"Since making my debut in 2005, I have been playing in the national team for more than a decade now. But there has been a string of recent changes, and all for good," Bala Devi said.

"We have seen some considerable changes in the dietary regime, training sessions, and most importantly video analysis off late. It helps players recover faster."

She also highlighted the change in the fitness regime in the camp.

"Compared to earlier days, we spend more time in the gym nowadays. We stress on core exercises. These processes significantly reduce the chances of injuries, and accelerate the recovery process which is of paramount importance from a player's vantage point," she said. — PTI

# Jamshedpur FC register consecutive wins in ISL

**Jamshedpur, Oct. 29:** Jamshedpur FC registered their second win on the trot by defeating Hyderabad FC 3-1 in a Hero Indian Super League match at the JRD Tata Sports Complex here on Tuesday.

Farukh Choudhary tapped a loose ball home in the 34th minute to convert his team's dominance into a goal. Marcelinho scored an unlikely equaliser in the 45th minute but Jamshedpur regained control after the break with goals from Aniket Jadhav (62nd) and Sergio Castel (75th).

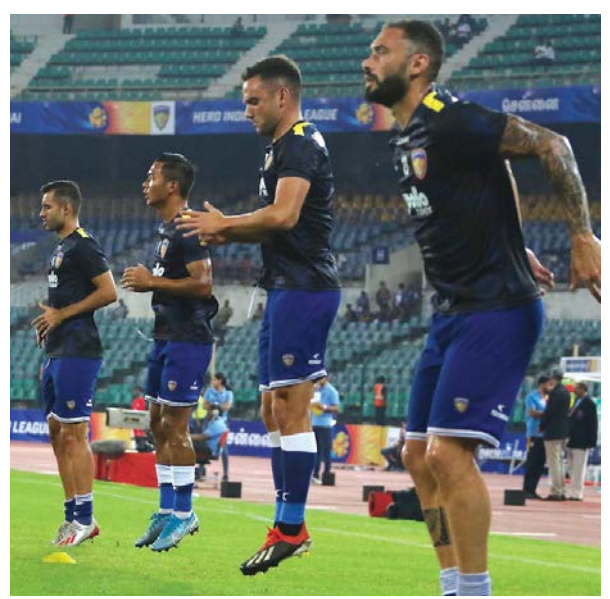
The result took Antonio Iriondo's men to the top of the table while Hyderabad are yet to open their tally.

The hosts surged forward looking to take an early lead and tested Hyderabad custodian Kamaljit Singh when Isaac Vanmalsawma opted to shoot from outside the box in the eighth minute.

**CHENNAIYN FC EYE FIRST WIN OF SEASON**

Chennaiyin FC take on ATK in a clash of former champions in an ISL game in Chennai on Wednesday, eyeing their first win of Season 6.

However, the task is easier said than done as the Kolkata team are coming off a 5-0 thrashing of Hyderabad FC at home on



Chennaiyin FC players at a training session.

Friday last.

Chennaiyin FC, to their credit bounced back from 0-3 hammering at the hands of FC Goa in the opener, to pick up their first point courtesy a goalless draw against Mumbai City FC on Diwali day (October 27).

Though CFC kept a clean sheet, head coach John Gregory would be concerned with the fact that the defence appeared shaky at times.

Also, he would be hoping that the forward line gets cracking and finds the net.

It was a night of missed opportunities as CFC and Mumbai City muffed chances with the former getting a lion's share of attempts.

Brazil's attacking midfielder Rafael Crivellaro and Anirudh Thapa created several chances against Mumbai City and the coach will expect him and Maltese striker Andre Schembri to deliver in the games to come, starting with the one against ATK.

## BULGARIA HANDED STADIUM BAN AND FINE FOR RACISM

**Paris:** Bulgaria must play their next home game behind closed doors and have been handed a fine of 75,000 euros after racist chanting by supporters marred their Euro 2020 qualifier against England earlier this month, Uefa said on Tuesday.

The disciplinary arm of European football's governing body also ordered Bulgaria to play a second match behind closed doors, but that punishment is suspended for a "probationary period" of two years.

The punishment means Bulgaria will play their final Euro 2020 qualifier at home to the Czech Republic, on November 17, in an empty stadium. Uefa also ordered Bulgaria to display a banner with the wording "No to racism" at their next two home games. The Bulgarian FA was also fined an additional 10,000 euros for "causing a national anthem" prior to kick-off of the game in Sofia on October 14, which England won 6-0.

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